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The Hangar, Elmer community youth center, collecting bikes for the poor in Kentucky

by [Jennifer Dailey](#), Today's Sunbeam

Sunday August 23, 2009, 4:48 PM



Staff photo by Britney Lillya

The Hangar in Elmer, pictured above, is working in partner with Edge Outreach in Louisville, Ky., to collect adult bicycles to aid the homeless.

ELMER -- Local community youth center The Hangar is working in conjunction with Edge Outreach to collect bikes to send to Kentucky to help the homeless get to work.

The Hangar Youth Director Doug Cooper is calling it the Kentucky 300 because it is their goal to have 300 bikes donated for the cause.

Edge Outreach is an organization based in Louisville that helps communities with health education, water treatment, sanitation, and water assessment.

"Our goal is to get 300 bikes by Sept. 1 to send to Kentucky," said Cooper.

The idea to collect the bikes came while members of Elmer United Methodist Church and the community were on a mission trip in early August in Louisville. While down there, they were told of how those at a church for the homeless were experiencing difficulties getting rides to work.

"They started getting donations of bikes but they have a waiting list of 100. We decided to help and even began making phone calls home while we were still there," said Cooper.

They can take bikes that are in slight disrepair so they can be fixed. Those repairs can be done by those at The Hangar. So far, 50 bikes have been donated. Only adult bikes can be donated.

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Kids in the area are also in on the project.

Jerrica Pfannerer, 14, said she does it to make a difference in the world and to help other people. She thinks it's great that someone her age can make a difference and change something.

"It's an amazing experience to do something like that," she said.

Kate Dilks, 15, thinks the plan will definitely help people overall and will have a big effect around Louisville.

"It's encouraging that I can make a difference in a person's life just by donating a bike," said Dilks.

According to Cooper, the children involved have done a lot and it shows that a lot of times their capabilities are underestimated.

"The kids get really excited about doing this. They're capable of a lot more than most people think. They can do a lot more if given the opportunity," said Cooper.

Bikes can be dropped off at The Hangar or Cooper said they can go pick them up. They have put the word out through friends, the church, and other Methodist churches.

Even though Sept. 1 is the last day bikes can be donated for this particular drive, Cooper said they may do it again in the future.

"If there is a need in Philadelphia and Camden we may contact them and do campaigns for them as well," said Cooper.

Once the campaign to get bikes for those in Louisville is over, Cooper said they will contact organizations in other areas to see if there is a need.

"It's all to support people in the community in need," said Cooper.

Those that are interested in donating bikes to The Hangar can contact Cooper at **(856) 252-4621**.

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