

The Job of *Making A Difference* or How to Change the World All by Yourself

by Jeffrey Davidson Schragger

President Bush in his speech to this great nation launching the USA Freedom Corps on January 30th, 2002, said: “Part of being a responsible society -- part of being a responsible society is for people to love your neighbor just like you'd like to be loved yourself. And part of being a responsible society is to serve your community. And so my call to America is -- I hope and ask that you serve your community you live in and your nation by two years of service, 4,000 hours of service over your lifetime.”

If you're 20 and you hope to live to 100, hmmm let's see, that's 4000 hours over eighty years, or 50 hours a year. So start young and you can “get your time in” an hour a week and still take a two week vacation from your new “job” of serving others each year. Not bad. For the rest of us who don't have the luxury of being 20, we have some work to do.

But really is it work? I don't know how it makes you feel to help someone else out that needs what you have to offer, but to me I am empowered by it. It fills me with a warm sense of pride and satisfaction that you just can't get anywhere else. In fact, think about this as a new way of approaching your new “job”. Just do *something* out of the blue, a random act of kindness, a senseless act of selflessness.

What a concept. It blows people away when you do it. People can't believe there really are folks out there that would do such things and when they are confronted by them it is a truly shocking moment sometimes. Try it out and see for yourself. Buy someone a cup of coffee in line behind you or help someone out with their groceries or thank the guy cleaning the restroom for coming to work today and a job well done. In a world filled with other senseless and random acts these are the ones that pay the biggest dividends and have the most lasting impact. Especially when people start to “get it” and realize that you did what you did for the sheer pleasure of giving without a single thing asked in return. It becomes infectious and can turn someone's day completely around in an instant and better yet it may even rub off on them.

Wouldn't it be great if the only payback you ever required for your random act of kindness would simply be that the beneficiary of your act go and just do something similar for someone else? Think of what an impact your simple selflessness could have then. This is the whole “pay it forward” idea and it is a truly powerful idea and so elegant in its simplicity of implementation. You too could change the world and all in just doing little things often and whenever you get *your* opportunity. There are truly golden opportunities everywhere and everyday that too many of us just let slip by time after time after time never knowing what impact we could've made.

So go out there and see what “work” there is to do out there, it is a big world and there are needs to be filled everywhere you look. The key is to just become aware of them by looking. If you just open your eyes you'll be surprised at what you'll find all around you. You may just be the right person at the just right time to *Make A Difference*. Try out your new job and you just might find that “getting your time in” by serving others is not only easy, but you may just become a work-a-holic and change *your* world in the process.

To *Make a Difference* with The Legacy Ride, please go to www.LEGACYRIDE.org and help us help MDA.

Opportunity is missed by most people because it is dressed in overalls and looks like work.--- Thomas Edison