

Quotes to inspire thoughts about community service and leadership

You gain strength, and confidence by every experience in which you really stop to look fear in the face... You must do the thing you think you cannot do.

-Eleanor Roosevelt, First Lady of the United States

It is in giving that we receive.

-St. Francis of Assisi

Once there is seeing, there must be acting. Otherwise, what is the use of seeing?

-Thich Nhat Hanh, Vietnamese Zen Master and author of *Peace is Every Step*

Share dreams, inspire love, heal hearts, embrace spirits, nurture souls...

-Anonymous

If we do not act, we shall surely be dragged down the long, dark and shameful corridors of time reserved for those who possess power, without compassion, might without morality, and strength without sight.

-Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., minister, civil rights leader

When I help, I am aware of my strength and of others' weaknesses... Fixing is a form of judgment. It implies something is broken and creates a distance, a disconnection. We can only serve that which we are profoundly connected to.

-Sam Daley-Harris, Director of Results, a social change organization

WE are the leaders we have been waiting for!

-Sweet Honey in the Rock, musical group

If you have come to help me, you are wasting your time. But if you have come because your liberation is bound up with mine, then let us work together.

-An aboriginal Australian woman

There can be no happiness if the things we believe in are different than the things we do.

-Albert Camus, philosopher and writer

I believe that serving and being served are reciprocal and that one cannot really be one without the other.

-Robert Greenleaf, educator and writer

It is not our job to finish the work, but we are not free to walk away from it.

-The Torah (first five books of the Old Testament that contain Jewish law)

The relatively innocent desire to help is so thinly distinguished from wanting to be the helper. But the latter is capable of all sorts of distortions: wanting to be widely known as the helper, wanting to make some decisions for the helpee, wanting to dictate, to paternalize, to manipulate.

-Robert Greenleaf, author of *Teacher as Servant*

That we needed homes, and you gave us Food Stamps:
That we needed jobs, and you got us on Welfare,
That our families were sick, and you gave us your used clothes,
That we needed our pride and dignity as human beings and you gave us surplus beans.

-**Si Hahn**, author of *How People Get Power: Organizing Oppressed Communities for Action*

Most Americans have never seen the ignorance, degradation, hunger, sickness, and futility in which many other Americans live...They won't become involved in economic or political change until something brings the seriousness of the situation home to them.

-**Shirley Chisholm**, six-term Congresswoman, Presidential candidate

One of the oldest human needs is having someone to wonder where you are when you don't come home at night.

-**Margaret Mead**, anthropologist

Assume that in spite of the ways we have been divided, it is possible to reach through those divisions, to listen to each other well and to change habitual ways of acting which have kept us separated.

-**Dr. Ricky Sherover-Marcuse**, diversity trainer and psychologist

Each of us guards a gate of change that can only be unlocked from the inside. We cannot open the gate of another, either by argument or by emotional appeal.

-**Marilyn Ferguson**, educator and writer

We don't see things as they are, we see things as we are.

-**Anaïs Nin**, French novelist

Service is the rent we pay for living.

-**Marian Wright Edelman**, President of the Children's Defense Fund

What are you doing for others?

-**Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.**

Everyone can be great, because everyone can serve.

-**Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.**

The goal is a world made safe for differences.

-**Ruth Fulton Benedict**, anthropologist

The true meaning of leadership is service.

-**Carter Woodson**, educator

Plant a thought, harvest an act, harvest a habit, harvest a character. Plant a character, harvest a destiny.

-**Sacagawea**

Minds are like parachutes...They only work when open.

-**Anonymous**

What occurs around you and within you reflects your own mind and shows you the dream you are weaving.

-**Ven Dhyani Ywahoo**, an Etowah Cherokee

A different world cannot be built by indifferent people.

-**Peter Marshall**

My life is part of a global life. I'd found myself becoming more immobile. When I'd think a little girl in the world can't do anything. A distant nation my community, a street person my responsibility. If I have a care in the world I have a gift to bring.

-**Indigo Girls**, musical group

Now is the time to make real promise of democracy and transform our pending national elegy into creative song of brotherhood.

-**Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.**

I am not a do-gooder. I am a revolutionary. A revolutionary woman.

-**Jane Fonda**, actor, activist, fitness expert

Unless you choose to go great things with it, it makes no difference how much you are rewarded, or how much power you have.

-**Oprah Winfrey**, talk show host, actor, and producer

I change myself, I change the world.

-**Gloria Anzaldua**, writer

In response to the motto of the Corporation for National Service "Getting Things Done": I don't want to be someone who enters communities solely to get things done. I want to be part of a sustaining, connected, and interdependent set of communities.

-**Peter Hocking**, Brown University

Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world: indeed, it's the only thing that ever has.

-**Margaret Mead**, anthropologist

Those of us who attempt to act and do things for others or for the world without deepening our own self-understanding, freedom, integrity and capacity to love, will not have anything to give others. We will communicate to them nothing but the contagion of our own obsessions, our aggressivity, our ego-centered ambitions, our delusions about the ends and means.

-**Thomas Merton**, philosopher

The master's tools will never dismantle the master's house.

-**Audre Lorde**, writer

If I do not speak in a language that can be understood there is little chance for dialogue.

-**bell hooks**, writer

I'm looking for a time when women are changing the nature of power versus power
changing the nature of women.

-Bella Abzug, women's rights leader

Compassion and nonviolence help us to see the enemy's point of view, to hear his questions,
to know his assessment of ourselves. For from his view we may indeed see the basic
weaknesses of our own condition, and if we are mature, we may learn and grow and profit
from the wisdom of the brothers who are called the opposition.

-Martin Luther King, Jr.

It requires something more than personal experience to gain a philosophy or point of view
from any specific event. It is the quality of our response to the event and our capacity to
enter into the lives of others that help us to make their lives and their experiences our own.

-Emma Goldman

One generation plants the trees; another gets the shade.

-Chinese proverb

If you don't like the way the world is, you change it. You have an obligation to change it. You
just do it one step at a time.

-Marion Wright Edelman, attorney and civil rights activist

What really matters is what you do with what you have.

-Shirley Lord, writer

What do we live for, if it is not to make life less difficult for each other?

-George Eliot, writer

When you cease to make a contribution, you begin to die.

-Eleanor Roosevelt

I like to give my energy to activities that affirm the oneness of humankind.

-Claire Randall, religious leader

Students of all cultures are supposed to come together on campus to learn from each other
and about each other.

-Sandra Day O'Connor, Supreme Court Justice

Some truths are moral illnesses.

-Marilyn French, author

It is easy to be independent when you have money. But to be independent when you
haven't got a thing—that's the Lord's test.

-Mahalia Jackson, gospel singer

If you bungle raising your children, I don't think whatever else you do well matters very much.

-Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis, First Lady of the United States

A youth was questioning a lonely old man. "What is life's heaviest burden?" he asked. The old fellow answered sadly, "To have nothing to carry."

-Anonymous

You really can change the world if you care enough.

-Marion Wright Edelman

Cherokee Traditional precepts:

Have a good mind. No matter what situation you're in, find something good about it, rather than the negative things.

And in dealing with other human beings, find the good in them as well.

We are all interdependent. Do things for others—tribe, family, community—rather than just for yourself.

Look forward. Turn what has been done into a better path. If you're a leader, think about the impact of your decisions on seven generations into the future.

-Chief Wilma Mankiller

The first duty of a human being is to assume the right relationship to society—more briefly, to find your real job, and do it.

-Charlotte Perkins Gilman, feminist and author

I would rather make mistakes in kindness and compassion than work miracles in unkindness and hardness.

-Mother Teresa

You gain strength, courage and confidence by every experience in which you really stop to look fear in the face...You must do the thing you think you cannot do.

-Eleanor Roosevelt

May the footprints we leave behind show that we've walked in kindness toward the earth and every living thing.

-Inspired by American Indian Philosophy

No one has the right to take for granted his own advantages over others in health, in talents, in ability, in success, in a happy childhood or congenial home conditions. One must pay a price for all these boons. What one owes in return is a special responsibility for other lives.

*-Albert Schweitzer, author of *Teaching Reverence for Life**