

living the life you dream

individual choices...

- Ken got this discussion started by listing some of the individual choices that he's been thinking about lately in regards to living a more socially responsible life:
 - ❖ Recycle and teach others to
 - ❖ Drive a fuel efficient car
 - ❖ Buy local produce
 - ❖ Bike places/ride the bus
 - ❖ Buy less stuff
 - ❖ use libraries instead of buying
 - ❖ share more
 - ❖ Participate in community activities

- Our groups brainstormed the following ideas and thoughts:

Group A's Thoughts & Ideas	Group B's Thoughts & Ideas
<i>We didn't receive notes from group A. If you were in group A and have notes, please email them to ken@theventureconsortium.org.</i>	Can be influenced just by friends (buying a hybrid car)
	Efforts for recycling/reusing
	Local grocers' movement
	Choosing not to eat meat/ helping animals
	Not shopping at the likes of Wal-Mart (b/c of their labor policies)
	Buy fair trade
	Friendly to unknown people
	Career choice
	Spend money locally instead of at big chains
	Use of time (taking time off of school)
	Take note of neglected (elderly)
	Energy conscious
	Raise dialogue and be accepting
	Patching clothes, thrift stores.

- Summary thoughts...
 - ❖ We can't do it all.
 - ❖ We can each make small changes that make big differences.
 - ❖ Have goals that you can achieve, celebrate success, create new goals.



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community & participation

- Finding communities can be hard, it's important to consider:
 - ❖ What do you look for in a community?
 - ❖ What do you bring to community?
 - ❖ Communities provide benefits and require responsibilities. There is a give and a take.

- What types of communities are out there?
 - ❖ Religious
 - Various denominations, clubs, etc.
 - ❖ Political
 - Political Parties, orgs like move on.org, political action groups, coalitions,
 - ❖ Educational
 - Schools, Colleges, Libraries, other learning communities
 - ❖ Cultural
 - Nationalities, food, dance, language, art, etc
 - ❖ Geographical
 - Parks, towns/city boards, neighborhood associations, ecological associations
 - ❖ Family
 - Your own or someone else's
 - ❖ Alumni
 - High school, college, year of service, other programs
 - ❖ Work/Professional
 - At your workplace, professional orgs, YNPN

Group A's Thoughts & Ideas	Group B's Thoughts & Ideas
Crossing different boundaries—ethnic and cultural	Half of social responsibility is recognizing the community you are in
Political Action	Internet
GLBTQ	Education – PTA, school board, Mentoring
Volunteer organizations like Big Brother	Cultural – ethic, faith-based, immigrant, arts, music, food
Religious	Residential – neighborhood/block associations, river/water associations
Professional Networks	Find them through local coffee shops, Research
Community Partnerships and Boards	Learning about the city before you move
	Getting to know locals
	Must get involved in some way, because it doesn't happen like it happens in college.



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Government/ Elections / Citizenship / Activism

- What are some of the levels of Participation?
 - ❖ Stay informed, vote, show up, have a role in appointed offices, have a role in elected office...
- Staying informed, voting,
 - ❖ Candidates:
 - www.vote-smart.org
 - What issues are important to you and the communities that you are a part of?
 - Where do they stand? – Check out papers
 - What do you value? Organizations that produce report cards:
 - ◆ the Sierra Club
 - ◆ NETWORK Catholic Social Justice Lobby
 - ◆ MovingIdeas.org has a massive directory of organizations separated by issue
 - ❖ Attend Meetings
 - ❖ Read, listen to blogs, do what it takes
- Have a role?
 - ❖ Government is where change happens!
 - ❖ Community Boards, Committees, are often looking for people
 - ❖ Elected office can come from participation!

Group A's Thoughts & Ideas	Group B's Thoughts & Ideas
<i>We didn't receive notes from group A. If you were in group A and have notes, please email them to ken@theventureconsortium.org.</i>	(Things that get in the way): Bureaucracy, Not knowing the issue, Feeling unable to affect change
	(Ways to Get around these things): Change people in government, Contact officials, Votesmart.org, local papers, websites, ontheissues.org

