

# Community Value Exchange Handout:

We live in what can arguably called the greatest economic system on earth. It has many faults it isn't used in many instances properly or even by the laws upon which it was built, however at the core is something pure. When a person does good work, when they foster and hone a skill, something they truly love to do and can offer that skill or trade or product you have the foundation for the most beautiful moment in life: The exchange of value for value- Money at it's core is only a maker something to quantify and qualify the properties of situational value in relation to people to things and other people. When you take away the stigma of how corrupt its uses can be and approach it with relatively unbiased eyes you begin to see past it's stigmas and focus on what it means for people to interact based on the physical dialogue and exchange between each other. I guess at some point you either become subsumed with how wrong things seem to be or you just accept that by focusing on what WE can do NOW in small measured goals IS the way we can change them, to think not as consumers but as human beings. We live privatized lives, interactions often reduced to cell phones, emails, or "chats", surrounding ourselves and our families with the products we have been made to feel each person and thus family unit should need, and in so many words become communities of islands. There is no better metaphor than the obsession with lawn care. How are you as a citizen viewed in relation to the seeming health and vitality of your lawn and how many chemicals and poisons must you administer to maintain that "health" When what you should be doing is tilling that damn thing up re-enriching the soil organically and growing healthy food for your family!

By simply looking around at what we are and have and putting incentive on physical dialogue we can begin to open up healthier ways of living our lives as an interconnected living system instead of household city states. Think about how the things you own and how often you use them, about the impact that is made by the continuous purchasing of these items in massive excess. I'm not the type to throw around numbers or figures for shock factor, I simply believe in common sense- there is no reason many of the things we do and buy cannot be shared in small community groups not only to reduce waste and become more aware of our actual needs but to foster situations for us as individuals to ask for help from the people all around us that we might not have otherwise ever sought out. So in response to the lecture and activity here are just a couple things you can do when you get home to keep your mind present, remember small right action every day can change the world.

Thank you, Dane Zahorsky, Motuv: [dreamdofollowthrough@gmail.com](mailto:dreamdofollowthrough@gmail.com)

1. Make a list of the ten houses on either side of you; have you met all the people that live there? If not go and introduce yourself by telling one thing about yourself and asking for 1 in return.
2. Take inventory of the items that you don't use on a daily basis. Take assessment of what you really need and what could be shared with others then donate to those that could actually use them
3. Throw away your TV [hey it's worth a shot]
4. Start a garden and bring as many people as you can into the fold, think about how our cities and neighborhoods are built and how space affects the way we interact. If each suburb or community were centered on small-scale organic food production what would that community act like in relation to each other?

