

effective environments newsletter



CONSULTANTS TO NONPROFITS, SMALL BUSINESSES & ENTREPRENEURS

What Is “Success” for You?

“Vision without action is a daydream. Action without vision is a nightmare.”

— Japanese proverb

Vision” is widely accepted as a necessity and, at the same time, widely dismissed as “overused,” trite and, consequently, irrelevant. True, the term is often used without thought about what it means and what difference it really makes. Mindfully employed, however, a focus on vision is both relevant and meaningful.

What do we mean by vision?

“Vision is the art of seeing things invisible.” — Jonathan Swift

Articulating your vision is, in a real sense, seeing the invisible — a future that does not yet exist — which you imagine and move toward in your day-to-day life. The term “vision” as used in this article refers to your larger dream for your life — a dream unconstrained by

evidence to the contrary or by reasonable conclusions about what is possible.

“Vision” is enduring and encompasses all aspects of life: It transcends circumstances and is relevant no matter what you are doing. It is unlikely to get “finished” any time soon; indeed, it may not be finished in your life-time. A vision may stretch beyond your life: For example, “a world in which diversity is celebrated and harmony prevails.” Or, it may be expressed more simply: “Leading an exemplary life,” or “bringing integrity and workability to each interaction.”

However you express it, your vision is YOUR benchmark for defining a successful life. It is the root of your inspiration and shapes how you see the world and what will be important to you.

In this context, we invite you to consider your dream of what you seek for your life, to find

out for yourself — or to put into words — the purpose of your life, so that you can shape your life from the inside out instead of letting the circumstances without do all the shaping.

Why have a vision?

If you don't know where you are going, any road will do.

— Source unknown

When we are authoring life, rather than letting it all just happen to us, life becomes a series of choices — choices about our objectives, our actions and our responses to the circumstances. Ultimately, the choices we make depend upon where we stand as we make them. Without a reference point, or a larger view of where we are headed, choices can be pretty much equal in value.

When you have stated your definition of success, you gain a powerful sense of direction and purpose and an ability to make choices in life that are



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consistent with that. You are able to share yourself even more genuinely with others, and you more readily find the joy in living your life.

Where do YOU stand, to make the choices that guide YOUR life? In other words, what is your definition of success for your life?

Creating a vision for *your* life

*“Who looks outside, dreams.
Who looks inside, awakens.”*
— Carl Jung

If you are undertaking this process for the first time, remember two things: First, you need not wonder if you even *have* a vision. Everyone does; we are born with it! And next, check your attitude before you start: This process asks of you that you be open to the largest expression of possibility. Remember that your past does not constrain your future. Imagine that whatever you can envision is indeed capable of being achieved — and it is not necessary that it be predictable or planned before you embrace it as your dream.

One way to gain access to your personal vision, or definition of success, is to generate a list of everything in life that gives you joy. Include nouns and verbs, and pay particular attention to experiences in which you have found yourself hopeful, inspired, fully self-expressed,

profoundly rewarded or satisfied. When you are done, look at your list and identify common denominators. What can you say about your purpose in life that will be demonstrated by everything on that list? Ultimately your purpose is revealed through the experiences that serve as consistent sources of joy, inspiration and satisfaction.

Living life consistent with vision

“Even if you are on the right track, you’ll get run over if you just sit there.” — Will Rogers

Putting your vision into words is but the beginning. Don’t “check it off” and store your words on a shelf, unseen and gathering dust. Find ways to keep what you have discovered or invented fresh and alive for you. You may want to post it near your desk, carry it in your wallet, leave it as a message to yourself on your answering machine. Find opportunities to share it with others — and when you do, generate it newly each time, as you speak, rather than reciting something cast in stone.

Notice your willingness to hold onto, and to dwell within, your larger dream. Remember that it is OK if your vision feels “out of reach.” Practice being at ease with living outside your “comfort zone,” and remember that nothing worth creating

ever began as a prediction.

Finally, notice the relationship between the choices you make in life and your movement in the direction of your dreams. You may discover that your most satisfying choices are those most consonant with your vision. One of the most powerful uses of the vision you have articulated is to serve as a filter for choices — your place to stand in authoring life.

To our Readers:

In celebration of our 10th year in business, we have designed an **effective environments** “Success” pin — a small reminder that, each day, success is ours to invent. The pin is available on a complimentary basis. If you would like to have one, please send your name and address to **effective environments** at the address on this newsletter.

Looking for a Coach?

As you do the work of crafting a powerful vision for your life and designing definitions of success inside that vision, you may find it useful to work with a coach. Coaching can also support you in establishing pathways for fulfillment of projects and objectives, once your aim is clear. For more information, call Sunny at (707) 433-4055.

Environments for Success Workshop

How would you define success in life? How would you achieve it? How do you make choices that lead to success?

We live in a time of fast-paced change. Everyday we are bombarded with information about the latest fad, or trend, or product that will make us happy, rich, beautiful. Do you feel overwhelmed by it all? Do you feel pulled in many directions by the things you "should" be doing for your financial future? Your family? Your personal development?

Join us on June 26 and 27.

Develop and hone the tools you'll use to author life now and in the future. This weekend is for people who truly are committed to authoring a life of fulfillment and to examining new ways of thinking and acting to realize their dreams. We promise this will be a weekend that profoundly affects your future.

Where: Fountaingrove
Inn
When: June 26 and 27,
Tuition: \$500

Call: (707) 433-4055 to
register