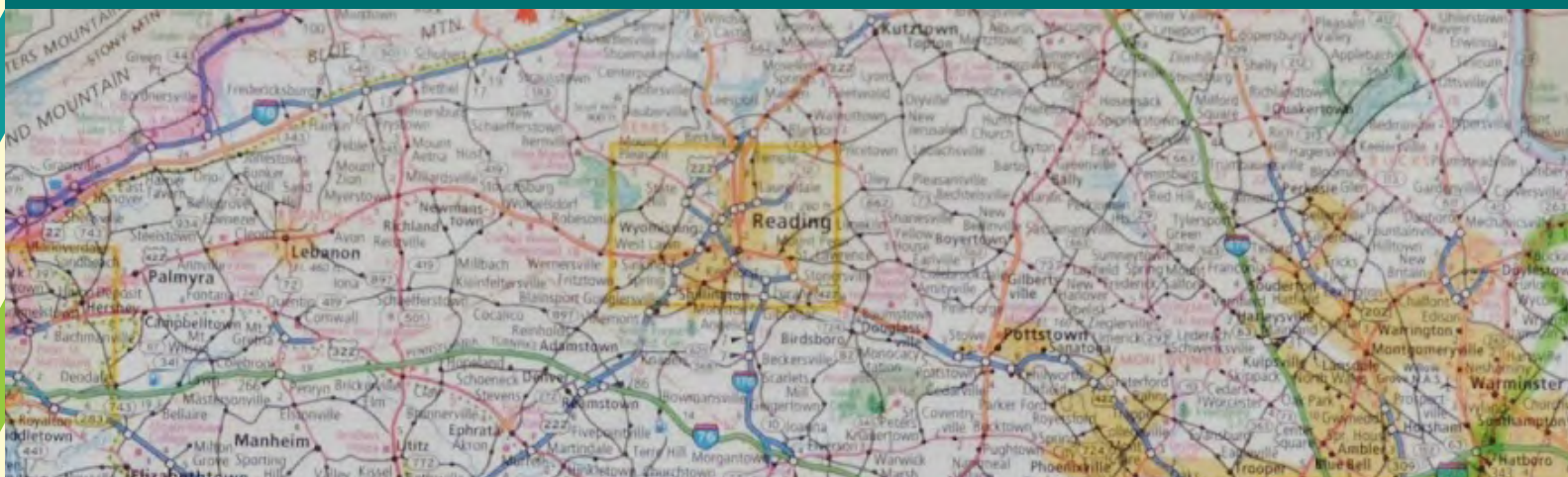


GREETINGS FROM



Wish you were here!

**WARMSHOWERS.ORG FOUNDATION
2025 ANNUAL REPORT | THE SCENIC ROUTE**





THE SCENIC ROUTE: 2025 IN REVIEW

Warmshowers has always been about more than just cycling; it is about the friendships forged over shared meals and the doors opened by strangers who quickly become family. Since our earliest days in 1976, we have been a community that passionately believes in hospitality, exploration, and genuine human connection. After a season of transition, 2025 allowed us to return to a steady cadence, refocusing on the spirit of adventure and the camaraderie that each new user brings to our global table.

OPEN DOORS, OPEN ROADS

2025 was about rolling forward by getting back to basics. With a solid technological foundation in place, we have focused on making it easier for our community to do what it does best: connect. By prioritizing the trust between host and guest, we've cleared the way for more meaningful interactions and fewer distractions. Our goal remains simple: to provide the platform that transforms ordinary journeys into extraordinary human connections, empowering cyclists and hosts to find one another along the road.

A MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

At its core, Warmshowers has always been a testament to a simple, radical belief: that the world is smaller and kinder than we are often led to believe. Since 1976, this community has transformed the act of long-distance cycling into a global exercise in trust and hospitality. As we reflect on 2025, the Board of Directors is proud to see that while our tools have modernized, our fundamental spirit remains anchored in the genuine human connections forged at the end of a long day of cycling.

This past year was defined by a return to a steady cadence. Following a necessary season of transition, we focused our energy on strengthening our foundational pillars: our technology, our global partnerships, and, most importantly, the trust between our users. We understand that in a digital age, it is easy to mistake a notification for a true connection. Our objective as a Board is to ensure our platform remains a bridge, not a destination, that leads to a shared meal, a spare room, and a lasting friendship.

Our global presence continues to expand, reaching over 217,000 users across 193 countries. From the vibrant energy at the Fiera del Cicloturismo and BAM! to the stories shared on the Bike Life Podcast, we are reminded that our mission thrives “on the streets” where our users ride. We are especially grateful to partners like Bikeflights who support our efforts to capture and share these diverse voices.

Thank you for your courage in asking and your grace in opening your doors. Every host who leaves a porch light on is making a statement that generosity is not naive, but necessary. You are the heart of this organization, and we are honored to help clear the way for your next extraordinary journey.



MEET THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Alberto (Outgoing Chair)
Italy



A 'hidden gem' route I explored in 2025:

Riding through the old town of Chioggia and the Venice lagoon, the fishermen's island.



Annika
Germany



A 'hidden gem' route I explored in 2025:

Cycling from Copenhagen to our home in Northern Germany with a 4-month-old baby and lots of sun!

Cycling in Denmark is the best!



Hans
Sweden



A 'hidden gem' route I explored in 2025:

The city of Utrecht, which will host the 2026 EuroVelo cycling tourism conference, has excellent cycling infrastructure (it was named the best cycling city in the world in 2020).

It was a pleasure to explore this city and its surroundings by bicycle during my visit this year, an easy pedal from Amsterdam.



Jack
Ireland



My favourite way to welcome a guest:

Warmth:
A warm welcome, shower, and meal.



Justus
Uganda



My favorite way to welcome a guest:

Hello My Guest, Mi casa es su casa.

Please let me know when you're ready for your coffee: Cappuccino, Latte, Espresso, or Americano?"



Lance (Interim Chair)
New Zealand



My favorite way to welcome a guest:

A cold drink, a shady spot to lean the bike, and an open ear for their stories from the road.



Lucy (Vice Chair)
Canada



My top tip for a first-time host or rider:

Meet riders and hosts where they are and recognize that energy levels and resources vary from one stay to the next.

Sometimes it's about a big meal and a long night socializing, but other times, schedules and energy levels only permit a quick bite and conversation.

Communicate your expectations openly, and remember, the best part of the journey is the people you meet along the way.



Priyanka
India



My top tip for a first-time rider:

Enjoy the ride and make the most of it. Don't fret too much about the kilometers.

It is important to move along the route at a reasonable pace in order to manage our logistics - reaching the next supermarket and so on; beyond that, there is no compulsion to cover large distances.

Sometimes, cycle tourists suffer through the ride in order to hit large distance milestones.

I love my slow rides!



Tori
France



My top tip for a first-time host or rider:

Say yes to the detour, the longer conversation, and the extra night.

That's where the real adventure happens.

CYCLING BY THE NUMBERS

Behind every data point is a shared meal, a starry sky, or a door opened by a stranger who quickly became family.

Our 2025 journey was about the meaningful miles in between. Each host who welcomed a traveler and every cyclist who shared their route strengthened our collective capacity to nurture genuine human connections across continents. By focusing on these quiet, impactful moments, we continue to refine our platform as an indispensable resource for the global touring community.

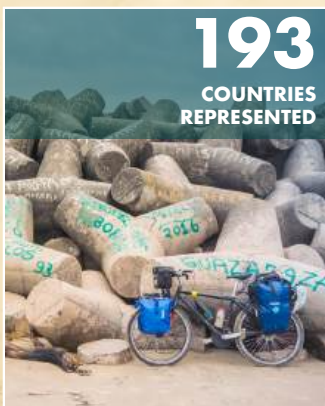
As we look toward the horizon, we remain energized by your passion and inspired by the generosity that defines the Warmshowers spirit. Whether you are hosting for the first time or pedaling through a new country, thank you for being part of this extraordinary journey.



217,040
USERS IN THE COMMUNITY



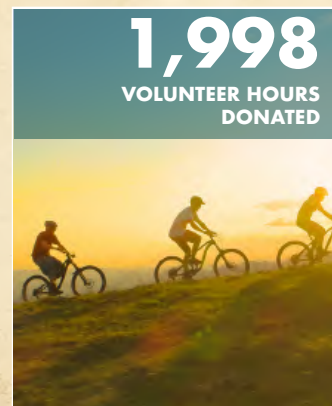
1,513,659
MESSAGES EXCHANGED



193
COUNTRIES
REPRESENTED



13,756
BOOKING REQUESTS



1,998
VOLUNTEER HOURS
DONATED

A MESSAGE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

As the world continues to transform, being part of a community that embraces connection and shares the love of the open road and open hosting is inspiring.

We remain committed to listening to your feedback on technology and supporting grassroots connection. We pride ourselves on remaining focused on you, the community, at a time when we all need it more than ever.

With a strong board of directors from across the globe, top-notch technology providers, communications, and administrative support, we are positioned to move forward and remain steadfast as a place of connection, regardless of the world's challenges.

We live in a time when so much of life happens through screens. We scroll, we tap, we swipe, and somehow we're told we're more connected than ever. But I think most of us know the difference between a notification and a knock on the door. Between a like and a shared meal at the end of a long day in the saddle.

That's what makes this community so rare. Yes, we use technology; our platform, our app, our website, but these are just the bridge. What happens on the other side is profoundly human. A spare room offered to a stranger. A conversation over coffee that turns into a friendship. The trust it takes to open your home, and the courage it takes to ask.

In a world that increasingly pulls us into the digital, Warmshowers pulls us back to each other. Every host who leaves the porch light on and every cyclist who rings the bell is making a quiet, countercultural statement: that real connection still matters. That generosity between strangers isn't naive; it's necessary.

Our work behind the scenes, improving our platform, strengthening our policies, and listening to your feedback, has all been in service of that simple idea. As technology improves, human moments can continue to happen. Thank you for being the heart of this organization. Not the app, not the website — you.

The people who show up for each other in real life, in real time.

Here's to another year of open roads and open doors.

Tahverlee

PEDAL PARTNERS & GLOBAL PRESENCE

Warmshowers doesn't ride alone, and in 2025, we took our mission directly to the streets to meet our community where they ride. We were thrilled to engage with users and partners alike at the Fiera del Cicloturismo and the Bicycle Adventure Meeting (BAM!). These gatherings allowed us to celebrate the beauty and diversity of cycling culture, reinforcing our commitment to extending hospitality to even more corners of the globe.

Our longtime partner Bikeflights continues to ride alongside us, providing the vital support that keeps the Bike Life Podcast rolling. As a cherished resource, the podcast captures the voices and stories found at these events, highlighting the incredible diversity of our global community.

Through these shared experiences and stories, we continue to inspire new riders and create fresh reasons for our community to explore the world together.

Numbers alone don't tell our story, but they certainly paint a picture of a world made smaller through kindness. In 2025, the Warmshowers community continued its steady cadence, with over 217,000 members across 193 countries, proving that the spirit of adventure knows no borders.



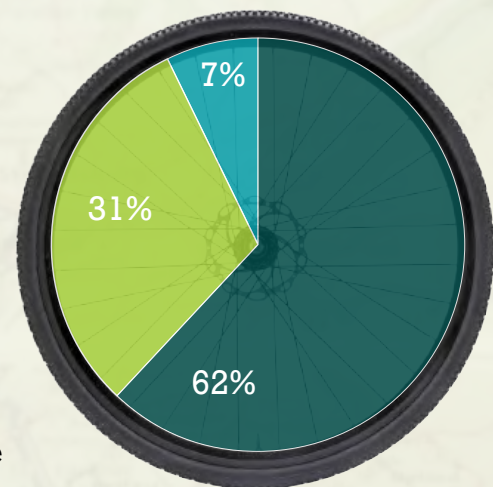
FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

In 2025, we committed significant resources to overhaul our digital infrastructure, ensuring our tools keep pace with a rapidly evolving tech landscape. Alongside our technology efforts, we expanded communication with our global community through ambassador engagement, participation in community events and partnerships, and dedicated help desk and liaison support across our forums and social media channels. Fiscal responsibility remained a priority, with thorough legal review of policies, data protection practices, and website security measures.

Your continued support has been essential in bringing this vision to life. 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 2025

Registration Fees	62%
App Revenue	31%
Fundraising	7%

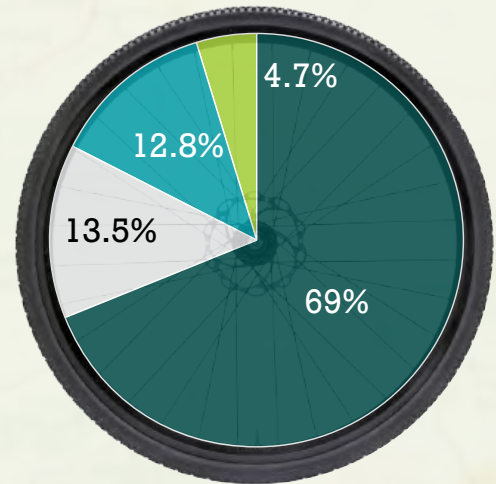


Our financial foundation rests on a sustainable model of one-time user fees and steady growth in mobile app downloads. Because we do not receive grants, government funding, or outside financial support, we remain entirely community-funded. This allows us to stay focused on our grassroots mission and ensures our technology is built directly for the users we serve.

Fundraising remains vital to our operations, thanks to generous contributions and the continued success of our annual bike giveaway. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to every supporter whose generosity enables our mission to thrive.

EXPENSES 2025

Technology	69.0%
Community & Communications	13.5%
Operations	12.8%
Fundraising	4.7%



OPERATING EXPENSES

Technology investments were our primary focus in 2025, as we laid the groundwork for the next generation of our platform. We continued to navigate the complex landscape of international privacy regulations while strengthening protections against emerging cyber threats. Our lean but effective team structure, comprising two core staff members supported by a specialized network of consultants in technology, social media, content creation, accounting, and legal counsel, continues to deliver results well beyond its size, fueled by passion and dedication to our community.



BIKE LIFE: VOICES FROM THE SCENIC ROUTE

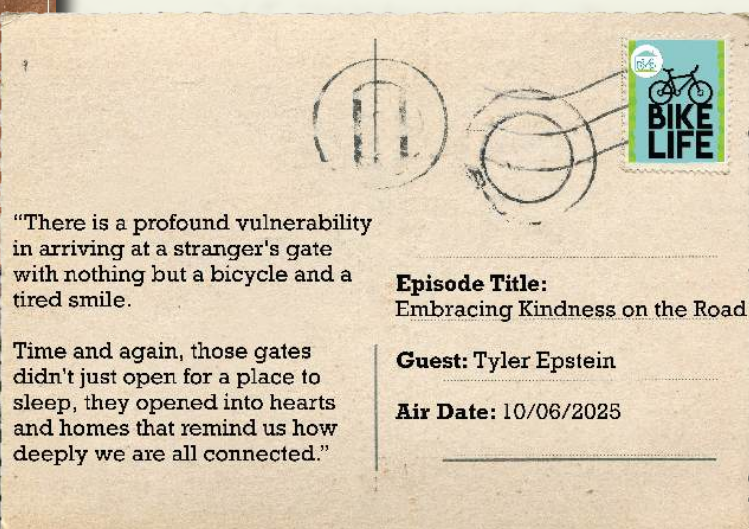
Beyond the maps and the miles, Warmshowers is built on the stories we tell and the wisdom we pass along. The Bike Life Podcast is our community's campfire, a place where the global journey comes to life through the voices of those who live it. Our listeners tune in to find inspiration in the unexpected, to learn from the resilience of fellow riders, and to stay connected to the spirit of hospitality that defines us.

Guided by host Jerry Kopack, Bike Life explores the intersection of adventure and human connection. An author, longtime Warmshowers host, and global cyclist, Jerry has pedaled through 22 countries over the past two decades. After returning from his most recent adventure in Pakistan, he spent 2025 navigating the world a different way — through conversation — bringing the stories, lessons, and quiet magic of life on two wheels, directly to your ears.

Proudly sponsored by Bikeflights, helping us share the beauty and diversity of cycling culture worldwide.

We've captured three postcards from this year's journey: moments of kindness, simplicity, and longevity that remind us why we ride.

**Now heard in 71 countries | Over 225,300 downloads shared
26 new stories added to the map in 2025**



BIKE LIFE: VOICES FROM THE SCENIC ROUTE



When your entire world is packed into a few bags, you stop worrying about what you're missing and start noticing what you actually have.

By slowing our pace to the speed of a pedal stroke, the world became infinitely more detailed and beautiful."

Episode Title:
The Power of Slow Travel

Guest: Ted Eliason

Air Date: 10/20/2025

Hear the full journey at
Podpage.com/Bike-Life

"Cycling tours often become healing journeys, offering a unique opportunity to rediscover your own potential.

What begins as a goal to ride 50 or 60 kilometers a day can quickly evolve into the confidence to push past 100, proving that the most rewarding part of the journey isn't just the distance you travel, but the empowering discovery of the strength you never knew you had."

Episode Title:
Redefining Boundaries
Through Cycling

Guest: Cat Lau

Air Date: 05/05/2025



WHAT'S NEXT

The beauty of a long tour is that it allows us the time to reflect on where we have been while keeping our eyes firmly on the horizon. As we look back on 2025, we see a community that has found its steady cadence. While last year was about refining our path, the years ahead are about ensuring that the road remains open and welcoming for every member of our global family. Our long-range Strategic Plan serves as our compass, guiding our efforts toward the core values that make Warmshowers an indispensable resource for the cycling world.

To guide our journey, we have identified four strategic landmarks that will define our work:

Business Continuity: We are committed to the long-term viability of Warmshowers by focusing on organizational resilience and the preservation of the institutional knowledge that sustains us. By proactively assessing our relevance and implementing succession planning, we ensure that the foundation of our community remains stable for generations of cyclists to come.

User Experience: Our technology exists to serve the human connection. We are prioritizing resources that maximize host participation and improve the ways our members communicate. We are also exploring ways to bring partners onto our map and to introduce new categories specifically to support those who primarily engage as hosts.

Community Connection: To strengthen the bond between our users and the organization, we are expanding our reach through multilingual communications and grassroots marketing. We believe in creating more opportunities for you to build community, whether through local bike shop partnerships or host-specific initiatives that celebrate the value of giving.

Focused Impact: We remain dedicated to understanding the evolving needs of our community through diligent data collection and evaluation. By establishing a future planning committee to monitor industry trends, your board remains a fierce advocate for the cycle touring community and the extraordinary experiences we share.

Thank you for being our partners on this journey. Whether you are opening your door to a weary traveler or planning your next great adventure, you are the heart of Warmshowers.



STORIES FROM THE ROAD:

A HOPE FILLED STORY

Contributors: Scott and Sarah Dontanville

My wife and I embarked on an unforgettable journey along the TransAmerica Trail a couple of years ago, a 4,200-mile tandem bicycle tour stretching from the rugged coasts of Oregon to the historic shores of Virginia. This cross-country route, primarily designed for slow-travel adventurers, winds through backroads, national forests, and small towns, offering a raw, unfiltered view of America's heartland.

As we navigated, we encountered countless moments that restored our faith in humanity. Strangers became friends, offering help without hesitation—whether it was a shared meal, a bike repair, a place to rest, or a kind word. But one encounter, in a campground laundromat, stood out as a testament to the enduring kindness of people. It was in a small town somewhere in Montana that the rhythm of the journey had us pausing to attend to practical needs. While washing clothes, I struck up a conversation with a fellow traveler named Faulkner. He was a lanky Norwegian who had been riding solo for some time. His eyes sparkled with the enthusiasm of someone who'd seen the world's goodness up close. As our clothes spun in the dryers, he shared a story that left an indelible mark on my heart.



Faulkner recounted a rainy day just outside Portland, Oregon, where the Pacific Northwest's relentless drizzle had turned the ground to mud. He'd set up his tent in what he described as a "sketchy" area—perhaps too close to a rough part of town or an isolated spot that felt unsafe. As he wrestled with his gear, disaster struck: a tent pole snapped, leaving his shelter useless. Duct tape, the traveler's go-to fix, failed against the wet conditions. Determined, Faulkner rode to a nearby hardware store, only to find they didn't have what he needed. Undeterred, he tried a second store, where the owner, a grizzled man with a warm demeanor, took an immediate interest in his plight.

"Follow me," the owner said, leading Faulkner down an aisle to a pipe that was the perfect diameter for a makeshift tent pole. When Faulkner saw that it needed cutting, the owner took him to a pipe-cutting machine in a cluttered back room. As Faulkner worked, the owner's daughter, a young woman, overheard his worries about the unsafe camping spot. She suggested three alternative locations—safer parks or campgrounds nearby. Grateful, Faulkner set out to explore her recommendations, but after careful inspection, none felt right. By late afternoon, still damp and unsure, he returned to the hardware store.

The daughter was gone, but the owner was still behind the counter, getting ready to close. Faulkner shared his fruitless search, and without missing a beat, the owner stepped

out again and said, "Follow me." This time, they stopped at a key-cutting machine. To Faulkner's astonishment, the owner made a key to the store itself and handed it over. "You can spend the night here," he said, his voice matter-of-fact but kind. "Just leave the key under the mat when you go—or keep it as a memento."

In the laundromat, Faulkner reached beneath his shirt and pulled out the key, dangling from a simple string around his neck. His smile was radiant, stretching wide enough to light up the room. That key wasn't just a practical solution; it was a trophy of human connection, a tangible reminder of a stranger's generosity. As he spoke, I could feel the weight of his words, the joy of a moment that felt like something from a bygone era—yet it was real, recent, and raw.

My wife and I have been fortunate to witness this kind of neighborly love not just on the TransAmerica Trail but in all corners of the world. Faulkner's story, though, holds a special place in our hearts. It's a reminder that adventure reveals more than landscapes—it uncovers the goodness in people. To find it, you just need to hit the road, open your heart, and let the world surprise you. If that's not possible, join our blog for our upcoming tandem tour across Europe. We do all the pedaling, and you come along for the pleasure.

HOST'S CORNER: COOKIES, COMBINES, AND A WELCOME IN THE MIDDLE OF NOWHERE

Contributor: Kevin Kiser

If you pedal the Northern Tier route long enough, you might eventually reach a quiet country road a few miles from Royal Center, Indiana. At the end of that road is a farm with a small sign by the driveway. It doesn't say "hotel" or "vacancy," but cyclists know they've arrived.

It belongs to Frances Kiser, who has been opening her home to traveling riders since long before Warmshowers even existed. "I'm not a cyclist—just a host."

Visitors often assume they're staying with someone who shares their hobby. Kiser laughs at the idea.

"I don't bike," she says.
"I'm too busy baking cookies."

Her son, Kevin, introduced her to the Warmshowers platform. He created her hosting profile with one simple plan: strangers could pitch a tent in the yard until his mom got to know them. That's still the basic arrangement. Over time, the tent invitations often turn into home hot showers, and beds.



And if Frances is away? Cyclists bunk in the machine shed, where a high-jump pad makes for a surprisingly comfortable mattress. There's even a little fridge and stove to use.

Unexpected farm tours

For most riders, an overnight at the Kiser place turns into an unexpected rural adventure. Depending on the season, guests find themselves cycling between walls of corn, watching seeds go into the soil, or climbing up for a slow, rumbling ride in the combine. Kevin likes to give tours when farm work allows. One year, two recent high school graduates enjoyed the farm so much that they asked to stay an extra night. Frances ended up doing their laundry and even phoned their moms to report they were alive, safe, and well-fed.

"They liked the food," she says with a proud shrug.

Memory books and postcards from everywhere. Kiser has been keeping track of her guests since before smartphones made it effortless. What started as pictures in a shoebox became two thick binders filled with photos and handwritten notes—her own and her guests’.

A visitor from Sweden thanked her for the “tastiest eggs and the healthiest fruit.” Another wrote that she and her son embodied the “American spirit of kindness to family, neighbors, and strangers.” Several joked about staying “in the middle of nowhere.”

“Even nowhere has to be somewhere,” Frances likes to answer. “And I like this somewhere.”

Gymnasts and vegans

Among the many travelers in her albums, a German couple who happened to be enthusiastic gymnasts stands out. They tried their first chocolate-chip cookies, their first strawberry jam, their first John Deere combine ride—and their first game of pickleball—before leaving Kiser with a perfectly balanced handstand photo.

Another favorite memory came from a cyclist who couldn’t eat her famous cookies because he was vegan. Instead, he received a full spread of vegetables and fruit. Before leaving, Frances tucked a baked potato into his bag for the road. Hours later, he sent a selfie eating it on the move: “This potato just powered 20 miles.”

How it all started

The habit of inviting cyclists in didn’t begin online. It began in 1987, on a wet Indiana afternoon. Frances spotted two drenched riders outside a grocery store and offered them a dry place to stay. They were thrilled to backtrack several miles for a warm bed. She even wrote letters to their mothers afterward to let them know their daughters were safely on the road.

She does it, she says, because she believes anyone willing to pedal hundreds or thousands of miles is probably motivated by curiosity—not malice. “Why would someone ride all that way just to cause trouble?”

Warmshowers simply gave her a bigger porch to wave from.

Guests become family

Cyclists often arrive as strangers but leave as something closer to extended family. Some send postcards from new countries. Some return years later with spouses or children. Some never forget her cookies, jam, or the view from a combine cab.

What Frances remembers most is simple: “They bring the world to my doorstep,” she says.

In return, she hands them fresh food, hot showers, stacks of memories—and sometimes a baked potato packed for the road.

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.

SOCIAL MEDIA

Facebook:	Warmshowers Foundation
Instagram:	@warmshowers_org
LinkedIn:	Warmshowers.org Foundation
YouTube:	@warmshowers_org



Warmshowers.org Foundation is a US-based non-profit that connects touring cyclists with hosts worldwide. Unlike NGOs, we receive no government funding and rely solely on donations, new user fees, and app fees to support our community.