Getting Beyond “Interested”

Life...
More than Just a Package of Services

Sharing Our Gifts

Building Relationships

Making Our Communities Better Places to Live

What Do You “Like”?
I Like Plants

What Do We Do with that Information?

What Does “I Like Plants” Mean to Me? I might…
- Grow plants at home
- Visit a Pick-Your-Own-Strawberries Farm
- Go on the local garden tour in my neighborhood
- Walk around the public gardens
- Visit the Farmer’s Market
- Other possibilities…

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Did I share my gifts, develop a relationship and/or make my community a better place?

How Do We Take It Another Step?

Interests, Gifts & Talents, and Style

Four Spokes & the Hub

Want to develop a relationship and make your community a better place?
**Role**

A role is a person in a place doing something predictable. If you don’t do anything to promote positive social roles, then society will – by default – impose one or more...common negative roles upon this person.

~ Janet Klees

**What Is a Role?**

- Typical – nothing “special”
- Regular & on-going
- Involves active participation
- Involves other people
- Describes who you are

**Deb Wisniewski**

- Mom
- Daughter
- Spouse
- Neighbor
- Friend
- Photographer
- Church member
- Camper
- Weaver
- British Mystery Fan
- Baker...

**Interests/Activities vs. Roles**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Interest/Activity</th>
<th>Roles</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Music</td>
<td>Musician, Dancer, Ticket Taker, Entertainer, DJ, Host or producer of a radio show</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Animals</td>
<td>Feline Friend, dog walker</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Painting</td>
<td>Artist, Gallery owner, Art Fair Volunteer, Illustrator</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water</td>
<td>Swimmer, Boater, Instructor, Lifeguard</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children</td>
<td>Childcare provider, Aunt or Uncle, Babysitter</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Other Important, Often Overlooked Roles:**

- Family Roles: Aunt, Uncle, Sister, Brother, Grandmother,...
- Neighbor
- Friend
- Others

*What do we do in these roles?*
Activity: Roles

Use the “Rule of 20” to brainstorm at least 20 possible roles if someone “likes plants”

Second Spoke: Welcoming Places

Finding Welcoming Places in Your Community
- Welcoming
- Fits your style: prefers loud/busy/crowded vs. quiet/low-key/fewer people
- Connected to your interests
- Typical for most people – not “special”
- Where you can go on a regular basis
- Where there are opportunities to interact with other people
- Where it may be possible for you to participate and contribute

Place: Finding Places in Your Community
- Welcoming
- Fits your style
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Where are the places in your community?
How do you find them?

How Do We Find the Places?
Bulletin Boards

Local Newspapers

Online: Volunteer

Meetup.com

Presence
Definition: Existing, occurring, or being present in a place
Being Present: Show Up  
example: Dancing  
Turning up to watch and listen to the music.

Having Presence: Do Something  
Going to the bar to buy drinks.

Actively Participating: 
Join in with other People  
Joining in the beginners dance lesson.

Connecting: Interact with People  
People asking me to dance & me asking other people to dance.

Contributing: Share Your Gifts  
Handing out leaflets on the front desk to new people as they arrive.

From Presence... to Contribution
I Like…
- Being Present: Show Up
- Having Presence: Do Something
- Actively Participating: Join in with other People
- Connecting: Interact with People
- Contributing: Share Your Gifts

Fourth Spoke: People

Why Do We Want to Involve Other People?
- Fun
- Support & encouragement
- Sharing – it’s easier to do with someone else
- Role model
- Provide a ride
- Help us make connections

People: Who should you ask?
- Who are the people you already know?
- Who are the people who would be interested in doing the same thing you’re interested in? How can you get connected with them?
- Who might support your efforts to be more involved?
- Who would put the focus on you?
- Who would you enjoy spending time with?

Four Spokes and a Hub
Putting it all together.
Four spokes and a Hub: Putting It All Together

**Ideal:**
- Frequent (often), regular (same time, place), intense (various roles or activities) presence
- In one or more valued & typical settings
- Where you see the same people across settings & roles
- Where you see 1-5 people frequently and regularly
- And you engage with those 1-5 people because of the engaged role that you play – ample time for socializing and your contribution is clear, distinct and recognized.

Adapted from: Janet Klees

Questions to Ask:
- Where are you from and how long have you lived there?
- What do you like about your community?
- If you had a magic wand, what would you change?
- What can you do to make that change happen? (What gifts do you have?)
- Can I connect you to other people who might want to work on this?

Putting ABCD into Practice: Three Questions

What can you do for yourself?

What can you do with some help?
What do you need someone else to do?

Three Questions…
These need to be asked in this order:
1. What can you do for yourself?
2. What can you do with some help?
3. What do you need someone else to do?

Moving Forward…

Nothing About Us Without Us

Moving Forward
- What’s working?

Moving Forward
- What’s working?
- How does this change what you’re doing now?
  - What can we stop doing to create space for people to do what they can do for themselves?
  - What can we offer to the community beyond the typical services?
Moving Forward

- What's working?
- How does this change what you're doing now?
  - What can we stop doing to create space for people to do what they can do for themselves?
  - What can we offer to the community beyond the typical services?
- Next Steps

Resources

- **ABCD Institute**: For a complete list of publications or to learn more about ABCD, visit: [http://www.abcdinstitute.org](http://www.abcdinstitute.org)
- **ABCD in Action**: An online community of people who are exploring ABCD at [http://abcdinaction.org](http://abcdinaction.org) No cost to join and we never share your contact info.

More Resources

- Building Communities from the Inside Out, by John (Jody) Kretzmann & John McKnight
- The Abundant Community, by John McKnight & Peter Block [http://www.abundantcommunities.com](http://www.abundantcommunities.com)
- Switch, by Chip Heath and Dan Heath
- Walk Out, Walk On, by Margaret Wheatley & Deborah Frieze
- Sharing Community, by Lisa Mills & Gary Messinger
- Waddie Welcome & the Beloved Community, by Tom Kohler & Susan Earl
- The Great Neighborhood Book, Jay Walljasper

Resources

- Volunteer Match: [https://www.volunteermatch.org](https://www.volunteermatch.org)
- Meet-up: [https://www.meetup.com](https://www.meetup.com)

Don’t ask what the world needs. **Ask what makes you come alive and go do it.** Because what the world needs is more people who have come alive.

—Howard Thurman

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