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## Hart Middle School Staff Build Bikes for Area Children

**Pleasanton, California**—Thomas S. Hart Middle School administration welcomed their teachers back to school with a powerful day of staff development. Teachers and staff participated in a team building exercise of building bikes in teams. What staff didn't know is that they were putting the bikes together for children through a teambuilding activity organized by Odyssey Teams, Inc.

The Odyssey Teams "Life Cycles" training solutions program facilitated the activity. According to their website (<http://odysseyteams.com/programs/life-cycles-bike-building-program/>), Life Cycles is a perfect example of the ripple effect that comes from "paying it forward." Through the 'Life Cycle' of creating something valuable and passing it on to the end user, teams experience firsthand the value of collaboration, customer-centricity, and teamwork.

"When the kids walked through that door, all the work we did immediately had meaning," said 6<sup>th</sup> grade science teacher Brian Wigand. "When our students walk through that door on Monday, they will give meaning to all the hard work we've been doing. We can really change some kids' lives."

"This activity reminded me of what I've always known about this staff," said Dennis Aquilina. "That we work great together."

"The faculty at Hart Middle School holds the needs of children close to our hearts," said Principal Terry Conde. "We are thrilled to come together in an effort to support the youth in our community while motivating the team to work together through this difficult challenge. I am truly lucky to work with a group of professionals like the staff at Hart. Together they provided something very special today for a group of kids whose lives are measurably improved because of their efforts. This is what the staff at Hart does every day!"

Each child also received a safety helmet and a bike lock.

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Pic 1: L to R: Dennis Aquilina, Isabella, Amy Sweet, Nicole Langer, and Cheri Weinhagen

Pic 2: Hart staff worked in teams to assemble bikes for area children.

Pic 3: Hart teacher Stacey Webb presents a bike to Ricardo.