

## Community News

# Donated bikes bring big smiles to GYAC students

**Christina Tascon**  
YourNews contributor

VERO BEACH -- Some bicycles are for exercise and others are for fun, but for the children at the Gifford Youth Achievement Center, a new bike helps broaden their horizons.

Malcolm Allen, owner of Orchid Island Bikes and Kayaks had previously been a part of a project with Bike Walk of Indian River County and other agencies to provide new Bike Pad Repair Stations, five stations in all around the county.

One station was installed at the GYAC which helped those who needed to repair their bicycles, but many parents in the area could not afford bikes for their children. When Allen and Bike Walk of Indian River County became aware of the real need for bikes which helped students get to and from school or allowed them the freedom to travel throughout the community, they stepped up.

Big time.  
“We developed a form for the kids who did not have a bike to fill out and got about 25 back,” said BWIRC president Laura Aaron. “Malcolm Allen, who is an absolute saint, arranged to donate bikes to fit all those kids, prepped, sized and



**Big smiles on all the volunteers from Bike Walk of Indian River County, Gifford Youth Achievement staff, Sheriff's deputy Teddy Floyd and a some of the 25 children who received bikes from Orchid Island Bikes' Malcolm Allen.** CHRISTINA TASCAN

delivered to GYAC.”

BWIRC (via Laura's husband Hugh Aaron) rallied volunteers to fit helmets and adjust the bikes for the kids.

“We had a team of seven show up for

this -- Greg Speck, Dave Hunter, Jim Mann, Pete Nebenfuhr, Larry Ludke, Hugh and myself,” said Aaron. “GYAC did a tremendous amount of work to pull this off, taking measurements so we

could get the correct size bikes and helmets to the kids. They made it really easy for us.”

As each bus dropped off students to the after-school center, the children had to pass by a line of colorful, new bicycles gleaming in the late afternoon sun. The excitement was so high, it was all the staff could do to keep them from running over and running their hands over the shiny bikes and jumping on for a ride.

After small groups were brought out to be paired up with their new bike and fitted for their helmet, a few took tentative rides around the parking lot with the supervision of the volunteers. The joy of each of these children was written all over their faces but the volunteers had smiles just as big on their faces.

“It was a first for us, a truly rewarding experience,” exclaimed Aaron. The Gifford Youth Achievement Center extends its gratitude to all the volunteers from Bike Walk of IRC who volunteered their time with the children and especially Malcolm Allen of Orchid Island Bikes and Kayaks for his incredible generosity.

The students have been given more than new bicycles, these gifts show them just how much the community cares, and that is priceless.

# Relay for Life will be April 6 at Citrus Bowl

**Jenny Davis**  
YourNews contributor

VERO BEACH -- The Relay For Life of Indian River will be held April 6 at the Vero Beach High School Citrus Bowl starting at 3 p.m.

The family-friendly event to fight cancer will feature:

- Free admission and parking
- Live music
- Food trucks
- Celebration for cancer survivors
- Kids activities - face painting, bounce house and more
- Local performers

■ Luminaria ceremony at 9 p.m.

Funds raised from Relay For Life events allow the American Cancer Society to attack cancer in dozens of ways – from developing breakthrough therapies and innovative research, to building supportive communities that come together to help those affected by cancer with access to treatment.

Founded by Dr. Gordy Klatt in Tacoma, Wash., in 1985, Relay For Life has grown to 3.5 million participants across the world with more than 4,500 events to celebrate people who have been touched by cancer, remember loved ones lost, and take action for lifesaving change.

Since 1985, Relay For Life events in the U.S. have raised more than \$6.3 billion.

The Relay For Life of Indian River is supported by many local businesses and organizations. This year's sponsors include: Piper Aircraft, Smith Services, George E. Warren Corporation, Uncle Louie G's, Scully-Welsh Cancer Center, VNA of the Treasure Coast, Elgin Marble, Florida Cancer Specialists, Vero Insurance, Wells Fargo, Perkins Medical Supply, RCL Development, Inc., Hope Imaging, and Applebee's.

Visit [RelayForLife.org/IndianRiverFL](http://RelayForLife.org/IndianRiverFL) for more information.



**Survivors and their caregivers walk during the opening survivor lap at the 2018 Relay For Life event.** JENNY DAVIS

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