

Developing  
**Service-Learning A**  
and  
**Community Service**  
**Projects**  
to Raise Up a  
Community of  
**Civically-Engaged People**

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Adolph  
Robert  
Thornton, Jr.



# What is **CIVIC** **ENGAGEMENT?**

It's individual and collective actions designed to identify and address issues of public concern.



# Why should people want to be Civically Engaged?



- Giving Back
- Building Up
- Empowering

## Emphasize **QUALITY** over **QUANTITY**

- Anybody can do it, without being rich, famous, or well-connected. Anybody can make a difference.
- Many folks have been involved with Civic Engagement without realizing it!



## Why Even Bother?

- Issues that people are concerned about will remain unaddressed if no one steps up to address them.
- We all have opportunities to make a difference
- A defeatist attitude will defeat you!

## Emphasize **WHIIFMs**

- .Confidence builders
  - Enhancement of Leadership Skills
  - Networking
  - Development of Lasting Relationships
  - Community Influencer
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- **Communities belong to us and we should be involved in the work of building them up and maintaining them to benefit us and others.**



## How can we help people get involved with Community Service projects?

- Encourage people to talk about their ideas with others. Community service can be acts by individuals or groups.
- Identify what people are passionate
- Employ the ABCD\* method to identify specific gifts talents and abilities
- Encourage people to start with small, manageable activities
- Let the acts of service develop organically
- Introduce children to the concepts of Community Service.

**“Plant the seed!”**

\*Assesst-Based Community Development, created by Drs. John Kretzmann and John L. McKnight, DePaul University

## How can we help people get involved with Community Service projects?

- PREPARE
- COMMUNICATE and PROMOTE
- DOCUMENT YOUR WORK
- CELEBRATE YOUR SUCCESSES



## Students can engage in community service activities through **SERVICE LEARNING** opportunities



- Approach community partners about developing opportunities for students to work on projects that promote the organization's mission
- Approach community partners about allowing students to develop projects that promote the organization's mission
- Allow students to develop their own community service activities, involving their friends and family members.





## LONG TERM BENEFITS...

An introduction to civic engagement can lead people into a lifetime of community involvement and social responsibility, including:

- Voting
- Running for public office
- Jury Duty
- Community Organizing
- Participation in the Legislative Process
- Social Entrepreneurship