

Healthy People Review

Sally Crosiar Reviews Helpful Books, September-October, 2003

Much of my work lately has either been with voluntary organizations such as Grange or Cooperative Extension or with a multitude of agencies who are attempting to collaborate in new ways.

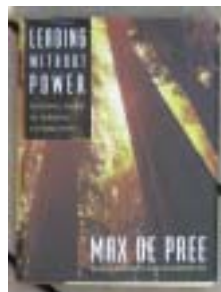
In either case, people certainly want to lead and influence others, but they can't rely on the easy stuff like withholding a paycheck. And of course, parents want to influence their kids, teachers want to influence students, marketers want to influence buyers - and none of them have power over those they want to influence.

Of course all these would-be-influencers may *think* they have power. But in the final analysis, each of us holds the power to our own hearts and minds - and we can only be influenced when we *choose* to be.

So in voluntary organizations, in collaborative efforts, and in daily life, how can we ask others to choose to follow our lead? That question led me to this month's book.

The October Book

***Leading Without Power:
Finding Hope in Serving
Community* by
Max De Pree**



De Pree says that "Leadership among volunteers is dependent in beautiful ways on shared values and commitment, on understood visions expressed in workable mission statements, and on moral purpose." He speaks about leading people who work for love. I found that an exciting notion. Don't you?

And he speaks of the organizations where people work for love as being places of realized potential - where people get opportunities to grow into who they want to be as they give of themselves. DePree calls this sense of potential as more than self-fulfillment, but rather as expressing stewardship and servanthood. People fill a vital human need - to feel a generosity of the spirit.



Just One Idea

De Pree suggests that non-profit organizations are both uniquely able to serve families and dependent upon them. He likens an effective non-profit organization to a healthy family saying that the family is probably the best example of a non-profit organization. He draws parallels from the following list of effective families, developed by the Board of Michigan Future, Inc.

Families must provide unconditional love.

An organization has the capacity to help me realize my potential if I feel that people there are genuinely glad to see me, want to know me, honor my talents, and accept my foibles.

Families must teach and demonstrate a clear, concrete set of values.

Before I'm willing to work for love, I have to know that an organization's values match up with my own. I want an organization to talk about its values with pride and to live according to its values. Working with such an organization gives me chances to live my values.

In a family at least one person must work.

In an effective organization, I need to work - and to feel that others demonstrate their commitment by working as hard as I do.

Families must teach appropriate social and functional skills.

I feel alive when I'm learning - realizing my own potential. I'm drawn to organizations that keep me learning.

Families must teach us how to manage resources.

As ever, I learn most by example. Organizations that are vital manage their resources in such a way that they have them - and that they put them to worthy use! Effective organizations generate good with what they have. What an example that is for my life!

Families must teach us how to see learning as a permanent part of life.

Again, it's about learning. Vital organizations help me realize my potential by dangling intriguing challenges my way - and believing I can do what I know that I cannot. And then, lo and behold - with the support of the organization, I can! It's about learning!

Families must explore the future together.

Vital organizations know that their members have a need to shape their future - individually and collectively. Exploring what might be - and what we want to be - that's important work that leads to legacy. When I see an organization that works to create a healthier, more positive future - that's an organization I want to be part of!

Families celebrate together.

Whether it's an accomplishment or the simple joy of working with people we like and respect, celebration nurtures the soul of those who work - and also of those who might be enticed to work in the future. Celebration recognizes contribution. Celebration encourages continued involvement. Celebration is FUN!

While De Pree's point is that we learn these roots of service in our families, I found it quite useful to consider how organizations could act like effective families. Certainly I'd be influenced by an organization that worked to meet this set of criteria!

And to Help Realize Your Potential...

There's no richer laboratory for learning than a love relationship - and you'll see what I mean in my book *Find the Love of Your Life!* It's meant for singles who are looking for love - but lots of married folks have told me they learned some good stuff by reading it too!

And when you need a reminder that it's not what happens to us, but how we react to it that makes a difference, look for *My Uncle Dave!*



Find both my books on www.amazon.com or order them by contacting me at sally@healthypeoplelearn.com.

Here are the vitals. *My Uncle Dave* \$9.35. *Find the Love of Your Life!* \$15.95 Add \$4.00 shipping and handling for each book. New York residents pay 7% sales tax.

A Healthy Person Gets Around!

- October 16 and 18, I moderate chats about the upcoming book I co-authored with my friend and mentor Sid Simon - ***Love Builders: Powerful Validation Tools to Enhance Every Relationship!*** Look on www.valuesrealization.org for details on joining the chat!
- November 5-7 I'll speak at the Building Communities of Character Conference in Canandaigua. Email me for details!
- November 21-23, I lead an Action Grange II Seminar in the midwest!
- December 5-7, I lead an Action Grange II Seminar in California where I hope to spend some time exploring for fun too!

