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Message from Pat

"The greatest need of human beings is for a sense of meaning and purpose in life."

- Victor Frankel

One of the most valuable lessons I am learning in my life is that I don't need to do 'it' alone. 'It' can be defined as almost anything I do, including developing a new program for one of my clients, running my business, needing help in repairing something and even walking my dog. What's freeing about this is it saves me time and energy, I get to a better end result because of the shared ideas and, most important, I get to have great fun!

One of my mentors, Laura Whitworth, co-founder of The Bigger Game Company, always says (paraphrasing), people are hungry to make a difference in the world, they just don't know how. We can show them how.

I am finding this to be true. No matter where my clients are in their personal or professional lives, they come to me to reconnect with their vision. We lose sight of our vision when the daily activities, routines, responsibilities and obligations begin to take over. We can no longer see what drives us. We begin to feel we have no choice and are being driven instead of driving.

"A life lived by choice is a life of conscious action. A life lived by chance is a life of unconscious reaction."

- Neale Donald Walsch

The one important thing about having a vision is to get into action and take the steps to make your vision become a reality. The first major step in doing this is to begin talking about your vision and enroll and engage others in your vision. By doing this, you become more committed to your vision. There is power in speaking about it because, guess what, it might become a reality!

How scary is that!?!?

And how exhilarating!?!?

As leaders, it is our responsibility to show others the 'how'. In speaking about your vision, you will find others who will think you're nuts and others who will think you're not. So what? Those that think you may be nuts will help you become more convinced in your vision and those that think your not will become great allies for you.

I am participating in a Leadership book club and our current book is "The Art of Possibility" by Benjamin Zander and Rosamund Stone Zander. Our current practice is "Being a Contribution". The basis for this is practicing a game they call "I am a contribution." The practice is inventing oneself as a "contribution", and others as well. Replace the fearful question "Am I loved for who I am, or for what I have accomplished?" with the joyful questions, "How will I be a contribution today?"

Two simple steps to make this happen:

- Declare yourself to be a contribution
- Throw yourself into life as someone who makes a difference, accepting that you may not understand how or why.

Watch what happens! Enroll and engage by example.

Remember...you may be the 'how' to someone who has the vision and just doesn't know how to make it real. Don't be the one to cheat others out of the opportunity to make their visions become realities.

Step into leading and enroll others in your vision...don't wait...model leadership...the World needs us to do this.

Lead strong!

Pat

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Clear Leadership Inspires and Guides

We once thought that leaders were born, not made. Now we know that leadership is truly a skill that people can develop. Leadership is the skill of getting people to "willingly do what you want them to do." When you're a leader people follow you because they want to, not because they have to.

"People don't quit their jobs, they quit their leaders," says Ann Evanston, CEO of AME Institute. "I meet managers who have staff that have quit, and they still come to work everyday." Staff that falls into this category has low morale and don't want to put forth the extra effort necessary in today's busy workforce. They just do the "bare minimum" to get by.

One skill good leaders develop is the ability to critically and optimistically think through all the new priorities. They continually ask: "What's possible?" and "How can we make that happen?" Then great leaders share those visions and ideas with their team. They relate it to staff's intrinsic motivators so employees buy in more quickly. Great leaders take it a step further and develop the ability to ask their team members questions to get them to come up with the direction.

It is extremely important that leaders empower staff to feel they are part of what's going on. Leaders need to know their expectations and communicate them effectively to staff. It is surprising how many leaders today have not clearly outlined their expectations! How can leaders clarify them to staff if they don't know what they are themselves? How does leadership create consistency if they aren't clearly grounded in what is important to expect?

Lastly, remember the difference between the "what" and the "how". Too often leaders get caught up in how something is done. That isn't what matters, it's the what. If staff clearly know what you want, what it needs to look like when it's done, what the goal is, what treating customers exceptionally is like...let them figure out the how. When managers get caught up in the how; they are micromanaging, not empowering and definitely not leading.

From: 8 Killers of Productivity and Morale in the Workplace by Ann Evanston (www.ame-institute.com)

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It Does Make a Difference

Strolling along the edge of the sea, a man catches sight of a young woman who appears to be engaged in a ritual dance. She stoops down, then straightens to her full height, casting her arm out in an arc. Drawing closer, he sees that the beach around her is littered with starfish, and she is throwing them one by one into the sea. He lightly mocks her: "There are stranded starfish as far as the eye can see, for miles up the beach. What difference can saving a few of them possibly make?" Smiling, she bends down and once more tosses a starfish out over the water, saying serenely, "It certainly makes a difference to this one."

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Allies

I am looking for people who are playing 'Bigger Games' in their lives. A 'game' is defined as 'what you are up to' in your life. A 'bigger game' is at a higher level and has some distinct elements.

A Bigger Game:

- Is something that requires you to evolve, to add new competencies, to become a new leader.
- Means you are focused on a higher purpose rather than on yourself.
- Feeds a hunger that most human beings experience; a hunger for a

meaningful life, one that has impact.

- Serves a higher, more compelling purpose. It is not about you.
- Has an impact on the greater community.
- Is one that cannot be played alone.

If you know of anyone (even you!) that is playing a 'Bigger Game' in their lives, please contact me. I am interested in talking with them and writing about their story.

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Recommended Reads with links to Amazon.com

"The Art of Possibility: Transforming Professional and Personal Life" by Benjamin Zander and Rosemund Stone Zander

Goals! by Brian Tracy

"The Corporate Mystic: A Guidebook for Visionaries with Their Feet on the Ground" by Gay Hendricks and Kate Ludeman

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Upcoming Workshop Offerings

Women Seeing Beyond Today Conference!

Want a great way to start your New Year?

Register for the 2nd annual "Women Seeing Beyond Today" Conference at www.womenseebeyond.org/womensconf_register2006.htm.

It will be held on Saturday, March 25, 2006 at the South San Francisco Conference Center, at 255 South Airport Blvd. in South San Francisco. This year's theme is "Rocking the World and Leaving a Legacy!"

The registration fee is ONLY \$75.00! This includes breakfast, lunch and a reception in addition to a rocking day of over 20 great and inspiring speakers!

This conference is for women of all ages who are looking for changes in their professional and/or personal lives or seeking inspiration to rock their world and leave their legacy.

More information at: www.WomenSeeBeyond.org.

Bigger Game Workshops: Has something been calling you? Maybe a whisper, a tug, or a knowing there is something bigger waiting for you...possibly something your soul has been craving. The Bigger Game is a dynamic interactive workshop that naturally calls 'the better you' yet to be expressed. Come let your Bigger Game Player come out to lead and experience the fun and excitement of having a Bigger Game to Play.

April 28-30, 2006 in San Mateo, CA.

Call me for more information at 650-245-0321.

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"Quote For Your Day!"

"Work like you don't need the money.
Love like you've never been hurt.
Dance as if no one is watching.
Sing as if no one is listening."

- Satchel Paige

I send out a "Quote for Your Day!" on a daily basis. If you like to think (and sometimes laugh), sign up for the daily quote by sending a blank e-mail to Quotes@inVisionaria.com with "Quote" in the subject line.

Until next time, I wish you joy and fun!

Pat Obuchowski
CEO, Chief Empowerment Officer
inVisionaria

Helping people step into their roles as leaders in their businesses, their communities and the world. Helping people find their "Bigger Game."

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"By Pat Obuchowski of inVisionaria."

"What a gift it is to have Pat Obuchowski as a premier coach of eWomenNetwork! She's smart, solution oriented and a joy to work with."

-Kym Yancey, President, eWomenNetwork

Brief Biography

Pat Obuchowski is the CEO (Chief Empowerment Officer) of inVisionaria. inVisionaria is a company devoted to helping people and organizations find and achieve their vision and their voice. She works with individuals and organizations that are looking for structure, focus and accountability to set and achieve their goals. She also works with people who are ready to make big changes in their businesses and their lives and step into the leaders they've been yearning to be. People who are ready, willing and able to begin playing their "Bigger Game." No kidding. Right now. The approach to achieve this and create this alliance is individually based and is designed between Pat and each of her clients.

Testimonials:

"Pat and I have worked together and I know her and her style, and highly recommend her. I think anyone would really enjoy her as a person, and greatly benefit from her professionalism and expertise."

- HR Director

CONTACTING ME. I receive a large number of emails every day. I get many questions and it's hard to get to them all. However, I do my best. If you don't hear from me in a few days, please try again. Your email may have fallen between the cracks.

PRIVACY and SPAM POLICY: I never rent, trade or sell my email list to anyone for any reason whatsoever. You'll never get an unsolicited email from a stranger as a result of joining this list.

Inquiries from publishers are welcome, but please do not use my work without my written permission (Pat@inVisionaria.com). If, despite my intention not to, I have inadvertently used something of yours inappropriately, please notify me and I will remove it immediately.

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