Giving Can Lead to Inclusiveness

I have addressed Be Inclusive in several articles this year; but as inclusiveness can be difficult for many of us, I wanted to make some additional suggestions. In today’s world we have the opportunity through the internet, social media, constant communication, and television to listen to so many different thoughts, ideas, beliefs, and ways to do things. Still we are most reinforced by our own small world- our immediate and extended family, our friends, and our community activities where we choose to spend our time. Our world is comfortable to each of us. Consequently we only hear tidbits of different views and stick to our own.

Perhaps one way to help us to get out of only our thinking is to put giving in your daily life. First giving is an act of focusing on someone else, identifying one of that person’s needs and finding a way to meet that need. This behavior needs to become a constant presence in your life. Every day you become aware of another person and their need and you reach out and meet it. Soon you will truly see more than your world and have expanded your inclusiveness.

There are so many ways to give. Door County has an abundant amount of charities, all of which continue to exist due to the giving of others. Generally they speak of giving in three ways- Time, Talent, and Treasure.

Let’s begin with time. The easiest way to give is thanking someone for something that they did. Others often do not act to get a thank you, but we all have the need to be appreciated. It warms our heart. When you give that thank you, the person may very well share a part of the reasons for their action. You have the opportunity to ask questions and learn more about their world. Praise is another way of giving. You are showing your appreciation, but also encouragement to continue to do so.

There are other ways to give your time in your normal daily life. Some examples are opening the door at the library, helping to set up chairs for a meeting, picking up groceries for someone who is sick, and offering your arm to someone who is struggling to walk are just a few examples. When you do so take the time to look more closely at the individual, engage in a little conversation and listen. Most charities need volunteers to do multiple tasks. You can choose one and find a time to help. Further there is the Volunteer Center of Door County, 746-7704 that has a weekly list of needs. Working at these places you will also be able to listen, ask questions, and learn.

Next is your talents. Whatever your field a charity needs some expertise in that area-legal, financial, human resources, marketing, technology, organization, etc. You can choose to donate your talent as a board member or simply to assist in that specific area. Here you will gain a huge understanding of the specific need that that charity addresses.

Finally is your treasures. As you can, you have given financially to your own interests. Perhaps you might choose to each year review the many charities here, research them, and give to new one. Again you are listening and becoming more inclusive.

Throughout my life I have learned that when you give, you will receive in so many ways. Certainly I believe that is true. One of those ways is that help you to be inclusive.

Tis the season to give. Let’s make every day that season. Happy Holidays to everyone and good wishes for the New Year. I look forward to giving to you some words of civility in 2018.

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