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Foundation for Inspired Learning Newsletter

January 2008

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Dear Marcy,

Five Year Celebration

Five years ago in January 2003, the Foundation was officially incorporated as a California 501(c)3 nonprofit.



During these five years, the Inspired Learning Model has reached thousands of learners because of you. By using the Model, we are continuing to change people's lives by:

1. Encouraging a learner to explore what he or she is curious about.
2. Acknowledging what a learner 'got right.'
3. Celebrating every level of the learner's mastery.

All 3 of these steps empower the learner and accelerate the learner's learning.

We have accomplished so much in these past five years and there is so much more for us to do.

Please invite every person you know and care about to join the Foundation as an annual supporter and learn more about Inspired Learning.

With your continued support I know we will reach millions of learners in 2008 who are waiting for a learning environment where they are supported and celebrated.

Love and respect. *Peter Reding, Founder*

A Message From Our Executive Director

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Join

Following up on Peter's message, 2008 is a time to celebrate. The Foundation is five years young. We really have done a lot and I would like to honor those of you who have been part of this magical journey.

When I was introduced to the Inspired Learning Model in 2003, I saw its potential right away, and I just knew I wanted to be involved.

As Executive Director, I have the honor and privilege of meeting and working with beautiful individuals who have become inspired by the Model and want to integrate it into their work and personal lives.

2007 was a particularly good year for the Foundation. We collaborated on a project for youth, we started discussions regarding a program specifically geared to parents (stay tuned for an e-mail related to this project), and we received the green light to develop a proposal for developing and implementing a train-the-trainer program for a specific group of teachers in India.

And, this is where you come in. We need your help and your expertise in order to take on all the opportunities coming available to us. Please see the section regarding Volunteer Opportunities and think about how you can bring your inspiration and expertise to the work of the Foundation in 2008 and beyond.

Together, we can inspire learners from a variety of sectors around North America and the rest of the world.

Marcy Johnsrude, Executive Director

Our Wish-List For 2008

As a result of our work (inspired and facilitated by many of you) in 2007, we are reaching beyond international borders, touching the lives of youth, and integrating the Inspired Learning Model into a variety of different worlds including educational systems and literacy.

Our wish-list for 2008 is as follows:

- 1. Certify a minimum of 100 trainers.*
- 2. Implement two train-the-trainer programs.*
- 3. Expand the Y.E.L.P. (Youth Entrepreneur Leadership Program) programs throughout North America.*
- 4. Exceed our needs for fundraising through individual donations, fund- matching, in-kind donations and*

- corporate donations.*
5. *Begin working with other international organizations.*
 6. *Introduce the Inspired Learning Model at several 'Learning' and 'Education' Conferences and other venues*

If you are interested in becoming involved in any of this work and/or know of any opportunities (conferences, etc.) where we can introduce the Model, please contact marcyjohnsrude@inspiredlearning.org.

2008 is a Year for Certification Training for the Foundation

Certified Inspired Learning Facilitator Program and Master Certified Inspired Learning Facilitator Program

On January 10, 2008, Peter Reding hosted the first class of the Master Certified Inspired Learning Facilitator Program. This will bring the number of Master Certified to 10.

Peter is also hosting the first two Certified Inspired Learning Facilitator Programs in 2008. The first Program begins on February 21, 2008 and ends on May 1, 2008. The second Program runs from May 15-July 24, 2008. As of January 15, 2008, we had 15 Certified Inspired Learning Facilitators.

Given the opportunities we are encountering and our plans for 2008 and beyond, we would love to see as many people as possible become certified this year.

Being in the Inspired Learning Model is an awesome experience and the training is a wonderful opportunity to gain skills that will put you at the head of the Class in whatever field you are working in.

Are you ready to begin the journey with us in 2008?

If you are interested in becoming certified in 2008, please contact marcyjohnsrude@inspiredlearning.org.

Volunteers Needed

In order to attain our vision for 2008, we need the following volunteers:

Communications Committee/Newsletter:
We are committed to distributing a monthly newsletter

and if you know Constant Contact and/or have the technical know how to create a Newsletter and would like to join a vibrant team of individuals, please contact us.

Marketing/Public Relations:

We want to make 2008 a year of getting Peter Reding and the Inspired Learning Model onto the agenda of several conferences and other events. If you would like to help, e-mail marcyjohnsrude@inspiredlearning.org.

Inspired Learning Facilitators Forums

The time of the Forums has Changed

As a result of the responses to our recent survey, the Inspired Learning Facilitators Forums are now being held the second Wednesday of each month from 5:00-6:00 p.m. PST (8:00-9:00 p.m. Eastern). The forums are available to facilitators trained in the Inspired Learning Model or to those interested in learning more about the Model.

Please join us by calling (218) 486-1300, Bridge: 497588.

If you cannot join us in the late afternoon, the forums will be recorded and posted on our website.

Point of View - What Others Have to Say

The Inspired Learning Model Put Into Practice by Linda McDonald

The Inspired Learning Model has profoundly impacted my work in many ways. For example, creating a learning environment in this Model guarantees that learning is fun and safe, and that the learning experience has a huge positive impact on confidence. When learners feel safe and have a good time, it's really easy for them to feel confident about themselves and their abilities. People also feel really connected in this environment. As a learning facilitator, I don't talk at them but with them. I receive so many compliments after my presentations and workshops! The amazing thing is that many people put their hand on their heart when they do the compliment. This tells me visibly that we did connect at a heart level.

Powerful: Standards of Presence, competencies and the art of letting go

I first became involved with learning and teaching as a

fitness trainer when I owned my own exercise club. And I got my first important learning from it: I really enjoy teaching and training other people. However, my approach back then was somewhat "the expert model": I know, the learner doesn't. So I transfer my knowledge. Later in my career, I served as an Organizational Development Consultant at the University of Massachusetts. I got to design and facilitate customized learning programs, ranging from strategic planning and creating positive work environments to customer service. I also used the Myers- Briggs Inventory and the DiSC Work Style Inventory.

I still design programs today - but, I do it differently now! First of all, my guidelines for the learning environment were limited back then to primarily considering physical space. Bringing the Standards of Presence to the learning environment has made a huge difference. They go deeper than anything I had been exposed to before and they help create a powerful sense of safety. Also, I used to have goals for the training, but they were simply the organization's goals translated into a workshop goal. Today my goals are competency-driven and centred on the individual growing. The third thing that I do differently now is being able to let go of the agenda. I do bring what I promise to the group, but I let go of the concrete plan in order to meet the group where they're at. I consider that a real skill. The Inspired Learning Model is beyond flexibility: With the Model, I get to be 'knowing and flowing' with what's going on in the moment.

A big plus for my business

The Inspired Learning Model has made my approach to consulting and coaching much more unique and desired. I have integrated it into all aspects of my business - presentations, speaking, workshops - and into my life. It is a huge asset in any environment. For example, people call me for all sorts of difficult facilitation settings because they just know that the environment I create with them will be special and productive. They'll say "You just have such a different perspective!" And, that's true. The perspective is a non-judgmental one where everybody is honored for who they are and what they bring to the table. I'm very grateful for the ability to create this kind of environment. I get to facilitate in a calm and respectful way without getting triggered by people's words or tone of voice in difficult situations. The result is the patterns of behavior (or previous ways of being together) in that meeting is interrupted and the team learns to be together in a different, more effective way.

The positive focus boosts confidence

One of my other business segments is to design workshops and classes for or with clients based on the Inspired Learning Model. I apply it from the very beginning in my initial consulcoaching sessions (a combination of consulting and coaching): We use a positive focus and look at the 98% that is working well already and start from there. I then bring forth more of what they know already. I believe recognizing and empowering an individual's innate and acquired wisdom is critical to their success. Recently, I provided consulcoaching with a lawyer who was about to do a presentation to generate new business. She is a young looking 30 year old who presented a shy demeanor and she felt very anxious about the presentation. After our conversation, she couldn't wait to do it! And, by the end of her presentation, she had already landed 3 new clients. Key to success is that, when in touch with the Inspired Learning Model, people feel really good about what they bring, and they find a lot of things to really like about themselves.

Enhancing awareness: the power of choosing focus

As an assistant director and educator for the Western MA BNI (Business Network International) I get to help BNI members with developing referral based businesses. In a recent presentation to BNI leaders, we explored bridging the gap between the characteristics of the entrepreneur leader and using the expertise available through BNI for business building. We explored the qualities of the entrepreneur leader that can result in unique opportunities as well as daunting challenges. My focus was to honor my audience the way they are and to still approach them about using BNI as a resource. Here, too, the Inspired Learning Model has been successful. I created the right energy by first acknowledging that there was a wisdom, business savvy and uniqueness in everyone present. I then facilitated a discussion about the kind of leadership that makes sense to them. We proceeded to list the qualities of an extraordinary leader and a not so extraordinary leader. I then asked who of these two types of leaders we might be most willing to cooperate with. We all knew this was a rhetorical question as we shared in that 'knowing' moment. We acknowledged together that each of us is capable of bringing ALL of these qualities out to the world gaining or not gaining cooperation and productivity. We get to choose how we will be.

The Model and I: a continuing creative relationship

I have been using the Inspired Learning Model consciously for 2.5 years. I say, consciously because, when I first got in touch with the Inspired Learning Model, I experienced it without knowing about it: I participated in part 1 and 2 of my coach training at Coach

for Life and was amazed with the group's and my own personal learning, success and development. It wasn't until taking part 3 of that training that I consciously got to know the Inspired Learning Model, its concept and its impact. I then realized that I had been living in that model throughout the whole course, and that it had been key to my success. So I knew from my own experience that this model really works.

When I discovered the Inspired Learning Model, I just knew this was my world. The painful thing to discover was: The rest of the world, with few exceptions, doesn't know about it! My first reaction was withdrawal in order to avoid that pain. I then learned how to apply the Inspired Learning Model to deal better with this. When I'm part of an environment that's not as safe and honoring as the Inspired Learning environment, I do one of two things: I accept the situation as it is and use the Model's principles on myself to create a safe space for myself, anyway. Or, I ask for something to be done differently, i.e. for something to be framed in a more honoring way or to be looked at from a different perspective. My personal comfort level to be creative with the Model and to be more bold and determined has been rising with my level of really embodying and integrating the Model's principles. And....there's more.

Linda McDonald, Personal and Professional Development Coach, Learning Consultant, Certified Inspired Learning Facilitator

Has the Foundation for Inspired Learning Inspired You? We would love to include your article in a future newsletter. [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 2008.

Contributing to the Foundation for Inspired Learning

As we move into 2008, there is a need for a secure and strong financial base; and, 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."

You can make a donation through Pay Pal at <http://www.inspiredlearning.org/support.php> or by sending a check to:
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8030 La Mesa Blvd #164
La Mesa, CA 91941

Marcy Johnsrude, Executive Director
Foundation for Inspired Learning

Email: editor@inspiredlearning.org
Web: <http://www.inspiredlearning.org>

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