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# Foundation for Inspired Learning Newsletter

**June 2009**

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**Dear Marcy,**

## Inspiring Youth

Youth's natural state is to be inspired and inspiring. Yet the world that many youth grow up in sucks the inspiration out of them. We have youth in their early teens who no longer dream and too many do not even expect to be alive to see their 25th birthday.



The Program that you are about to read about in this edition was the brain-child of Marcy Johnsruide, our dedicated Executive Director. The "Success Dynamics for Inspired Youth" program was designed to re-instill the dreams, aspirations and passions of our youth by having them experience their own innate magnificence. This, of course, was possible in the Inspired Learning Environment facilitated by Marcy, Ute and Jon. Read their stories and re-ignite the passion within your own Inner-Youth. And, thank you for your continued support of the Foundation and all those we serve and will serve.

Love and respect. *Peter Reding, Founder*

## A Message From Our Executive Director

The theme for this month is "Inspiring Youth" and I am thrilled to let you know what the Foundation has been up to.

In April, we launched our very own program for youth, "Success Dynamics for Inspired Youth." The launch took place in Canada and included two 2-day workshops for a total of 21 youth from 4 different schools.

I had the pleasure of co-facilitating the workshops with Ute Kranefeld and Jon Anfinson, two beautiful trainers certified in the Inspired Learning Model. And, what an experience it was!!! See the articles in this newsletter and be inspired.

I am also thrilled to be part of a wonderful inspiring team currently developing a program for parents. Development is well underway and we anticipate offering a first run of the program this fall.

**Join our mailing list!**

Join

A number of people have already expressed interest in getting involved in one or the other or both of these programs in some capacity or other. If you are inspired after reading this newsletter, please let me know. I am especially interested in hearing from those of you interested in launching a program in your area.

In the meantime, happy June. I wish you much love and joy for the summer.

*Marcy Johnsrude, Executive Director*

**A big Idea Goes Live on Vancouver Island**

**By Ute Kranefeld**

I am so thrilled I had the opportunity to be part of the wonderful team who started a new chapter this April, the "going live" of the translation of the Inspired Learning Model into a powerful *Success Dynamics for Inspired Youth* program. The purpose of this new program is to provide youth with the hope, inspiration, confidence and self-support tools they need to give their life a more positive direction. The program was developed and organized by magnificent Marcy Johnsrude who, working with the schools and with Peter's inspired support, enthusiastically pursued the goal to realize this big idea - first on Vancouver Island in Canada. And, now, there's so much more....

There's so much more because the kick-off proved once more just how powerful and transformative the Inspired Learning Model is, and how great the need for this work is on our planet. You know you have a great and much needed program when:

- you witness how profoundly the entire program reaches and touches the students
- you are blown away by the creativity and inspiration that's being set free
- Students answer the open ended question "How do you feel the Program helped you personally?" with "I am a happier person."; "I have more confidence."; and "I learned that I can do anything."
- You receive a thank you note saying how much the Program meant to them
- your average rating is a 9 out of 10.
- several of the participating students ask when you will be offering the Program again

The concept has sure proved its "robustness" already. It was successful with two extremely different groups. The first workshop was held with a larger group of grade 7 students; the second workshop was held with young adults aged 15 to 18. We were flexible with regards to which program modules we used when, and we never compromised the Inspired Learning Model.

The diverse components helped to fuel self-discovery, self-support, confidence, hope and inspiration in the positive space. Creating an enterprise; stabbing potatoes; answering "Who am I?"; embarking on "juggle trips", silent messaging circles, telling stories that challenge old and suggest new, positive beliefs; sharing dreams and hopes in groups; celebrating and acknowledging each other; and co-developing personal success plans--all had their role in this successful program.

A great asset was that Marcy, Jon and I had the opportunity to work as a trio; three facilitators who had never worked together before embarked on a journey to launch this program. We perfectly complemented each other. I was amazed how easily we could be in the moment together and were able to just do the perfect thing at the perfect time. Each of us brought our own unique energy to this, which offered the students even more opportunities to connect with someone they felt especially safe with.

I feel truly honored that I could be part of this successful launch and I am excited and inspired to co-create "more." Thank you, Peter for creating the Inspired Learning Model - your powerful visionary energy is ever expanding in our Universe. Thank you, Marcy, for turning the Success Dynamics for Inspired Youth idea into action - you have created a truly brilliant program. Thank you, Jon for joining as a co-facilitator - your dedicated, masterful facilitation and your great input have added even more brilliance to this program

Ute Kranefeld  
Certified Inspired Learning Facilitator

## **Success Dynamics for Inspired Youth - My Experience**

**by Jon Anfinson**

The first workshop consisted of 16 young men and men, and we met, ironically, in the Royal Canadian Legion Hall in Ladysmith, British Columbia in Canada. We were all a little anxious to see what would become of this program.

*I say, ironically, that we met in the Royal Canadian Legion Hall, because it was full of pictures and posters and memorabilia about past people facing insurmountable odds, and surpassing their own sense of accomplishments to come out winners in the war. I thought of the students, and realized that they, too, had an opportunity to surpass their own sense of accomplishment.*

We started the day with exercises on listening, giving each youth an opportunity to learn about what it takes to listen carefully, and what we call actively, so that they learned how to focus in on what was being said without the need to comment back or engage in conversation, but to just sit and

listen.

As we worked through the day, we focused on the Success Agreements, team building, and even started them thinking about creating a business of their own. The groups did a fantastic job of building a business from scratch creating marketing ideas, building plans, developing payroll, and even designing their own product. It gave them all an opportunity to get a small glimpse of just what it takes to get a business off the ground. We cheered for each other, laughed with each other, and saw how the accomplishments of each other's work produced many smiles on many faces. They realized that this is not easy, but could become very self fulfilling for those who choose to take that step.

One of the ideas we worked on with this group, was the philosophy of never saying "I can't." Through a simple exercise with a potato, these youth realized that they need to ask for more information before accepting that they can't do something.

The students also enjoyed the opportunity to create a personal success plan for themselves. Through many different questions, they were given the opportunity to realize, without fear, the small steps that would create a big difference in their lives.

Small groups were set up to focus on a number of different topics from presentation skills, relationship building, decision making, giving complements (acknowledgments), being persistent, building respect, being on time, and creating a positive environment that, in turn, allowed these students to gain an understanding of some of the bigger building blocks they will need to create a positive lifestyle for themselves.

With the emphasis on positive self-talk, I feel we created a group of young men and women that will grow in their confidence and in their abilities to create a life they "want to live," not just one they feel they would "have to live."

Jon Anfinson  
Certified Inspired Learning Facilitator  
Facilitator for "*Success Dynamics for Inspired Youth*"  
Coach for Life Graduate 2007

## **Inspiring Youth for tomorrow**

**One small group at a time by Marcy Johnsrude**

I know there are many great principals and teachers who are making a difference for their students and that there have long been a number of programs complementing what schools are doing; however there is still room for more and that "more" can easily be the Inspired Learning Model. I believe, and witnessed through the *Success Dynamics for Inspired Youth* workshops that the Inspired Learning Model can have a positive impact on our youth.

It was such a pleasure for me, personally, to be both the creator of the *Success Dynamics for Inspired Youth* Program and one of the facilitators of the first set of workshops. As was mentioned earlier, Ute, Jon and I facilitated two 2-day workshops for two very different age groups (16 Grade 7 students and 5 Grade 10-12 students). Both workshops were powerful, dynamic and life changing and I want to thank both Ute and Jon for their brilliance in helping bring that about.

Here's what some of the student participants said about the Program:

- I learned a lot of stuff that I can use
- it changed how I look at myself
- it taught me a lot about myself and my future
- it was awesome
- I learned how to be persistent
- I can do anything if I believe in myself
- the program opened my mind
- it helped me believe in myself
- I learned to go after my dreams

I loved how, in each two-day workshop, the students came together as a team very quickly, how a number of them stepped up to the plate right away to lead one of the small groups, and how they were so willing to participate fully in all the exercises. It truly was wonderful to see so many of the students grow quickly over time, feel better about themselves, feel more positive about their futures and be so willing to share their stories throughout the workshop.

It was pretty awesome that several of the students asked when we were going to do a similar program; that students who weren't participating were asking why they weren't [after hearing about the workshop from their friends]; that students wanted to identify themselves on the evaluations so that we would know how they felt about us [as facilitators] and about the program; and it was wonderful receiving a note about how the program had helped a number of the students.

I was so impressed with all of the students and I would do it again in a heartbeat.

## **Program for Parents**

### **Helping Parents to Help Youth**

In an earlier newsletter, I announced that the Foundation was undertaking the task of developing a program for parents, following several requests over the years from individuals who wanted an Inspired Learning Model program oriented specifically to parents.



I am happy to say that program is nearing completion and we hope to deliver several this fall via teleclass and at a cost that will be affordable for parents.

It is fitting that we are developing a program for parents the same year that we have launched a program for youth since the parent program will also benefit youth.

## **Volunteers Needed**

Every year, It's our team of beautiful volunteers who help us attain our vision. 2009 is no different.

If you are interested in joining the Foundation's community of volunteers, please e-mail  
marcyjohnsrude@inspiredlearning.org.

## **How can we serve you in 2009 - We asked, you responded**

In 2008, the Foundation hosted monthly Inspired Learning Facilitators Forums. The forums were available to facilitators trained in the Inspired Learning Model and to those interested in learning more about the Model.

We canceled the forums some months ago due to low attendance, but some of you asked us to bring them back on a twice monthly basis. We heard that having them a month apart meant that, often, your questions were answered/issues resolved by the time another forum came up.

So, we would love to create that space for you, again, where you can come to ask your questions and share your ideas, all on a more timely basis.

So, beginning in September, we will host two monthly forums. The day and times are still being sorted out, so if you haven't already responded regarding the best time for you, please let me know at marcyjohnsrude@inspiredlearning.org.

***And, look for a future announcement regarding the dates and times.***

## **Point of View - What others have to say**

Has the Foundation for Inspired Learning Inspired you? We would love to include your article in a future newsletter.  
[href="mailto:marcyjohnsrude@inspiredlearning.org"](mailto:marcyjohnsrude@inspiredlearning.org)> Let Us Know What You Think!

## **Acknowledging Our Board of Trustees**

We would like to acknowledge Board Members *Marlene Martin, Robert Stack and Peter Szabo and Peter Reding* for their continued work during 2009, and also our Treasurer and new Board Member, Scott Bogart, for all his work taking care of our

financials.

## Contributing to the Foundation for Inspired Learning

Ultimately, the strength of the Foundation depends on our volunteers and trainers helping to share in the vision and the work.

Your volunteer hours, financial support, taking a class or becoming certified are all important in furthering the Inspired Learning Model's reach into the numerous worlds of learning.

Thank you for joining us to "Celebrate Learning - Celebrate Life."

If you aren't already a benefactor of the Foundation for Inspired Learning or you simply haven't made your annual contribution to the Foundation, please consider making a donation now. You can make a donation securely through Pay Pal at <http://www.inspiredlearning.org/support.php> or by sending a check to:

Foundation for Inspired Learning  
c/o Scott Bogart  
2719 Harbor Blvd., Ventura, CA 93001

### Articles Contained Within this Newsletter

Please note that the articles contained within this newsletter and attributed to a specific author are the expressed opinions of that author and not necessarily the opinions of the Foundation for Inspired Learning.



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