



Character Council of Indiana

Building Cities of Character One Person at a Time

August 2000 Newsletter

Breakfast Offers Character Studies

Both your workplace and your home are affected by the character you demonstrate. However, it can be difficult to identify some of the practical applications of the character quality of the month. That is one of the reasons CCI participates in hosting a monthly character focus' breakfast in Indianapolis.



Community leaders from around Indianapolis gather monthly for breakfast at 2820 North Meridian, Indianapolis.

Already in its fourth year, the Business Leader's Breakfast, held on the third Tuesday of every month from 6:30 to 7:45 AM at the Indianapolis Training Center, has been a well attended and much appreciated event. Initially targeted at business leaders, the breakfast is now attended by education officials,

members of city government, participants from the faith community, and many others.

The event is broken into three sections: breakfast for the first half hour, a short drama depicting common scenarios in which the character quality can be demonstrated (or ways it is commonly misapplied), and a presentation on how you can apply the character focus in your organization and in your own life. Here are some key points from the July breakfast focused on Enthusiasm.

There are three types of people:

1. Energy-takers are focused on themselves only, sapping energy from others.
2. Energy-wasters are the proverbial "bump on a log". They may have great potential, but they are wasting it.
3. Energy-givers are an encouragement to be around because of their words, actions, and attitudes.

If you have not previously attended, we hope that you will consider fitting the breakfast into your schedule. To RSVP, please call Donna or Amber at (317) 543-4868.

Elkhart Character City Progress

So, your city wants to pass a resolution and declare itself a "City of Character." And you wonder, "Then what happens?" The city of Elkhart seems to have a pretty good idea. Here are a few highlights from their blossoming Character City initiative:

- The character quality of the month along with the definition is now on the monthly water bills (everyone gets one, right?!). They are also printing the character focus on city employee paychecks.
- Mayor Miller plans to use a significant

portion of his *State of the City Address* to speak about character.

- They are planning on placing large Character City banners for each of the 49 qualities on the main roads leading to Elkhart.

Simple, yet effective methods of promotion are the key to emphasizing character in your community. Ideas for these simple methods are already developing in the minds of people in your community, individuals who are excited about participating with your Character City initiative.

Upcoming events

August 15

6:30 AM ~ 8:00 AM
Business Leaders Breakfast
Indianapolis Training Center

8:00 AM ~ 9:30 AM
CCI State Council Meeting
Indianapolis Training Center

August 30

8:00 AM ~ 9:30 AM
Elkhart Steering Committee
Elkhart Chamber of Commerce

September 26

8:30 AM ~ 4:00 PM
CHARACTER FIRST!® Training
Indianapolis Training Center

In this edition

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Family Book Uses

character focus

From the President



CCI President Steve Becker

Every business has an invisible heart-beat pushing the lifeblood through each of its daily activities. When the organization's heart beats abnormally slow, managers and owners rarely view it as a problem. These managers are the ones who produce low results and/or work long hours that eventually cause burnout and poor results. Every organization has a tempo, the speed at which it moves and reacts to new problems and opportunities. Tempo is essentially the speed with which people accomplish goals and solve problems. Researchers say that tempo has a greater relationship to success than any other factor. Your ENTHUSIASM as a leader can be the greatest aid to encouraging your employees to develop a high tempo, high achievement organization. How's your tempo....?

Questions? Please contact us.

Call: (317) 543-4870

Fax: (317) 543-4871

E-mail: info@charactercouncil.org

ENTHUSIASM

vs. Apathy

*"Expressing joy in each task
as I give it my best effort"*

Enhancing Character Education

The Metropolitan School District of Lawrence Township, under the direction of Dr. Duane Hodgkin, has developed a character education program called "Caring About Character." Every month, Dr. Hodgkin sends a fax to each principal and teacher that outlines practical ways to teach and encourage a specific character focus. The following are highlights from his March 20, 2000 send out on respect and civility.

- Respect is learned, earned and returned.
- Model respectful behavior with your words and body language.
- Ask your students to write down and discuss

specific ways that individuals can demonstrate respect for themselves and for others.

- Talk about "what good manners are" and why they are important (Ask for examples).
- Find newspaper articles that speak to "respect issues" and do the following:
 - Discuss the results for each act of disrespect.
 - Brainstorm ways society, families, schools, and individuals can foster more respectful behavior in order to prevent these situations.
- Find a comic strip you like and discover ways that character could more effectively resolve conflicts.

Utilizing "Achieving True Success"

In case you hadn't noticed, we are talking a lot about the latest IACC resource, "Achieving True Success." We feel strongly that the information inside this book is vital to strengthening and building character in the families of our community. If you don't already have a copy, please call our office and reserve one today. After looking it over, many have recognized that this is a fantastic book and wondered how it can best be used throughout their local community?" The possibilities are as endless as your own creativity. However here are some suggestions:

Businesses - Should the purpose of your business include strengthening the families of your employees? We believe so. We are encouraging business owners to provide this book to each family represented in their organization. This can only benefit your organization as well as investing in your employees.

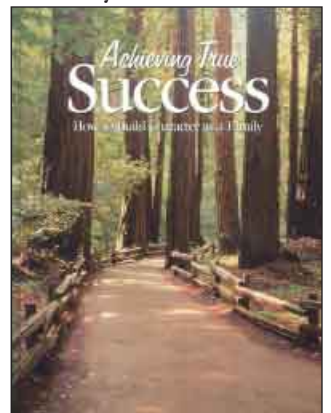
Schools - Take a copy of the book to your local school principal and use it as a springboard to encourage Character Education in your child's school. Explore funding options

for providing a book to each parent in your school (school budget, local businesses).

Neighborhood - Help make your neighborhood one of trust and positive character. Give this book as a gift to families near you and encourage them to use it in their homes. Then, reinforce these character qualities as you interact with neighbor children and adults.

Local Church - The Family Book could be used as a guide in many areas of a church program such as Sunday School, Vacation Bible School, children's classes, parenting classes, etc.

Hopefully this will provide some food for thought as you determine how to best use this resource.



"Achieving True Success" is now available for purchase from CCI.