

# Pedals to the People

When they went into business almost six years ago, Mike and Cathy Turman didn't set out to peddle bicycles – they were a mom-and-pop antique business called “Mom and Pop’s Garage Sale Shop.”

“But then we bought some bikes at an auction,” Cathy said, “Mike repaired them and the neighborhood kids started buying them. There was a need for it.”

There was enough need that part of the store at 13th and Center was set aside for “Mike’s Bikes”... and more customers came in. Within three months, bikes were taking up half the store. Pulled in two directions, the Turmans knew they



**One of Re-CYCLE’s custom built cruisers.**

needed to focus on either collectibles or cycles. They gave the market three months to decide for them and the bike

side – renamed as the Re-CYCLE Bike Shop – clearly won.

The transition wasn't that difficult since Mike had a long history of working with local bike shops before going into business for himself. “We call ourselves the ‘average person’s bike shop,’” he said. “We can help anybody find what they’re looking for. I do every kind of riding: road riding, mountain biking, BMX, BMX freestyle – we cater to all.”

The shop survived and thrived by taking in used bicycles – repairing those needing to get back on the road, buying those taking up garage space, and salvaging those that were beyond repair. Re-CYCLE was kind of a Boys Town of bicycles following the credo, “There’s no such thing as a bad bike.”

“We salvage what we can and sell the used parts,” Cathy says. “Bring in anything in any condition – we’ll find a spot for it. Almost nothing goes to the landfill; we generate probably two bags of trash a week and that would be food wrappers mostly.” They service all brands of bicycles and also sell new KHS bicycles and rebranded Re-CYCLE bikes, along with biking accessories.

By early 2011 it became obvious that the shop would soon grow beyond the capacity of the original space. There was only 300 square feet available

for bicycle repair out of 1,000 square feet. The Turmans began looking for a new home around Omaha; even the store’s two full-time employees were looking.

Eventually, they found a spacious red brick building formerly occupied by an insurance agency at 4701 Center Street. The location was perfect, with major-street visibility out the front door and residential streets behind the store. They began working with Jesse Espinosa from First National Bank and soon made their dream site a reality.

Rather than tell the employees of the purchase, Mike told them at the end of work that they’d bike to lunch at Aksarben Village and check out potential properties along the way. When they got to the new shop, with the “for sale” sign intentionally left in the yard, he initiated a walk around the building, allowing the employees to get excited over the potential.

“I said, ‘Well, let’s call Cathy and see what she thinks and maybe get the agent over here,’” he said. “Cathy drove over

and dropped the ‘sold’ hood over the for-sale sign and unlocked the front door. ‘Wait – you already BOUGHT the place?’ they said.”

The family and the staff saved on renovation by completing most of the work themselves. While the work went on, they walked around the neighborhood to introduce themselves and then hosted a grill-out at the shop. By the time Re-CYCLE opened its doors in January, it was already “established” as a neighborhood business.

“It’s going to be a great location,” said Cathy. “There are a lot of commuters here on Center Street and we’re close to the two main bike trails. One customer said ‘I was planning to come to your other shop – now you’ve saved us the trip!’” [www.recyclebikeshop.net](http://www.recyclebikeshop.net)

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**The Turmans**  
(Cathy, daughter Jessie,  
Mike and son Danny)

**Re-CYCLE  
Bike Shop**  
4701 Center St.



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Born and raised in Omaha, First National Bank is passionate about helping local businesses like Re-CYCLE Bike Shop. Because when businesses thrive, so does our community.