

Sustainability Sunday Fact Sheet # 12: Selfless action for selfish reasons.

I hope everyone had a wonderful thanksgiving dinner, and now with Christmas around the corner I always begin to think about what it means to be an American during the holidays. Coca Cola would have you think we all sit down to a joyous small town dinner with our closest friends and family and share in the good old tradition of generosity and charity while tipping back the coke side of life, but I think we're a little old now to smile nod and deny. And on the other end you have Ad-Busters and anarchists and the sermon of evil swarms swallowing the world- But I would say there's a little to be said for both and in that a middle ground is exactly where we might want to stand. I am a firm believer that a person's need does not hold responsibility over another's possession if earned by honest means. I believe you work hard for what you have, and only through equal exchange can you productively help others. By this I mean when I do things for people whether I've known them my whole life or have just met them off the street it isn't just about sacrificing something earned or giving my time because they may or may not have a need of it, it's also to honor my own ability to do those things and because I get a sense of joy from having the means to do for others out of respect not pity or obligation. Joy is the essence of life, pursuing passionate means to create capital of all kinds be it physical, social, or emotional without harming anyone in the process. What could be a greater moment than realizing you have done for another while paying tribute to all that has lead you on the path towards being able to.

So this week I offer a chance to truly get involved in other's lives, to create an experience for others and yourselves to exchange experience for experience. Eva works at Hope house, a shelter for women and their children who have been victim's of domestic violence. On December 20th the Sunday before Christmas I and as many volunteers as I can get are going to host a dinner at the Independence location for the 50 women and children there. Now to all you who have been before, and to those of you who are new I am not a man who minces many words- If you sign up for this it has to be a serious matter. Many of these women are still in hiding from abusers, thus privacy is paramount. I will need a small kitchen staff to help me prepare the food, a small group to hold a craft collage for the kids, one to serve the food [buffet style, refill, etc.] bussers to collect the dishes, and a ten dollar donation for food and supply costs. I'm tired of going each year feeling like part of a machine that keeps running regardless of my part in it, I get a sincere satisfaction out of being there and showing integrity when others cowered and abandoned, and I think you will too. But one last time please do not volunteer

unless you know you can be there, and you truly want to be- As always I thank you for coming and for your continued support, Dane.

Hope House Dinner Volunteer Form:

Name:

Desired position:

Additional ideas for event:

Kitchen run by Dane and Laura, Banquet table run by Eva and Bryce, kid collage run by Emily and Ringler, Bussing run by Brad