

## #1 What QUALITIES do GOOD NEIGHBORS HAVE?

### Thread 1: GOOD NEIGHBOR --- Changing Ourselves

#### Author

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Joined: 27 Oct 2004  
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#### Message

Posted: Sat Dec 03, 2005 4:32 pm Post subject: GOOD NEIGHBOR ---- Changing Ourselves

Hello to all of you,

Have you ever noticed how closed we really are? By the time we are adults and sometimes even earlier, we've often allowed ourselves fall into a mindset about life. We've developed our steadfast bent on almost any issue, forming opinions and biases that aren't easily changed. This deep-seeded groove we get into is obviously influenced by how we grew up, what we've experienced, some basic values and rules we decide somehow define who we are.

This has its good points, but it also leaves us vulnerable—vulnerable, because we can easily be blinded by our own rules, assumptions and beliefs that may become dangerously outdated.

At this time in our history, there are many reasons that it would be difficult to deny that the need for change is sounding its CRISIS ALARM. Having a society filled with closed minds in the face of these realities is very dangerous, don't you think? It makes it impossible for us to change our collective consciousness, necessary to solve our most critical problems we are all discussing here today. Even more importantly, closed minds can't recognize when things may not be what they seem.

It is a lot easier to just sit back and let others create the changes we need or close our eyes and not even recognize what we need to do as things continue to deteriorate.

However, these are grave times. The stakes are high, yes? Who else do we turn to, but ourselves.

A trusted friend, coach and mentor wrote to me some time ago... His message has

been coming up for me all day in this dialogue...

**"The world is losing its sense of responsibility to our fellow inhabitants--- people, animals, plants and the earth. Being a good neighbor is larger than politics. It is about positively sustaining life. We need inspiration as individuals, neighbors and as world community members."**

What does it mean to feel a sense of responsibility to the earth's inhabitants from where you are?

How can we work together to open ourselves up to the major changes we need within ourselves?

**What ideas do you have?**

Debbe Kennedy

## **Thread 2: The QUALITIES, BEHAVIORS and ACTIONS of a GOOD NEIGHBOR**

### **Author**

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Joined: 27 Oct 2004

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Location: global dialogue center

### **Message**

Posted: Sat Dec 03, 2005 4:20 pm Post subject: The QUALITIES, BEHAVIORS and ACTIONS of a GOOD NEIGHBOR

Hello friends,

The GOOD NEIGHBOR theme at the global dialogue at the Habitat Jam ([www.habitatjam.com](http://www.habitatjam.com)) was one of the most popular topics. This says to me that we all have interest and see how a world full of GOOD NEIGHBORS would change many things...so we wanted to provide a place for continued dialogue.

#### **Creating the New Age of the GOOD NEIGHBOR**

Visions, missions, strategies and infrastructure ALONE will not create sustainable cities and communities in the future. PEOPLE WILL. We can't continue to look to governments to sustain us. They aren't. The model is broken. There is great truth in a clear message that Mother Teresa left for us all, "Don't wait for the leaders, do it alone, person to person."

With our cities and communities across the world in need of our attention and care on every front, we have an opportunity, at this time in history, in the cities, communities and villages where we live, to open the way for a new kind of humanity --- a new level of personal responsibility and consciousness that will work to create new age of the good neighbor.

**What does it mean to be a good neighbor from what you know?**

**What lesson can you teach us about "good neighbors" from your experience, good or bad?**

**What are the attributes and traits of the good neighbor that would create sustainable community, city, world and planet?**

As I've questioned others about their experiences, they have reminded me that a good neighbor is a loving, generous and peaceful person... Here are some the answers others have shared with me.

What other ideas do you have?

- They help one another.
- They value each other without condition.
- They stand up for one another.
- They never leave you hungry.
- They share what they have with others.
- They show interest and genuine care for each other.
- They invest in others---and sometimes it's in you. -- They value and respect life in all its wondrous forms.
- They often are selfless when it comes to helping a friend.
- They show up when you need them most.
- They are comforting, but also help you to become more yourself.
- They never rip you off.
- They never leave you stranded.
- They don't hurt you or blow up your house.
- They look out for your children as they would their own.
- They care for your animals and pets as you would.
- They dream with you.
- They work with you.
- They believe in you.
- They can change the course of your whole life.

What needs to be added to this list?

What do you think?

Debbe

## **#2 GOOD NEIGHBOR CHARTER for Cities and Communities**

### **Thread 1: TEAMING UP to Create a GOOD NEIGHBOR --- Changing Ourselves**

**Author**

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## Message

Posted: Sat Dec 03, 2005 5:06 pm Post subject: TEAMING UP to Create a GOOD NEIGHBOR CHARTER

Dear Friends,

This is a post that started a great dialogue at the Habitat Jam. The Global Dialogue Center will be following on this idea --- others want to take it further to actually create a paper or manifesto or a framework.

If you'd like to share in it, leav your ideas or post a message if you'd like to be included...

**Could we TEAM UP?** We could use your help, ideas...There are so many individual thoughts showing up on this grand dialogue across the world. What if we worked together on something that might make a difference?

INSPIRATION TODAY: A photo and headline in the news captured my attention. 10 soldiers killed in IRAQ; the photo showed an armed soldier with a young boy (perhaps 8 or 9) looking sadly at the gun the soldier held. THERE MUST BE A BETTER EXISTENCE AND EXPERIENCE FOR OUR CHILDREN in setting the example of GOOD NEIGHBORS, yes?

BEING A GOOD NEIGHBOR

Yesterday, there was a broad agreement that from many throughout the dialogue that said we need to work to create cities founded on being GOOD NEIGHBORS...

If we could put together a framework of ideas that might be used to help a city or village create a charter for being a GOOD NEIGHBOR, what would be included?

What would be the standards for being a good neighbor?

What would we do to engage our communities person-to-person, so people would want to strive to be a good neighbor?

Let's turn our talk and opinions into action ---- your important idea just might be an important catalyst for change...

Here's one idea to kick things off...

ONE IDEA: Form an GOOD NEIGHBOR LEADERSHIP TEAM that would be an active "energy source group" that built awareness, enthusiasm and community around meaningful engagement and involvement in bring the GOOD NEIGHBOR CHARTER to life once it was formed by the group.

How ideas do you have???

Look forward to seeing what we can do together!

Debbe Kennedy

## #3 GOOD NEIGHBORS --- Inclusion Around the World

### Thread 1: Ubuntu: A Beautiful Vision for a New WORLD GOOD NEIGHBOR --- Changing Ourselves

#### Author

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#### Message

Posted: Sat Dec 03, 2005 5:01 pm Post subject: Ubuntu: A Beautiful Vision for a New WORLD

I continue to be touched by the African concept of ubuntu, pronounced oo-BOON-too.

Ubuntu is a South African ethnic or ideology focusing on people's allegiances and relations with each other. The word comes from the Zulu and Xhosa languages. Ubuntu is seen as a traditional African concept. A rough translation in English could be "humanity towards others." Another translation would be: "The belief in a universal bond of sharing that connects all humanity.[Wikipedia]

The formal attempts to put this concept into words somehow fall short. When you look to those who have stepped inside it, you find the idea of ubuntu comes to life and it makes a beautiful vision for a new more loving world. My two favorite perspective comes from Archbishop Desmond Tutu:

"In my part of the world, we have something called ubuntu. It is the essence of being human. We say a person is a person through other persons. I can't be human in solation. I need you to be all you can be, so that I can become me and all that I can be. It is not "I think therefore I am." It says rather: I am human because I belong. I participate. I share." A person with ubuntu is open and available to others, affirming of others, and does not feel threatened that others are able and good, for he or she has a proper self-assurance that comes from knowing that he or she belongs in a greater whole and is diminished when others are humiliated or diminished, when others are tortured or oppressed or treated as if they were less than who they are." --- Desmond Tutu

How can we apply the idea of Ubuntu to creating the future of our cities?

I would like know your ideas or experiences of this visionary idea for our cities and the world...or perhaps another perspective on creating a culture of inclusion.

Debbe

