RECLAIMING OUR DEMOCRACY

Healing the break between people and government

SAM DALEY-HARRIS

Founder of RESULTS

Foreword by Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Muhammad Yunus
New chapter on Citizens Climate Lobby
Thank you & quotes Hatfield & Twain

My story from hopelessness to action.
Child Deaths Per Day (UNICEF)

1984: 41,000
2012: 18,000
I want to convey my heartfelt thanks for the unflagging and satisfyingly successful efforts of RESULTS on behalf of vulnerable children and mothers everywhere. I thank you in my mind weekly, if not more often, for what you and your colleagues are accomplishing—but I thought I should do it at least once this year in writing.

Jim Grant, Exec. Dir. UNICEF
In 1987 RESULTS volunteers generated 100 editorials in a successful campaign to pass the first legislation supporting microfinance for the very poor.
In August of 1987 RESULTS volunteers arranged for 28 editorial writers to join a conference call with Muhammad Yunus, 19 years before he received the Nobel Peace Prize. In 2007 Prof. Yunus said:
No other organization has been as critical a partner in seeing to it that microcredit is used as a tool to eradicate poverty and empower women than RESULTS and RESULTS Educational Fund's Microcredit Summit Campaign.
Poor Clients with a Microloan

1 million

1986

124 million

2012
What does it take to empower citizens like this?
Let me describe how volunteers were able to get 28 editorial writers on a conference call with Muhammad Yunus 19 years before he received the Nobel Peace Prize. This is what I mean when I refer to an agenda that is focused and a curriculum that is deep....
Now let’s look at how this citizen empowerment and transformation methodology has been implemented more recently.
In 2007 RESULTS volunteer Marshall Saunders decided to launch an initiative addressing climate change. Marshall came to me because he knew he needed a high-leveraged strategy that promised serious impact. Marshall had seen An Inconvenient Truth three times in ten days.....
I coached Citizens Climate Lobby (CCL) once a week for 2 ½ years and then monthly after that. In the last six years CCL has spawned more than 150 chapters in the U.S. and Canada. Here are some of CCL’s achievements in the area of empowerment.
36 letters to the editor (LTEs) published in 2010

1,265 LTEs in 2013
20 Op-eds published in 2010

248 Op-eds published in 2013
105 Meetings with Members of Congress or their staff in 2010

709 meetings in 2013
If you want greatness from volunteers you must provide them with a great structure of support.
What does citizen empowerment and transformation look like at the individual level?
Our director Mark Reynolds likes to say, “We’re betting the farm on relationships.” Then he tells us that we need to build relationships with members of Congress and editorial writers. Most of us CCL volunteers have never done that before!! What in the world does a relationship with a member of Congress look like? How do we connect with an editorial page editor?
Some of us have found models for those relationships in other parts of our lives. Gary in Boston uses the model of a work relationship....

My relationship model is different. I adore romantic relationships, so I use romance as my model. That first meeting with the editorial writer... it’s like a blind date, only you’ve decided beforehand you are going to marry this fellow.
You are going to be sweet and interesting, but not too intense. If it doesn't work out with the editor, you are going to marry one of his friends at the newspaper – the business editor, environmental writer, or city editor. Someone at this paper will find you interesting and compelling – it’s just a matter being persistent until you find the right connection.
...I see the relationship with a member of Congress as an arranged marriage. If you live in her district, the member’s aide has to meet with you. That’s what our Congressman’s legislative director (LD) told us in January. Since then, we’ve met [nine] times with the LD. We schedule 45 minute meetings with him. He keeps us for well over an hour. He doesn’t want us to leave!
Why? Because a good arranged marriage starts out cold and heats up over time. That’s different than a love match, which starts out hot and slowly cools down.

…I see the editorial page writer as a painter. His canvas is the editorial pages. His pallet is filled with letters to the editor, op-eds, and editorials. I am his muse, model, and assistant....
I want him to fill his canvas with colors that I like, so I’ll have my group send 3 – 5 letters to the editor whenever the opportunity arises. The more colors I put on his pallet, the better chance of having him pick one or two of my favorite colors.

....Last summer, he printed three climate denier letters from international denier groups. At first, the denier letters felt like a blow to the gut.
Then, I dug deep for the love language... My editor was proud of his work in standing up for the climate. Those denier letters were in response to his own articles encouraging conservatives to help conserve the climate. He had been courageous in writing those editorials. He was getting national attention because of them. He was not backing down.
I thought he might enjoy a pat on the back from across the nation. I called Gary in Boston, a scientist in NY, and our CCL director [in California]. All three sent letters. All three letters were printed! I guess I was right... my editorial page editor likes national attention!!

....During our conference I met with 20 congressional offices. I met with many folks whose view of the world was very different than mine.
Going into their offices was hard. I had to let go of a lot of emotional baggage. I could no longer judge them or hold hostility in my heart towards them. I had to let go of my fear of climate change and my fear that they wouldn’t listen to me. I had to center myself in love. Releasing fear and centering in love... this is sacred and profound work....
Be outrageous. It’s the only place that isn’t crowded.

Anonymous
Your comfort zone  Where the magic happens
This is the true joy in life, the being used for a purpose recognized by yourself as a mighty one, the being a force of nature, instead of a selfish, feverish little clod of ailments and grievances complaining that the world will not devote itself to making you happy. I am of the opinion that my life belongs to the whole community, and it is my privilege to do for it whatever I can. I want to be thoroughly used up when I die, for the harder I work, the more I live. I rejoice in life for its own sake. Life is no brief candle to me, it is a sort of splendid torch which I've got a hold of for the moment, and I want to make it burn as brightly as possible before handing it on to future generations.

Man and Superman
George Bernard Shaw
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