



The first shipment of bicycles arrived at Durban Harbour last year.

Bikes for Africa

In a global community development initiative spanning three continents, the Rotary Club of Carroll Creek (D7620) has sent the first shipment of used bicycles from Calgary, Alberta, Canada, bound for the port of Durban.

The Rotary Club of Carroll Creek is collaborating with the Rotary Club of Empangeni and the Satellite E-Club of Kimberley - The Karoo Region (D9370) to collect and ship 6-12 forty-foot containers of used bicycles to South Africa over a three-year period. The goal is to address poverty and improve access to education and healthcare in rural communities.

The international service project involves training local community members as bicycle mechanics, responsible for assembling, repairing and maintaining the bicycles. The shipping containers will serve as on-site storage and repair facilities. Young women will be enlisted as bicycle mechanics and receive training in basic business management skills.

Rotary clubs in Western Australia, Africa and North America, including the Carroll

Creek club, are actively involved in collecting and distributing the bicycles. Partnering with Rockville MD-based Bikes for the World, the project has collaborated with allied bicycle organisations on three continents.

Bicycles For Humanity chapters in Calgary, Alberta (Canada), Seattle, Washington (US), Charleston, South Carolina (US) and Western Australia are also part of this initiative.

The lead project coordinators, Stephen Bamonti of the Rotary Club of Carroll Creek in Frederick, MD US and Jonathan Moore Warner of the Rotary E-Club of the Karoo Region who is based in Frederick, MD US, are spearheading the efforts. The team also includes Andrew Killick and Fulvio Pace of the Rotary Club of Empangeni and Richard Jones of the Satellite E-Club of Kimberley - The Karoo Region.

The next shipment is anticipated to come from The Porter-Gaud in South Carolina as the initiative gains momentum in its mission to provide bicycles for transportation to school, employment and healthcare in South Africa.