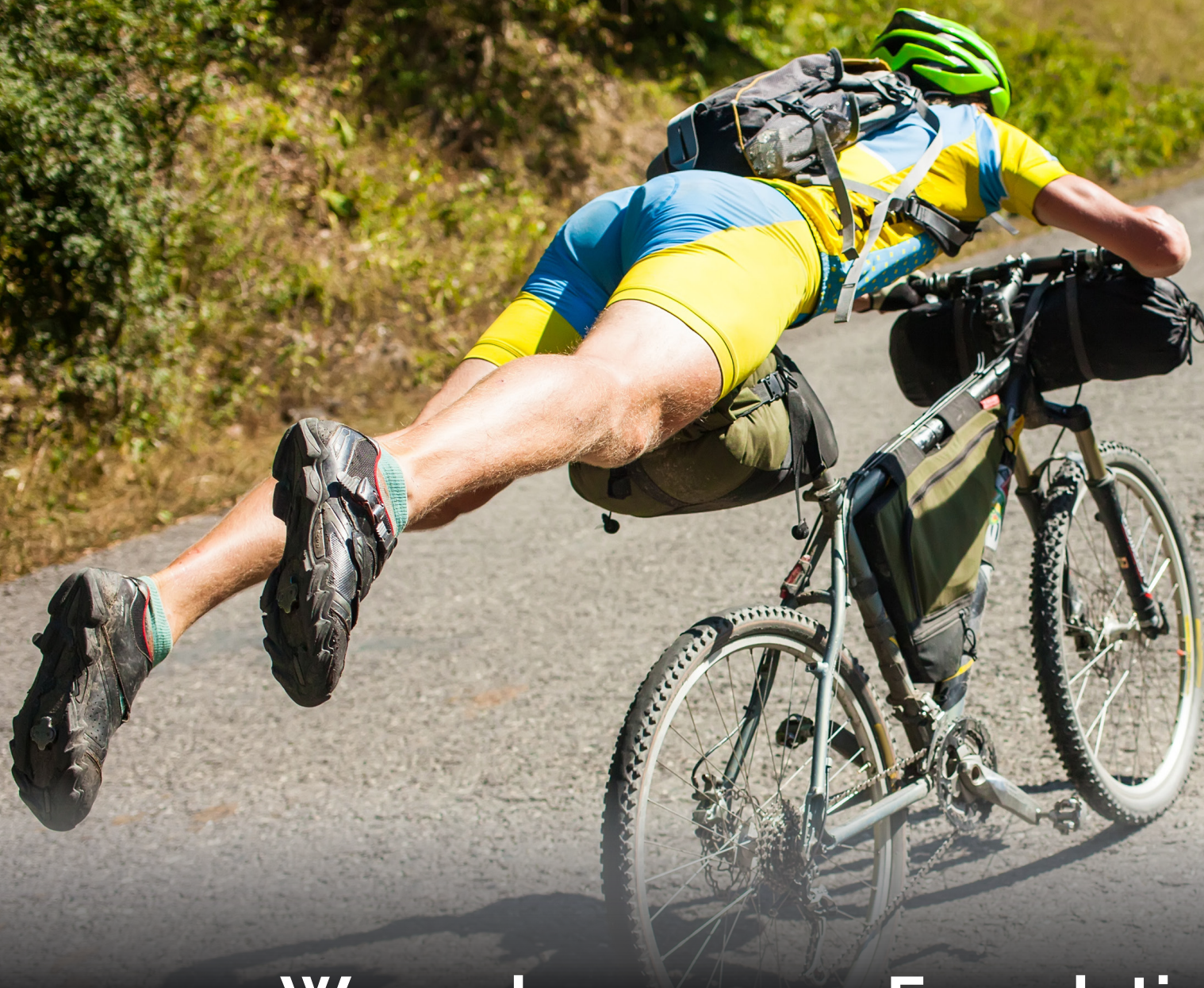




Warmshowers.org Foundation 2024 Annual Report • The Big Leap



Rolling Through Time

Warmshowers has always been about more than just cycling. Since the earliest days in 1976, it's been about friendships forged over shared meals, stories exchanged under starry skies, and doors opened by strangers who quickly become family. Officially formed in 1993 and fully online by 2005, our community took another crucial step in 2014 by becoming a U.S.-based nonprofit. These pivotal moments didn't just mark our growth—they expanded our ability to transform ordinary journeys into extraordinary human connections.

Over the decades, Warmshowers has thrived because our community believes passionately in hospitality, exploration, and genuine human connection. Each new cyclist or host who joins our community enriches it, amplifying the spirit of adventure and camaraderie.

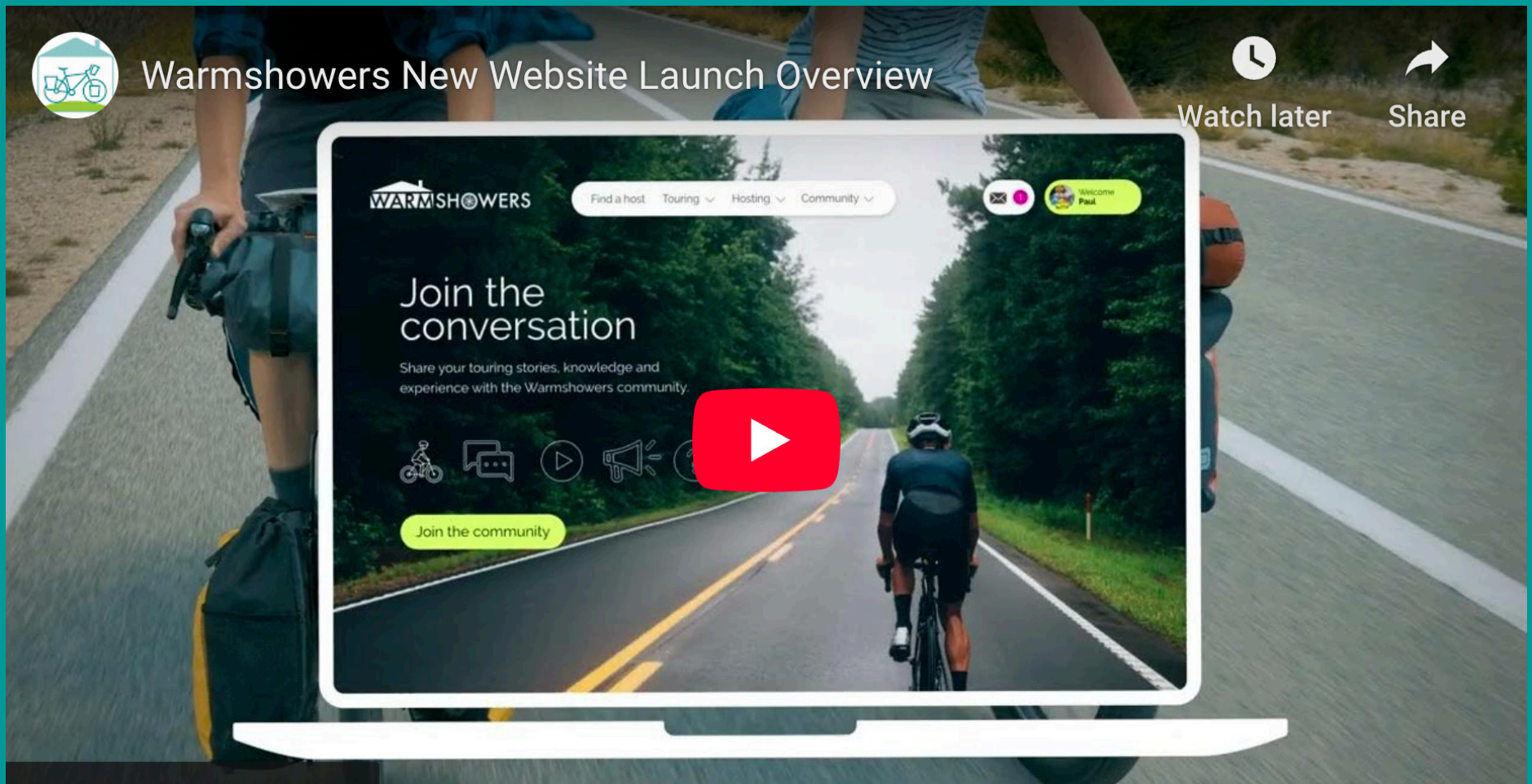


A Digital Tune-Up

In 2024, we made our biggest technological leap yet. After years of careful planning, testing, and community input, we launched our entirely new website, enhancing how cyclists and hosts connect. The result is more than just a new digital space—it's an entirely improved way of engaging with the Warmshowers community.

Now, hosts and cyclists have instant access to calendar-based bookings, which means no more waiting, guessing, or endless back-and-forth messages. A fresh, intuitive 5-star rating system offers transparency and trust, while the revitalized blog puts our community's inspiring stories front and center, along with valuable tips and practical resources.

Check out all the improvements in our Warmshowers New Website Launch Overview video, available in Spanish, Italian, German, and French.



Pedal Partners

Warmshowers doesn't ride alone. Our valued partnerships continue to amplify our impact, helping us extend hospitality to even more corners of the globe. Our longtime partner Bikeflights continues to ride alongside us, notably sponsoring the Bike Life Podcast, a cherished resource highlighting the beauty and diversity of cycling culture around the world.

We've expanded our reach through a new initiative with EuroVelo called "Cycling Together." This initiative encouraged cyclists and hosts to share their memorable stories along Europe's most beautiful cycling routes. By highlighting these stories through our channels and those of EuroVelo, we've inspired new cyclists, reinforced connections, and created fresh reasons for more people to explore by bike.

Additionally, we've launched the Community Spotlight series on YouTube to shine a light on unique and inspiring member stories, and proudly introduced our first-ever Team Shop on Jackroo, offering community-branded gear that showcases our shared spirit.



Cycling by the Numbers

Numbers alone don't tell our story, but they certainly paint an impressive picture. In 2024, the Warmshowers community surpassed 203,000 members across 191 countries, proving the power of our mission to create connections and transform experiences through cycling.

Behind these numbers are countless shared stories, meals, and acts of kindness that speak volumes about who we are and why we matter. Our growth reflects not only how far we've come but also reveals exciting opportunities ahead. Each new host, every cyclist, every story shared strengthens our collective capacity to nurture meaningful connections across cultures and continents.

Looking forward, we're dedicated to continued growth, deeper community engagement, and becoming an indispensable resource for cycling travelers around the globe. We're energized by our community's passion and inspired by their generosity and openness.

Here's to another extraordinary year of cycling adventures, new friendships, and endless possibilities.

A close-up, low-angle shot of a bicycle wheel with a black tire and silver spokes. The background is a solid, vibrant blue. Five light brown, rectangular paper tags are tied to the spokes with thin, light brown twine. Each tag contains a statistic in bold black text. The tags are arranged in a semi-circle across the middle of the wheel.

203,271
Users in the
Community

150
Booking
Requests

1.47M
Messages
Exchanged

1,745
Volunteer
Hours
Donated

191
Countries
Represented



President's Message

Welcome back, community of cycle travelers and hosts. Thank you all for making 2024 an extraordinary year!

Our community has grown, as have the requests for hospitality, which makes us think that more and more people in different parts of the world are choosing to embark on cycling experiences—although, unfortunately, some regions are facing very complex geopolitical situations.

2024 also marked the full implementation of our updated web platform, which has proven to be stable in handling an increasing number of messages and bookings, making it easier and more intuitive for guests and hosts to connect safely.

Another key factor in our success has been the presence of a globally distributed board of directors, ensuring a broad perspective and inclusive management. The board has been working on its next three-year strategic plan, focusing on maintaining operational continuity, enhancing user experience, strengthening community connections, and keeping an eye on emerging trends.

From an organizational standpoint, our management structure behind the scenes has become increasingly robust, ensuring full compliance with governance, transparency, and security.

I want to express my gratitude to the entire staff who, under the coordination of the Executive Director, have done an outstanding job, ensuring the smooth operation of the association and tackling new challenges with dedication and enthusiasm.

Last but not least, I would like to personally thank all of you. Through your commitment and passion, you have helped strengthen the association. Your collaboration, in many different ways, has been essential in building an ever more solid and welcoming network between cycle travelers and hosts.

With gratitude,

Alberto R.

Executive Director's Message

Dear Community,

As we reflect on 2024, one theme stands out above all others: connection. Connection between travelers and hosts, between cultures and experiences, and between all of us who believe in the power of hospitality to transform the way we see the world.

This year, we've witnessed inspiring stories of kindness—of strangers opening their doors to weary cyclists, of lifelong friendships forming over shared meals, of communities uniting to support one another in ways big and small. These moments remind us why we do what we do: to create a network that is not just about finding a place to stay, but about forging meaningful relationships that transcend borders.

As we move forward, our focus remains on strengthening these connections. Our platform improvements have made it easier than ever to reach one another, and our community continues to grow in both numbers and spirit. With an eye on the future, we are committed to fostering inclusivity, expanding accessibility, and ensuring that every traveler and host feels welcomed, valued, and safe.

I am deeply grateful to our dedicated team, volunteers, and every member who contributes to this thriving global network. Your passion and generosity are the heart of our organization, and it is an honor to support this journey with you.

Here's to another year of adventure, friendship, and the open road.

With appreciation,

Tahverlee A.



Board of Directors



**Lucy B.
Canada**

Q:
What has been the most rewarding aspect of serving on the Warmshowers board?

A:
The most rewarding part of joining the Warmshowers Board is contributing to the wider cycling and sustainable travel community and advocating for touring cyclists to get the best experience possible from this amazing service.



**Priyanka D.
India**

Q:
What has been the most rewarding aspect of serving on the Warmshowers board?

A:
Being from India, embarking on a cycle tour requires a ton of international planning and preparation for me. Thus, due to various reasons, I haven't gone on a tour since past few years.. so being part of Warmshowers board is very exciting as it brings back to me all my memories of cycle touring. It allows me to understand the ecosystem much better, ponder on many revelatory aspects and also contribute back.



**Tori F.
France**

Q:
What is one hope or vision you have for Warmshowers in the coming years?

A:
My hope is that Warmshowers can continue to develop its role at the centre of the global touring community, bringing together like-minded cyclists and enriching our touring experiences through local connections across the globe.



**Peter G. - Vice Chair (Outgoing)
USA**

Q:
What was your most memorable touring moment in 2024? / What has been the most rewarding aspect of serving on the Warmshowers board?

A:
My brother and I went on a tour in Japan this year. Our first Warmshowers host was a woman living on the edge of a small village. She is incredibly passionate about hosting riders and her Warmshowers guests have filled a huge guestbook. A couple days before we arrived, Warmshowers had just relaunched the website with a major redesign and she had some feedback to share. I was able to promptly send her feedback to the developers and they made some useful updates right away. I felt great being able to make a positive impact on her experience with the website, particularly since Warmshowers hosting seemed to be one of her main hobbies. And of course, she and her husband were incredible hosts!

Board of Directors



**Justus K.
Uganda**

Q:
What is one hope or vision you have for Warmshowers in the coming years?

A:
To grow our Geographical footprint in Africa, to be most specific East and West Africa. This means creating more awareness around the brand and building more guests and hosts, hence more community. It is also my hope and dream to see as many Board members as possible in person to help bond better so we add more value to the Warmshowers Board and hence the community at large.

Q:
What is one hope or vision you have for Warmshowers in the coming years?

A:
It has been such a pleasure being part of Warmshowers for 4 years. As the outgoing Finance chair, my hope is that Warmshowers continues to inspire and connect people around the world through cycle touring and reciprocal hospitality and maybe make the world feel a little bit smaller...one pedal stroke at a time.



**Jerry K. (Outgoing)
USA**



**Alberto R. - Chair
Italy**

Q:
What has been the most rewarding aspect of serving on the Warmshowers board?

A:
I have supported the warmshowers board for the last 4 years, first as a board member and the last year as president. I am experiencing the transition that the organization is having, expanding not only the number of users around the world but also the representation on the board which is diversified and also distributed geographically. The organizational structure has also improved a lot year after year. WS is led by an excellent team and this experience, although very challenging, is giving me a lot of satisfaction.



**Hans S.
Sweden**

Q:
What has been your biggest takeaway from interacting with the Warmshowers community?

A:
My biggest takeaway from Warmshowers is without a doubt the shared warmth and community. Cycling tourists come from many walks of life, every one with a unique life story and approach to cycling. But we share a love of the open road, adventure, meeting new people, and sharing our experiences. This is what makes the Warmshowers community special.

Q:
What was your most memorable touring moment in 2024?

A:
After spending the past few years exploring routes closer to home, we had the opportunity to spend several months cycling across Europe in 2024. While the landscapes and cultures were unforgettable, what truly stood out were the meaningful connections we made along the way—sharing meals, stories, and laughter with hosts and fellow cyclists.



**Harjan V. (Outgoing)
The Netherlands**

Financial Highlights

In 2024, we intensified our focus on technology to deliver an enhanced experience for our community. Building on our previous year's foundation, we streamlined our digital infrastructure, expanded our technical capabilities, and strengthened our development team to optimize our platform's performance. Through comprehensive surveys and detailed user feedback analysis, we identified key areas for enhancement to better meet the needs of our community, ensuring a seamless experience for cyclists and hosts.

Your continued support has been crucial in advancing our technological vision, allowing us to remain dedicated to serving our community with innovative solutions. At Warmshowers.org Foundation, we maintain our commitment to financial transparency with rigorous oversight. Our financial records are carefully reviewed monthly by an external accounting agency and supervised by our board treasurer. Annual tax filings are prepared with precision and presented to the board by a certified Colorado accountant, upholding our standards of accountability and fiscal responsibility.

Source of Funds

Our financial strength in 2024 continued to be built upon our one-time user fees from new members and the consistent growth in mobile app downloads. We maintain our commitment to a sustainable funding model, featuring a one-time lifetime administrative fee for new users and optional app fees that enhance the user experience.

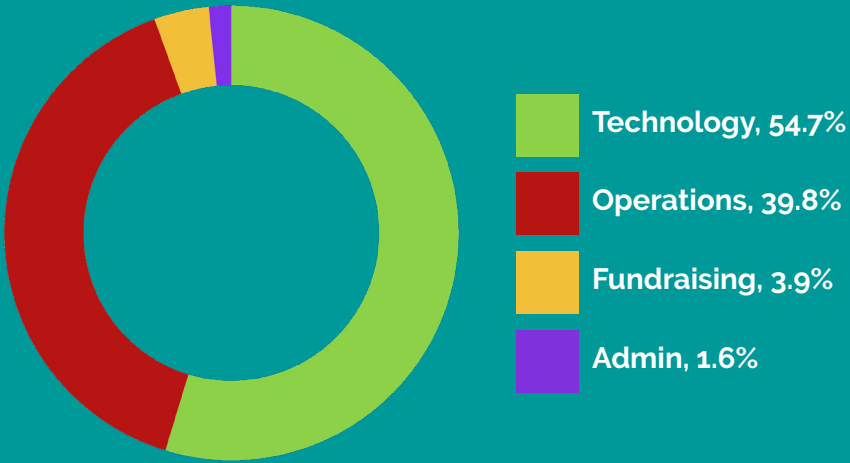
Fundraising remains essential to our operations, with steady contributions and the success of our annual bike giveaway fundraiser, which has become a cherished community tradition. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to all our supporters—whether they contribute regularly or occasionally—whose generosity enables our mission to thrive. Your ongoing support remains the foundation of our community's resilience and expansion.



Operating Expenses

Technology investments remained our primary operational focus in 2024, reflecting the essential role these systems play in our organization's effectiveness. We continued to adapt to the increasingly complex landscape of international privacy regulations while strengthening our defenses against emerging cyber threats. Maintaining and enhancing our digital infrastructure—from website optimization to mobile app refinements—demonstrates our ongoing commitment to data security and technological excellence in our rapidly changing digital environment.

Our lean but effective team structure continues with two core staff members supported by a specialized network of consultants across technology, social media strategy, content creation, video production, accounting, and legal counsel. Though small in size, our team's passion and expertise provide a strong foundation that drives our mission forward with determination and purpose.



Introducing the Warmshowers Global Ambassador Program!

We've launched the Global Ambassador Program — a pilot initiative celebrating the Warmshowers community. For the first phase, we've selected 12 long-time users from around the world who embody our values of hospitality, sustainability, and a passion for cycling.

These ambassadors have acted as liaisons, helped promote cultural exchange, supported new users, shared local insights, and represented Warmshowers through outreach and social media. In the future, the program will open to the full community, highlighting the diversity and depth of our global network.



Embark on a Global Ride with the Bike Life Podcast

From city streets to remote trails, the Bike Life Podcast continues to inspire and connect our worldwide community of touring cyclists and hosts. Each episode brings real stories to life—celebrating resilience, adventure, shared wisdom, and the spirit of generosity that defines the Warmshowers community.

Now heard in over 90 countries, Bike Life saw remarkable growth in 2024, reaching over 190,000 downloads since its launch in May 2020. Standout episodes like Slow Travel, Big Impact, Financially Poor and Experience Rich, and Go With What You Got have captivated listeners and sparked global conversations.

Tune in on Apple, Spotify, or your favorite podcast platform and ride along with us as we celebrate the human connection at the heart of every journey.



Bike Life Podcast Gallery

Listen to our Episodes from 2024



Episode #94
A Family Adventure of Freedom & Connection
With Kenneth & Megan Bennett

▼



Episode #95
Exploring Wild: Stories of Inspiration
With Anne Bell

▼



Episode #96
Pedaling the Past
With Duke Barrows

▼



Episode #97
Warm Welcomes: Building Community Through Hosting
With The Southern Ladies

▼



Episode #98
2 Bikers ~ 2 Years ~ 2 Continents
With Mike & Kristin Ludwig

▼



Episode #99
Cycling Odyssey to the World Scout Jamboree
With Florian Döge

▼



Episode #100
Riding EuroVelo: Cycling Together with Warmshowers
With Agathe Daubillon

▼



Episode #101
Teamwork on Two Wheels
With Stephanie and Andy Robinson

▼



Episode #102
Slow Travel, Big Impact
With Kerstin Winkler

▼



Episode #103
Kindness Amidst the Conflict
With Jerry Gore

▼



Episode 104
Go with What You Got
With Chris Glavin

▼



Episode #105
40 Years on the Road
With Jeff Jorant

▼



Episode 106
Bicycles and Beats with OStella
With Liz Forrester

▼



Episode 107
National Parks Coast to Coast by Bike
With Spencer McCullough

▼



Episode 108
Nourishing Body and Soul
With Susan Day

▼



Episode 109
Epic Family Journey Across America
With The McLaughlin Family

▼



Episode 110
Biking Beyond Sixty
With Lisa Wells

▼



Episode 111
Financially Poor and Experience Rich
With Scott Shaver

▼



Episode 112
Taiwan's Cycling Secrets
With Mark Smead

▼

What's Next - Refining, Defining, and Improving

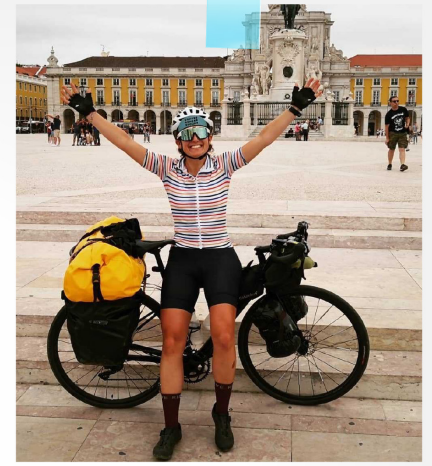
To ensure the long-term viability of our organization, we will focus on several key areas.

Business continuity efforts include reviewing cash flow and resource generation, assessing risks, documenting and regularly updating business practices and compliance procedures, and implementing succession planning.

To enhance user experience, our goals are to prioritize technology investments, explore options to enhance communication between users and hosts, redefine reciprocity, and consider new user categories focused on supporting hosting activities.

Strengthening community connections involves increasing opportunities for user interaction, expanding multilingual communications, intensifying outreach across platforms, leveraging grassroots marketing, and exploring partnerships with bike shops.

Lastly, to maximize our impact, we remain committed to data collection and analysis, advocacy in cycle touring, and establishing a future planning committee to anticipate trends and industry developments.



Around the Community



Jan from Germany pedaled for a two-night stay so he could take a rest day. We did a Walmart run, and he created a hearty, colorful vegan meal. He is heading towards Toronto via Niagara Falls across OH and PA. Be sure to welcome this young man into your home.

Kevin Kimpel



As our first year as Warmshowers hosts winds down, we look back to some of the US destinations our guests came from or were going to as they traveled along the Empire State Trail.

Michael Riley

My guest left me a really cool watercolour in my guestbook!

Andrew Marshall



And so it begins, from Istanbul to Berlin. I am looking forward to meeting many hosts along the way!

Hudson Doyle



Traveling around in lovely Denmark with lovely and friendly Danish people.

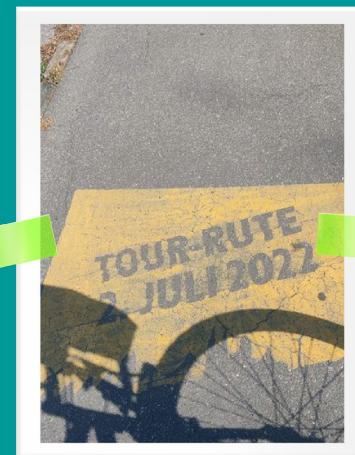
Thank you!

Ulf Lindgren



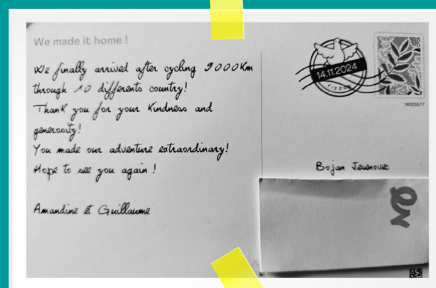
Guido from Venice is now on his way to Edinburgh and home after spending three weeks in the Scottish Highlands. Before he left, I cycled into Glasgow with him to give him a guided tour of the city.

David O'Donnell



It's nice to receive a thank you postcard from Warmshowers guests to the host who hosted them overnight on their way to the final destination of their bike trip. Thank you, Amandine and Guillaume!

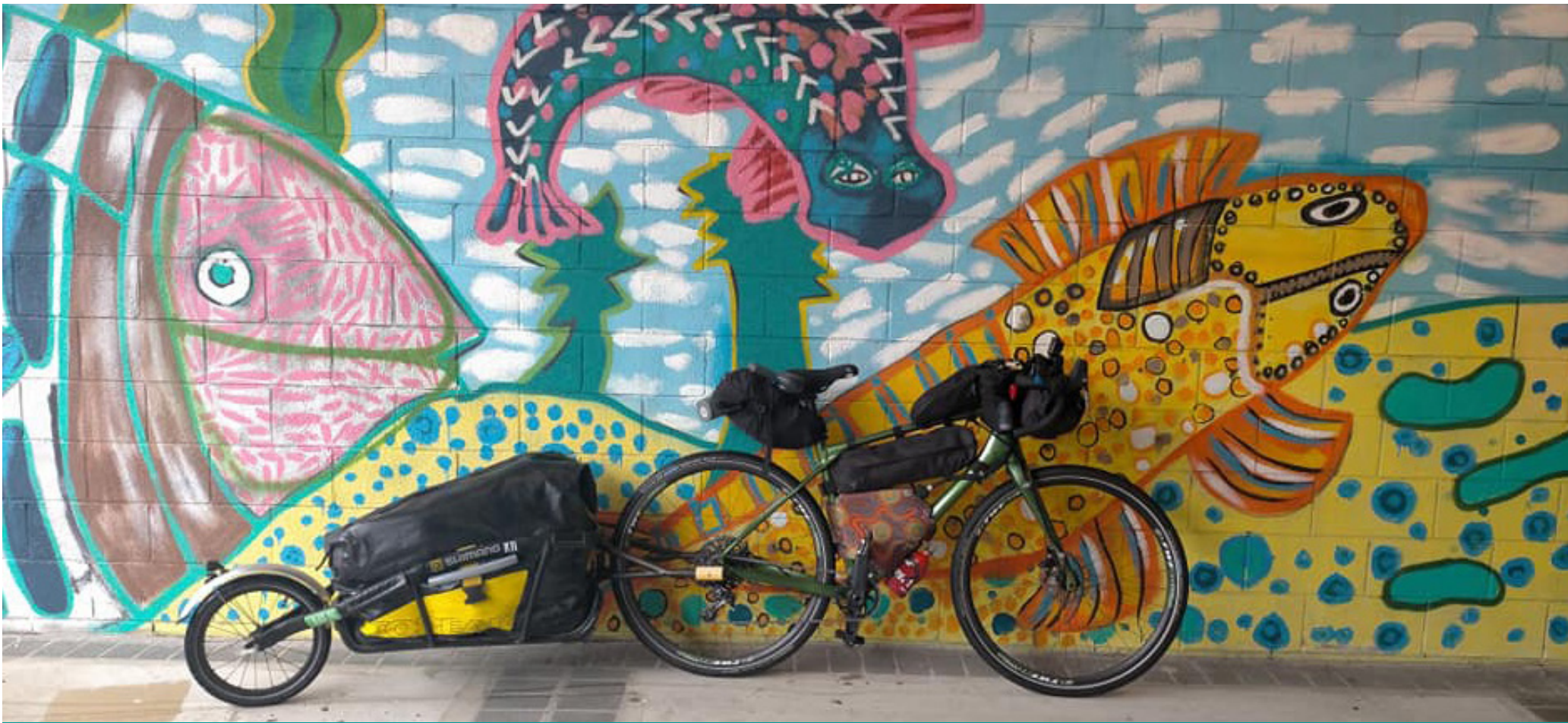
Bojan Jesenovec



I've always thought a snail was an interesting creature because it carries its house on its back. However, I wonder if my cycling speed may resemble that of a snail because I am carrying so much (too much?) gear...!

Paul Szabo





Our Mission

To facilitate and promote safe, free reciprocal hospitality for the worldwide touring bicycle community.

Our Vision

We envision a future where everyone, everywhere, views Warmshowers as THE community for connecting touring cyclists and those who host them, making millions of connections possible.

Our Values

We are a community that VALUES inclusivity and diversity and does not discriminate based on gender, orientation, location, religion, or race. We treat each other in a welcoming and respectful manner. We are passionate about cycling and supporting each other. We do the right thing.

