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## **BikeFest 2009 to put the pedal to the metal : Volunteers plan to put together 650 bicycles to be distributed from charity organizations**

— **Angel Pacheco**

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Volunteers plan to put together 650 bicycles to be distributed from charity organizations

The Kids and Bike Foundation and hundreds of volunteers plan to assemble 650 bicycles Saturday in Goleta that will be given to local charities for distribution.

Entitled "BikeFest 2009," the event is in its fifth year, and the charities that will receive the shiny new bikes include The Unity Shoppe, The Teddy Bear Foundation, Bishop Garcia Diego High School's Project Santa, Catholic Charities, Transition House, Devereux Foundation, United State Army Reserves, Santa Barbara Police Activities League and the Goleta Boys and Girls Club. A helmet will be included with each bike.

Foundation Founder Lou Ventura, who will be hosting the assembly event at his Goleta home, expects somewhere in the area of 400 volunteers, which would eclipse last year's turnout by about 150, he said. He emphasized that without donors and volunteers, he would be just a man with an idea, so it's really a community effort.

"People ask me, 'Why bikes?,' " Mr. Ventura said in a statement. "Simply put, because every kid remembers their first bike. We're honored to be able to provide this service on behalf of the many charities who service our community."

The two-wheeled gifts are purchased through donations from sponsors and individuals, and while Mr. Ventura said there will already be plenty of hands to help put them together, the foundation can still use financial assistance to cover the bicycle purchases. Residents can make donations online at [www.kidsnbikes.org](http://www.kidsnbikes.org).