Weaving a Richer Social Fabric

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I don’t like to think about the person I would be if I had not met Nathan.

—Renee Laporte
Beyond The Crayon
Authentic Inclusion. One Idea at a Time.

TRUE
Friendships
~ AUTHENTIC
Relationships
~ STRONG
Communities

www.beyondthecrayon.com
What do we want to create through our commitment to social inclusion?
How can people with developmental disabilities show up in ordinary life as valued friends and contributing citizens?
Life is hard, but poetry helps me get through. I want to give this gift to others.
What do the vulnerabilities of our good efforts teach us about social inclusion?
How can we all show up in more places that attend to, cultivate, & benefit from the gifts of difference?
contemporary social evils

www.jrf.org.uk/work/workarea/social-evils

Joseph Rowntree Foundation
‘...the well connected are more likely to be hired, housed, healthy and happy.’

Robert Putnam’s research on social capital: www.hks.harvard.edu/saguaro/socialcapitalprimer.htm
If you don’t go to somebody’s funeral,
they won’t come to yours.

—Yogi Berra
Come to our breakfast, we’ll come to your fire.

T-Shirt advertising fund raiser for the Gold Beach, OR Volunteer Fire Department
Bonding Social Weaving

Actions that create networks that link people who see themselves as similar & tend to be inward looking
Bridging Social Weaving

Actions that create networks that include people with different interests & identities —tend to be outward looking & are harder to create than bonding networks.
“The central challenge for modern, diversifying societies is to create a new, broader sense of ‘we’.”

—Robert Putnam

Bridging

Bonding

Putnam, R. E pluribus unum: Diversity and community in the 21st century. Scandinavian Political Studies 30, 2, 137-174
What people who weave the social fabric do is understand & emphasize the importance of relationships & personal connections to achieving their objectives.
Simple actions weave a richer social fabric, especially when we engage people who seem different (even threatening) to us.

- Work on a community project
- Donate blood
- Attend a public meeting where there is discussion of local or school affairs
- Attend a political meeting or rally
- Attend a club or organizational meeting
- Volunteer
- Have friends over to your home