



Vermont Spotlight Program: Vergennes After School

Program: Bicycle Works
Age Group: Grades 6 – 8
Program Duration: 6 weeks
Program Frequency: 1 time per week

Program Director: Jill Strube
Activity Leader: Tim Mathewson
Student Video Producer: Robert Burbo
Student Assistant: Jesse Bunde

Program Description

Bicycle Works is a hands-on bicycle repair program that allows students a chance to gain mechanical skills under the guidance of Tim Mathewson, a community business owner committed to bicycle education and community-building. Bicycle Works runs six weeks and students repair and refurbish bicycles that are then donated to Bike Recycle Vermont, a non-profit organization that rebuilds bicycles in order to pass them along to refugees and low income Vermonters. Bicycle Works is a program that is building collaborations both with the local community and with larger state-wide networks and is a model for school-business partnerships that benefit students.

Program Resources

Little City Cycles

www.littlecitycycles.com

Little City Cycles is the shop owned by Tim Mathewson, the activity leader for Bicycle Works.

Bike Recycle Vermont

www.localmotion.org

A non-profit organization based in Burlington that distributes refurbished bicycles to refugees and low-income Vermonters.

Vermont Chamber of Commerce

www.vtchamber.com

Bicycle Works was conceived by a local business owner who became aware of the afterschool program through an article in the local newspaper. There are 39 local Chambers of Commerce (listed on the website above) which often provide a way for afterschool programs to connect with the business community.

Key elements that led to the success seen within the Bicycle Works program:

- ◆ A hands-on learning model that engages a wide-range of students.
- ◆ A strong connection with a local business person who is passionate about his work and eager to share that passion with others.
- ◆ A collaborative relationship with a non-profit that provides an avenue for the goods produced within the program to be distributed.

For more information about Vergennes After School or Bicycle Works, please contact:

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The **Vermont Center for Afterschool Excellence** is a statewide public-private partnership dedicated to supporting and sustaining innovative learning opportunities beyond the school day for all Vermont's children and youth. The Center's activities are directed toward building the capacity and commitment of Vermont communities to increase the quality and availability of programs during non-school hours. The *Lights! Camera! Learning!* project under which the Bicycle Works program video was produced is funded through support from the C.S. Mott Foundation and the Vermont Department of Education.

For more information about the **Vermont Center for Afterschool Excellence**, the *Lights! Camera! Learning!* project, or to view winning videos, please see the Center's website: www.vermontafterschool.org.