

Press Release

Armory Track - Along for the ride

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By: Christopher Hunt - chunt@armorytrack.com

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Bank of America provides bikes for kids at The Armory

The kids hid on the first floor, getting fitted for bike helmets and being given locks for bikes they haven't even seen yet. All this while 300 Bank of America trainees assembled brand new Huffy bicycles last week for kids they never met.

The new Bank of America hires knew they would donate these bikes as a part of Bank of America's Bikes For Kids corporate team-building program. They just didn't know it'd be so soon. That was until about seventy-five mentees from Big Brothers/Big Sisters program and Alianza Dominicana, a substance services abuse program, filed into the arena of the New Balance Track and Field Center and each given a newly assembled Huffy bike.

"First of all, this facility is fantastic for us," said Big Brothers/Big Sisters educational specialist Kathy Kunath. "With this many kids this place is great. The kids are so humble and so grateful. This opens up a whole new world for them because now they can participate in bike riding. Some of these kids wouldn't have this opportunity otherwise. Our families just simply can't afford it."

The team-building program, run by an Indiana-based organization called On Target Teams, hosted 300 new hires to the global corporate and investment banking division from all over the world, including the United States, Europe, Africa and Asia. As part of the Bikes For Kids program, the trainees broke up into teams to compete in different tasks to earn tools. In the end they all built their own Huffy bicycle only to discover that none of the teams had all the necessary tools, which forced separate teams to work together to insure all the bikes were assembled.

"The organizations that are leaders, and companies they are a part of, are led by visionaries and change people's lives," said Sam Hunter, the program coordinator for On Target Teams.

The program manager for Bank of America, said one of the most challenging parts is finding somewhere that can host an activity for 300 people in one space. Plus, not only does it benefit the children but the new employees.

“No one person can do these activities by themselves so there is a cross pollination here,” she said.

She was talking about activities that helped the employees build the bikes. She could have just as easily been talking about influencing the kids.

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