

Character Council of Indiana

Our character focus for the month of *NOVEMBER* is

INITIATIVE VS. IDLENESS

“Recognizing and doing what needs to be done before I am asked to do it.”

Initiative:

Practical Personal

??Do you show initiative by rising early in the morning

??Do you show initiative in asking forgiveness and being reconciled with your enemies?

??Do you exemplify initiative by keeping your home and car in good repair?

??Do you take initiative to search out the less fortunate in your neighborhood, and discover what their needs are?

Commitment to Initiative:

??I will do what is right before being told

??I will not put off until tomorrow the things I can do today

??I will contribute to the success of the whole team

??I will be a part of the solution rather than the problem

??I will look for ways to help others

Initiative: Points to Ponder

How do you determine whom to promote?

Example: You narrowed down the selection process to 2 employees, both who are responsible at doing what they are asked to do, but one does what needs to be done... before they are asked. You would be wise to select the employee who exhibits the leadership quality of initiative. Good leaders are proactive. Initiative is anticipating and preparing for needs or problems before they actually materialize. It is much better to focus on fire prevention now, than to deal with firefighting in the future.

Initiative is a transfer of responsibility from the direction of an authority to the inner voice of good character. Initiative is self-supervision to complete what we are responsible for, without the need for external supervision. Good intentions will never get anything done. Great abilities in themselves cannot change a thing. Initiative is the decision to ACT on our good intentions and not PROCRASTINATE.

Have you ever considered your most important personal resource?

Its not money, because if you waste money today you always have a chance to replace it with hard work tomorrow. Your most important personal resource is time. Your time is a non-renewable resource. Initiative is viewing one's time as a precious resource and investing it wisely. The best way for a person to assess how well they are investing their time is to examine their use of *free time*. Do you balance your time between the really important things in your life? Do you sacrifice time with your family, or fail to get enough rest? Do you use this resource wisely and set aside time for physical, emotional and spiritual renewal?



How do you encourage your employees to develop initiative?

One of the best ways is to sincerely praise them for initiative when you see it demonstrated. With our employees and our children, we tend to get more of whatever we praise. When you praise, do it at the deepest level. Don't praise achievement by saying "good job", but praise the person's character. For example, if someone is sweeping the floor, don't say "good job." Say "thank you for taking initiative". Praising for character encourages the person long after they have been promoted from floor sweeping. Saying, "good job, floor sweeper" does not.

Where do you need to take initiative today?

Upcoming events:

≪≪ Monday, November 12th

Greenfield, **CHARACTER FIRST!** Training, 9:00 – 4:00
Greenfield Central High School – *Open to the public*

≪≪ Tuesday, November 13th

CHARACTER FIRST! Corporate Training, 9:00 – 4:00 (*See flyer attached*)

≪≪ Wednesday, November 14th

CHARACTER FIRST! Corporate Training, 9:00 – 4:00

Shipshewana – *For more information, call Scot Jefferies at (616-358-1639)*

≪≪ Tuesday, November 19th

Terre Haute, Character Leadership Breakfast, 7:00 – 8:00

Union Hospital, Green Rm– *For more information, call Marsha at 812-235-8101*)

≪≪ Tuesday, November 20th

Character Leadership Breakfast, 7:00 – 8:00

Events are held at the Indianapolis Training Center, 2820 N. Meridian unless otherwise noted. For more information about any of these events, please call our Indianapolis office at (317) 543-4870 or e-mail us at info@charactercouncil.org