

Words of Wisdom about Community Development

**'Go to the people,
Live among them,
Learn from them,
Start with what they know,
Build on what they have,
But of the best leaders,
When their task is accomplished,
Their work is done,
The people all remark
"We have done it ourselves".
(Lao Tse)**

**'If you want to build a ship, don't round up people to gather wood and dish out work.
But teach them the desire for the wide, endless ocean'.
(Antoine de Saint-Exupery)**

**'Never doubt that a small group of committed citizens can change the world.
Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has'.
(Margaret Mead)**

**'You can change the future of your community or you can sit back and allow whatever happens to happen. You can create your own destiny. However, the cost is high. It means organising a group of people who are willing to give of their time and energy to make things happen. It means believing in yourself and your organisation. It means putting aside individual differences to work together for the good of the community. It means working together to decide what you want for the future and then working together to make it happen. You can do it. People are doing it.'
(Jack McCall, 'Small Town Survival Manual')**

**'In the final analysis, the power of community action is
the power to act in concert with others'.
(David Matthews, The Kettering Foundation)**

**'We must continuously work to reduce the height and thickness
of the walls around communities'
(Tim Borich)**

'Nothing more surely builds community than engagement in shared tasks'

(John W Gardner)

'Communities that view their citizens as their greatest asset and investment in the development of the full potential of all their people are those that will have the capacity to effectively compete in the global political, social and economic arena.'

(Donald W Littrell)

'Communities can be defined as intricate networks of conversations about the issues that matter to most people'

(Parker Palmer)

'All the historic evidence indicates that significant community development only takes place when local community people are committed to investing themselves and their resources in the effort. That's why you can't develop communities from the top down, or from the outside in'

(John McKnight, John Kretzmann, Mapping Community Capacity)

'Community Building is not a spectator sport!'

(Bruce Adams)

'Communities are incubators of innovation and are where our can-do spirit resides. In communities, lies hope and new opportunities for citizens to volunteer, celebrate, learn about their responsibilities, and take action together'.

(John W Gardner)

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