

time to trust manifesto

B e t h a n y , U S A , 2 0 0 2

OUR IMMEDIATE GOALS ARE TO:

- Establish an international learning organisation.
- Chronicle our specific knowledge and collective achievements.
- Seek further empirical and academic validation for our work.
- Broadcast simple, coherent, credible campaign messages.
- Package our knowledge and skills for each specialist market.
- Secure additional capacity for Time Dollars/Time Banks to flourish.
- Make optimal use of technology to nurture creativity and learning.
- Raise the perception of what is possible for politicians and professionals.
- Invent new pathways for mutually rewarding collaborations between the 'free market' and the 'non-market' economies.

TO ACHIEVE THESE WE WILL:

1. CONSOLIDATE AND SUPPORT WHAT WE DO

A. Learn from each other and from the past

- Catalogue what we have done
- Distill the lessons
- Create a storehouse for statistical information
- Archive manuals, articles, reports, media coverage
- Develop a membership referral system

B. Create a support network that functions as a learning organization

- Develop appropriate participatory planning and evaluation methods
- Submit joint funding applications
- Provide mutual assistance regarding state-of-the-art knowledge on best practices
- Present 'Awards' to exceptional Time Dollar/Bank social and civic entrepreneurs
- Develop procedures to better transfer Time Credits across locales
- Expand communication via e-group, coaching and joint problem solving

C. Monitor performance of Time Dollar/Bank providers

- Develop methods to impart and upgrade competency and accredit providers
- Monitor performance in a way that sustains the integrity, values and authenticity of initiatives that are associated with Time Dollars/Banking

THERE ARE NOW OVER 300 TIME DOLLAR/TIME BANK PROJECTS SPREAD ACROSS THE WORLD FROM THE UNITED STATES, EUROPE, JAPAN AND CHINA TO CENTRAL AND SOUTH AMERICA.

THEY ARE AT THE VANGUARD, THE CUTTING EDGE, OF A MUCH LARGER MOVEMENT THAT RECOGNIZES THAT THE GREATEST UNTAPPED RESOURCE WE HAVE IS EACH OTHER.

■ AT ANY GIVEN HOUR, SOMEWHERE ON THE GLOBE, A STRANGER WILL EARN TIME CREDITS BY HELPING ANOTHER STRANGER WHO WAS ABLE TO ASK FOR HELP THROUGH A TIME BANK.

■ ON ANY GIVEN DAY, THOUSANDS OF TIME CREDITS WILL BE EARNED BY PEOPLE DESIGNATED UNEMPLOYED OR UNEMPLOYABLE.

■ IN ANY GIVEN WEEK, A VAST RANGE OF PROBLEMS WILL BE DEALT WITH BY TIME DOLLAR OR TIME BANK MEMBERS WHO ARE ALWAYS AVAILABLE, LIKE A VAST EXTENDED FAMILY.

■ IN ANY GIVEN MONTH, ANOTHER COMMUNITY-BASED ORGANISATION WILL FIND A NEW WAY TO USE TIME DOLLARS/TIME BANKING TO ENLIST AN AT-RISK OR TARGETED GROUP AS CO-WORKERS AND PARTNERS IN ADDRESSING A SOCIAL NEED.

■ IN ANY GIVEN YEAR, MORE AND MORE SPECIALISTS AND POLICY MAKERS WILL ENHANCE THEIR CAPACITY TO EXPAND THE RANGE OF THE POSSIBLE THOUGH THE USE OF TIME DOLLARS/TIME BANKING.

AND SO MUCH MORE IS POSSIBLE.

WE ARE NOW WELL PLACED TO MOVE FORWARD AND ACT COLLECTIVELY AS A WORLD-WIDE CATALYST FOR CHANGE:

■ WE KNOW HOW TO BUILD THAT SCARCEST OF COMMODITIES, TRUST, IN A WORLD WHERE KNOWING WHOM ONE CAN TRUST SEEMS ALMOST IMPOSSIBLE.

■ WE KNOW HOW TO ENGAGE PARTICIPANTS WHO ARE AT RISK AND/OR HARD TO REACH, AND WE KNOW HOW TO KEEP THEM MOTIVATED AND INVOLVED.

■ WE KNOW HOW TO GENERATE HARD DATA THAT SUPPLIES BOTH QUANTITATIVE AND QUALITATIVE EVIDENCE OF THE GROWTH OF SOCIAL CAPITAL.

■ WE KNOW HOW TO DELIVER MULTIPLE STRATEGIES THAT YIELD SYSTEMIC CHANGE IN A WHOLE RANGE OF DIFFERENT AND CHALLENGING CONTEXTS.

WE ARE NOW READY TO TAKE THE NEXT BIG STEP FORWARD AND:

■ OBTAIN A NEW LEVEL SYNERGY.

■ SPEAK OUT WITH AUTHORITY ABOUT THE POSSIBILITIES WITHIN OUR REACH.

■ JOIN WITH OTHERS TO TAKE PRAGMATIC AND EFFECTIVE ACTION ON OUR DREAMS.

2. REPLICATE AND EXPAND WHAT WE DO

A. Promote and assist with replication

- Create a clearing house for inquiries and for providing resources
- Develop effective participatory and competency based training
- Support a cadre of trainers, mentors and coaches
- Further define models and strategies for replication
- Provide outreach support, one-on-one and through workshops

B. Market what we do

- Market both the practical achievements and the vision
- Create name recognition for time based currencies and exchanges
- Package and promote new models for replication
- Develop and implement mass media strategies
- Produce new marketing materials for use locally
- Archive articles, stories, video clips for use throughout the network

C. Secure resources and financing for sustainability

- Nurture relationships with international funding regimes
- Develop grant funds and resources that can be jointly pooled and distributed
- Develop ways to integrate Time Dollars/Banks as a alternative budgeting and financing tool within our own organisations
- Mainstream co-production and market 'audits'

3. FUNCTION AS A FORCE FOR SYSTEMIC CHANGE AND SOCIAL JUSTICE

A. Unleash the power of community

- Empower beneficiaries and client groups to make the case to redefine their roles as contributors, co-workers and co-producers
- Develop community building models, both of place and of vision/interest
- Pioneer ways to use Time Banking to bridge the market/non-market economies
- Offer rewards and incentives for work done rebuilding families, communities and civil society

B. Expand stakeholders

- Change professional practice to incorporate co-production and reciprocity
- Collectively support breakthrough projects and areas of inquiry
- Pioneer shifts in funding policy and practice
- Enlist the wider academic community
- Seek allies among social entrepreneurs who are embracing 'mutuality'

C. Use Time Dollars/Banking to reduce the commercial toxicity impacting on families, community and democracy

- Expose the external costs of the present system
- Take the message to the broader public and campaign for social change
- Develop new social justice models that amplify the voice and power of the disenfranchised
- Provide the cash poor with a complementary economy that will provide essential practical support and a local social network to be trusted and relied upon

IN RECOGNITION OF ALL OF THIS WE WILL BUILD A LEARNING ORGANISATION THAT AT ALL TIMES:

- Incorporates an independent voice of conscience that keeps the organisation true to mission
- Holds regular gatherings to nurture the 'movement' and bring on new leadership
- Maintains clear lines of communication and transparent decision making
- Exploits the potential of the internet to collaborate, archive, inform, train, support, campaign and keep in touch

All uses and users of Time Dollars/Time Banks share a core set of values that have profound implications for a civil and just society, and they are:

- Everyone has something special to contribute to the non market economy.
- Everyone's experience, skills and time are equally valuable.
- Building community is real work and should be rewarded as such.
- We need each other and helping works better as a two way street.
- Loving, caring and decency do not have to be rationed.
- We can have what we need if we use what we have.
- We will continue to discover and build on each other's strengths.
- Trust is the bottom line.

“the greatest good you can do for another is not just share your riches, but reveal to them their own.”

Benjamin Disraeli



“Our mission now is to sell the dream of an unstoppable force.”
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