

# Teach Him to Fix it Himself

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## Putting the brakes on

Dale, a Plumbing Foreman for JH Kelly, a Vancouver based construction firm providing services to commercial facilities, told



Session 4 of the Leadership Development Lab™:

"Many years ago, I was outside my house working on my son's Datsun pickup. The kid next door came over and told me Les Schwab had quoted him \$600.00 to fix the brakes on his 1986 Ford Thunderbird. He asked if I could show him how to fix the brakes himself to save some money.

"I said, 'Sure, you can get the brake pads at NAPA, and I'll show you how. Get the parts and let me know when you want to get started.'

"Two months later, my son and I were out in the driveway working on his pickup again, when I saw the neighbor kid. I asked, 'Did you get your brakes fixed yet?' He shook his head. 'If you get the parts, we can do it tomorrow.'

"Later that afternoon, I heard him coming down the street. When he slowed down to get into the driveway, his car squealed like a freight train. I told him that we should look at those brakes now!



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We took the drum off and found the driver's side rear pads were gone! The caliper was squeezing directly onto the rotors! So, now he had to add the rotors to his parts list. We went to work and before long the job was done. He had new brakes all around and, more importantly, he knew how

to change his own brakes the next time.

"About a month later, I saw him in his driveway with an inexpensive set of tools trying to figure out how to fix another issue on his car. Years later, I saw him when he came back to his mom's house and was fixing her car. He had taken the short lesson I taught him, expanded his skills to help himself and important others in his life.

"The lesson I learned from this experience is that when you take the



time to show someone, teach someone, how to successfully do something that expands their skill set, it gives them the confidence to keep stretching forward. In the end, they are able to help themselves and others.

"The action I call you to take is to invest some of your precious time helping other people, especially those that are coachable and ask for help. They will come to you for advice because they look up to you.

"The benefit you will gain is the satisfaction that comes from making someone else's world a little better."

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