

Old Bikes, New Presents

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One person's trash is another person's treasure. When Clayton Lillard was in fifth grade, he saw someone throw out two used bicycles. He saved them from the junk pile, fixed them up, and gave them away. That was only the beginning.

The next year, Clayton put out a call for donations, and he got 25 bikes. Every year, Clayton got his hands on more and more used bikes, and he also got more and more help from his friends.

So far, Clayton's crew has fixed up more than 700 bicycles and given them to kids whose parents are in prison. The crew gives away about 100 bikes each year during the holiday season. And companies donate a helmet and a lock to go with every bike that Clayton and his friends give away. Clayton will turn 17 while he delivers bikes this year. His birthday is on December 23. "I get to play Santa on my birthday every year," says Clayton. "It's the best Christmas present there is!"

Clayton was just awarded the Gloria Barron Prize for Young Heroes for his hard work. The prize comes with a \$2,000 scholarship, which Clayton is saving for college. He wants to study music production and engineering.

To read more about Clayton's bike charity and to see more photos, visit www.claytonsbakyardcrew.com.



Clayton shows off some of the bikes he donates every holiday season.