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LOCAL SCOTLAND

Scottish charity urge the public to donate their unwanted bikes this Christmas

By Emma McAndrew

DEC 1, 2022 bike sale, charity, Christmas, cost of living



A Scottish refugee charity is urging the public to donate their unwanted bikes this Christmas, to give the gift of “freedom and mobility” to asylum seekers.

[Bikes for Refugees](#), who have a community hub in Harrison Park, Edinburgh, is holding a charity [bike sale](#) on 10 December to raise funds for their cause.

The charity's main goal is to provide refugees who are residing in [Scotland](#) with an affordable method of transport which could grant them greater accessibility to important services across the city.

Steven McCluskey, founder of Bikes for Refugees, said: “Giving somebody a bike can give people a free sustainable means of transport so they're not having to make that difficult decision about whether they can afford a bus fare or to put food on their table.

“Giving somebody a bike in many ways opens up peoples' worlds. It helps people to access essential meetings and services. It reduces isolation and loneliness. It can sometimes facilitate new relationships and friendship with other people as well.”

Listen: Steven explains the many initiatives of Bikes for Refugees



Although the charity usually supplies their bikes to vulnerable people for free, their Christmas bike sale acts as a call out to the public to donate money that can be reinstated back into the organisation that can help to produce further bikes for their project.

It is estimated that the profits made from the bike sale could mean that up to four times more refugees are benefitting from the charity's aid because of the sale of just one bike.

Listen to what else Steven had to say about Bikes for Refugee's Christmas bike sale:



Bikes for Refugees recognise that the combination of annual winter hardship along with the current [cost of living crisis](#) heightens the importance of helping those less fortunate throughout the festive period.



As well as identifying a need to help those who are vulnerable, the charity has also been experiencing an increase of costs due to the rise of inflation.

Steven says that the current financial situation across the country adds to the importance of charity fundraisers such as their own, and encourages anyone who can to donate and to [support charities](#) in other ways if possible.

He said: "Christmas and winter is going to be a challenging time for our community and the people who we support. Christmas tends to be a time of year where people and communities are coming forward and looking for ways to support people who are maybe not as well-off as they are and this is a time of year where people can donate a bike, or come along to our bike sale and support us that way.

"Even if people don't want to buy a bike on 10th December, pop along and find out about volunteering for example. Christmas tends to be a good time of year to develop new connections and new partnerships. It can be an important and valuable time for us but also a useful time for people to be making useful connections with us and to support us."

Listen: How the cost-of-living crisis is affecting Bikes for Refugees



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