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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Open Roads Bike Program Shifts into Fundraising Gear for New Facility, Renovations

KALAMAZOO, Mich. – Open Roads Bike Program has launched a \$750,000 capital campaign to support the purchase, renovation, and transition into its home at 914 E. Vine Street in Kalamazoo’s Edison Neighborhood. The campaign will transform a long-vacant 10,000-square-foot building into a vibrant community bike hub and youth development center serving more than 1,100 young people each year.

After outgrowing its former rented space on Riverview Drive, Open Roads purchased the new, permanent home in 2025 with a loan from the Kalamazoo Community Foundation and its Impact Investment Team. Initial operations at the Vine Street location began in July 2025, but renovations and upgrades to facilitate the transition are needed.

“This campaign is about much more than a building,” said Isaac Green, Executive Director of Open Roads. “It’s about creating a permanent home for youth empowerment in Kalamazoo. Every contribution helps provide bikes, mentorship, hands-on learning, and opportunities for young people to discover their strengths and direction.”

No longer limited in its ability to expand programming and serve additional youth, the Vine Street location includes room for dedicated classroom and shop space, secure storage for bikes and tools, expanded retail and open-shop hours, and increased visibility within the community.

The campaign’s goal of \$750,000 includes funds for building purchase, renovations, and equipment.

“Open Roads has always been about forward motion — for young people and for our community,” said Ethan Alexander, Campaign Chair. “This new space gives us the room and stability to deepen our impact for generations to come.



“We invite individuals, businesses, and foundations to join us in building a hub of equity, creativity, and opportunity right here in Kalamazoo,” he added.

Founded in 2009, Open Roads uses the power of bicycles to mentor and guide Kalamazoo youth, teaching hands-on job skills, social-emotional learning, leadership development, and workforce readiness. What began in a borrowed garage has grown into one of the region’s most innovative youth development nonprofits.

Over the past decade, Open Roads has given away more than 7,500 bikes, provided over 5,000 free bike repairs, trained more than 30 youth apprentices, and sold more than 1,000 affordable refurbished bikes to community members. Through programs like Earn-a-Bike, Open Shop, Apprenticeships, and the Youth Advisory Board, participants gain confidence, problem-solving skills, teamwork experience, and a sense of belonging.

Community members can support the campaign through one-time or multi-year gifts, sponsorships, volunteering, fundraising events, or planned giving opportunities. For more information or to make a contribution, openroadsbike.org/capital-campaign.html or call Open Roads at 269-365-9142.

To learn more about Open Roads Bike Program and explore volunteer opportunities, visit www.openroadsbike.org or follow @OpenRoadsKzoo on social media.

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About Open Roads Bike Program

Open Roads Bike Program is a Kalamazoo-based nonprofit founded in 2009 that uses bicycles as tools for youth development. Serving more than 1,100 young people annually, Open Roads provides hands-on mechanical training, mentorship, leadership development, and workforce readiness programs that build confidence, resilience, and community connection.

Editor’s Note: Please find four files attached for your use, including:

- An exterior view of Open Roads Bike Program’s 914 E. Vine Street location.
- The shop floor at Open Roads Bike Program’s new location.
- The workshop area at Open Roads Bike Program’s new location.
- Open Roads Bike Program’s logo.