

Kenston J. Griffin

Dream Builders Communication, Inc.

"If Better Is Possible Good Is No Longer An Option"



Volume 4. Issue 6

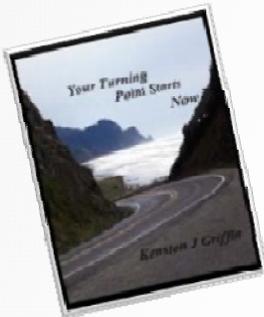
NEWSLETTER

June 2009

This Issue:

- ◆ *The Wheels Are Comin' Off!*
- ◆ *The Beauty of Summer*
- ◆ *Financial Corner*
- ◆ *You've Been T.A.G.GED!*
- ◆ *Dedication*
- ◆ *June Events*

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Say It! Believe It! Do It!

Greetings & Good Day,

Before I introduce my topic for this month edition of the Dream Builders Communication, Inc. Newsletter, I first would like thank each and every one of you for subscribing, reading, and applying the information provided each month.

Over the course of my career, I have motivated thousands and thousands of individuals, and I been asked this question, "Do I have *bad* days or am I ever disappointed?" The answer is YES, I have character building days, and YES, I do receive information that strengthens my emotions. However, hear me clearly, not every task is my task and not every assignment is assigned to ME. Notice the choice of words I used, *character building* and *moments to strengthen my emotions*. Remember I am just as human as everyone else is; however, I have conditioned my thoughts a little differently. Therefore, when *character building days* or *disappointments* come your way, here are a few points that have worked for me.

Say it! Believe It! Do It!

1. Try not to think emotionally. Look at the entire picture; not just how it may affect you.
2. Were you a part of the problem or are you going to be a part of the solution/resolution?
3. Do not have all of your eggs in one basket.
4. Be cautious with whom you share information with, they may not be who you think they are.
5. Remember your problems want you; you do not want your problems.
6. Something comes to test you; people may come to oppress you, so choose your battles wisely.
7. Remember when you get a new day you have a new beginning.

By applying these Seven Steps and no matter what comes your way, "*Just Keep Steppen!*"

Kenston J. Griffin, CEO

The Wheels Are Comin' Off!

By: B. Nicole Hunt

When I was five years old, my dad used to jog beside me, his hands covering mine over the handlebars on my princess pink bike. He would say in my ear, "Baby Girl, I'm gonna let you go!" I can remember being terrified and excited at the same time. Many times, he would let me go, and like most children, I would tense up and fall over onto the pavement. Sometimes I would have a little scrape here or there, but mostly I was just disappointed. I wanted so badly to get it right. I wanted to fly down that hill by myself without falling. Then, one day, I did. He started jogging and I heard the familiar phrase, "Baby Girl, I'm gonna let you go!" This time, I responded, "Okay Daddy, I'm ready!" He gave me a slight nudge and let go of the bars. After a quick wobble to the left and right, I soared down that hill. At that moment, my five year-old heart was completely content and I was on top of the world. I felt like I could do anything. And all I had to do was let go.



essed. They require us to ignore how scary or unknown something might be, and focus on the reward awaiting us on the other side of the obstacle. These moments call on our sense of adventure and the natural human compulsion to run free without boundaries.

Children have few inhibitions, and are eager to experience new things, regardless of how scared or unsure they feel. As adults, we tend to lose that sense of fearlessness. Somewhere along the line, we become complacent with playing it safe and leaving the training wheels on. However, when we see others roaming freely, without training wheels or chasing after their goals and achieving their dreams- we wonder, "Why can't I do that?" We forget that we can do it. We forget that just like riding a bike requires a helmet and sometimes knee and elbow pads, life offers a few cushions of its own in case things get rough.

Life is not something we have to go through alone, but we do have to be willing to take that first step: taking off the training wheels. We have to be willing to try even when we are afraid it might not work. We have to know that, yes, we might wobble to the left and right; we may even fall. The important thing is that we get back on and try again. Just like learning to ride the bike, eventually, we will be able to soar on our own. All we have to do is let go.

As adults, young or old, we tend to forget about those pivotal moments in our lives. Moments that teach us valuable lessons about life. Learning how to swim, learning to drive, riding without training wheels- these moments require strength that we never knew we pos-

The Beauty of Summer

By: Tiffany Jacobs

Do you notice the birds singing in the morning to serenade you? Do you notice how the sun peeks out from behind the clouds while a rainbow paints a ribbon across the sky? Life is beautiful!

It is summer and spend it not sweating the small stuff. Go have fun in the sun and doing what you love to do. Share some of that joy while you are doing it.

By not sweating the small stuff, you are focusing on what is important to you. It means tuning out distractions and allowing positivity to overflow in your environment. Enjoying the summer may be many things to you, whether it is visiting and traveling or just simply taking a quiet moment to read a fa-



vorite book. Do not stress and worry, just spend your summer being productive and enjoying yourself and those you love. Start a new hobby, complete a project, or just go travel and see the world.

Instead of complaining, just live and enjoy how beautiful life is. It's awesome to just be able to awake in the morning and see a new day. Take a moment and just realize the things you may take for granted and begin to appreciate them again. Time is of the essence and when you make the most of your time, you appreciate the productivity you created. There is so much to see and do so just enjoy being you and be grateful, because life is beautiful!

Financial Corner

By: Yolanda Polk



Do you have a banking account? (Saving, Checking, Money Market, etc) Have you sat down with a banker to see if you have your money in the right place? Are you at the best bank for yourself? Please take some time out of your schedule and make an appointment at a bank. Do not leave until you are clear on every-

thing. There is no such thing as too many questions when it come to your money. Listed below, according to CNNMONEY.COM, are some top things we should know about basic banking and saving.

1. Money in a bank account is safe.

A bank is one of the safest places to stash your cash. In an effort to shore up consumer confidence during the credit crunch of 2008, the federal government said it would temporarily insure accounts against loss by up to \$250,000 per depositor. After January 1, 2010, the standard insurance of up to \$100,000 per depositor returns.

2. You pay for the convenience of a bank account.

Banks pay lower rates on interest-bearing accounts than brokerages and mutual fund companies that offer check-writing privileges. What's more, bank fees can be high - account costs can easily add up to \$200 a year or more unless you keep a minimum required balance on deposit.

3. Inflation can eat what you earn from a bank.

Even at a low rate of inflation, the annual creep in the cost of goods and services usually outpaces what banks pay in interest-bearing accounts.

4. Not all interest rates are created equal.

Banks frequently use different methods to calculate interest. To compare how much money you'll earn from various accounts in a year, ask for each account's "annual percentage yield." Banks typically quote both interest rates and APYs, but only APYs are calculated the same way everywhere.

5. You can get better rates

Certificates of deposit (CDs) offer some of the best guaranteed rates on your money and are insured up to \$250,000 each through the end of the year. As with all

other deposits, insurance will return to the standard \$100,000 in 2010.

The catch: you have to lock up your money for three months to five years or more. If interest rates fall before the CD expires, the bank must give you the rate it quoted. If rates climb, you're stuck with the lower rate.

6. ATM fees can take a significant bite out of your budget.

The convenience of using automated teller machines is an increasingly pricey one. On average, the fee your bank charges you to use another institution's ATM is \$1.46, according to a Bankrate.com survey in fall 2008. That's on top of the average \$1.97 that the other institution will charge you to use its ATM.

7. Getting the best deal takes work.

You won't get a great banking deal unless you comparison-shop and ask about price breaks. For example, a bank might offer free checking if you are a shareholder or if you direct deposit your paycheck.

8. Use the Internet to shop for bank services.

You can use the Internet to compare fees, yields, and minimum deposit requirements nationwide. Sites like Bankrate.com allow you to search and compare the highest yields and the lowest costs on banking, savings, loans and deposit rates nationwide. You can also search by geographic location or use CNNMoney.com loan center.

9. Banking online can make bill-paying easier.

Electronic bill-paying can save you the monthly hassle of paying your bills. And if you couple online banking with a personal-finance management program, such as Quicken or Microsoft Money, you'll be able to link your banking with your budgeting and financial planning as well. But be careful. Some vendors only warn the consumer of price hikes in the fine print of a bill.

10. You can bank without a bank.

A number of financial institutions offer accounts that resemble bank services. The most common: Credit union accounts; mutual fund company money market funds; and brokerage cash-management accounts.

"Success Is A Journey Not A Sprint"



Dream Builders Communication, Inc

Presents

T.A.G.

Together Achieving Greatness

Summer Enrichment Program Parent Information Session

At

Clark's Chapel Baptist Church
806 Eufola Road Statesville, NC

and

St. Stephens AME Zion Church
201 W. Franklin Blvd Gastonia, NC

**Question & Answer Session:
Enrollment Process, Program & Fieldtrip Schedule**

**May 26, 2009
5:30 pm to 6:30 pm**

Summer Enrichment Program
June 15-August 14, 2009 8 am to 5 pm Monday-Friday

***For more information, contact Dream Builders Communication
at 704-595-1884***

You've Been **T.A.G.**GED **Together Achieving Greatness**

Can you say, “*Together Achieving Greatness?*”

By: Kathy Grimes,
Iredell-Statesville Site Coordinator

T.A.G. is a program designed to accompany and challenge students in academics, talents and future goals. Its main objective is to broaden the minds of each child to go from where they are to greatness beyond measure.

On April 17, 2009 the Iredell County T.A.G. Program was birth. The site opened at Clarks Chapel Baptist Church on Eufola Road in Statesville, NC. We started with approximately eight instructors and a number of volunteers. The doors were spread out to welcome fifty or more students. This was our first day.

Now four weeks later we are serving between seventy to seventy-five children daily. Working along with the Iredell-Statesville school system we plunge forward to achieve greatness in the EOG testing. Five schools have been targeted to participate in this program, they are as follows: Celeste Henkle, Troutman Elementary, Troutman Middle, West Middle, and West High. However, no child will be left behind if transportation can be provided.

Big things are going on with us. Our children have since chosen their enhancements for the after school program and have already begun music, technology, and dance. I would like to thank those who have assisted in undergirding this program in its initial state: Beulah Baptist, Chestnut Grove Baptist, New Life Missionary, and of course Clarks Chapel Baptist Church.

I take my hat off to every van driver, bus driver, and parent who brings our children and take our children home safely. I also, bow to my instructors: Ms. Rhonda Gillespie, Ms. LaKisha Grimes, Mr. James Alston, Mr. Glen McCoy, Ms. Tanza Turner, Mr. Dominique Gillian, Ms. Darlene Johnson, Mrs. Maria Mosallam, as well as Mr. Winford Griffin. To all of the volunteers, I truly, say from the bottom of my heart “Thank you, Thank you, Thank you”.

All of us are proud of our students and the accomplishments they have made in this short period of time. We can only look forward to bigger and greater things as TAG prepares for the summer.

T. A. G.

By: Lorenzo Taylor,
Gaston County Site Coordinator

Dream Builders Communication Inc., **Together Achieving Greatness (TAG) Program** located at St. Stephens African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church at Unity Place in Gastonia, North Carolina is providing academic and social skills that are motivating students to reach high and achieve greatness in the classroom and the community. **TAG Program** is designed to present an array of enriching instructional activities that focuses on the North Carolina Standard Course of Study through small groups and individual learning setting. The after school tutorial program focuses on activities and strategies that enhance academic achievement for students in grades K-12.

Students have the opportunity to interact with other students on grade level and to participate in enrichment activities that are presented through a variety of methods, including music, art, games and instructional technology.

Ninety students are currently enrolled and attend the program Monday-Friday from 3pm-6pm. Our dedicated and caring staff consists of Lorenzo Taylor, Rev. Joanne Barber, April Sadler, Tiffany Jacobs, Kenya Martin, Paula Reid, Gayle Hopkins, and Franklin Taylor who involve parents and students in meaningful ways in an attempt to raise achievement and close the achievement gap. Careful planning of developmentally appropriate activities and powerful learning strategies based on learning styles of students are weaved into daily lesson plans that are designed to accelerate students in acquisition of skills and to promote a love for learning.

We are looking forward to the Summer Enrichment Program that will provide field trips and additional learning opportunities for **“Together Achieving Greatness.”**

What Makes a Good Team Player? Dedication

By: Christopher Land



What makes a good team player? This question arose at an event that I had the honor of participating in recently. There's a "team", who at this time shall remain nameless that has been together for several years now, and functioning well. Although they have experienced some challenges in recent months. We can find a host of reasons that some players tend to "not pull their weight", but I tend to look at all of them as excuses. I was taught that excuses are tools of incompetence, and those who use them seldom amount to anything useful. Therefore, how can one who finds and uses excuses benefit the team? Over the next few months, I will continue to explore some of the characteristics of a "good team player".

In May we discussed commitment. This month let's talk about dedication. In order to be helpful in any capacity to your team, you must first question your own level of dedication. Within every organization there will be opportunity to lessen your participation in team events for several

reasons (excuses). Lack of time, disagreement with direction of the leadership, personal agenda or dislikes, and a variety of others. These things can and will hinder the greater ability of the team, but all can be linked in root cause to dedication. Before you become a member or part of a team, you should gauge your level of dedication. Take time to gauge and analyze what type of time, financial, social, and physical dedication would becoming a good team player truly cost. This thought process will assist you in determining if you can or should dedicate your time and energy to be a part of any team. Because once you cross that line and accept being a part of the team, you being a person of integrity, have a responsibility to your word (or signature).

Dedication involves having a thought process before an action. Dedication suggests commitment and participation. The team event that I mentioned earlier, did come off quite well, although in the team's debriefing it was identified that there were several players who did not give any or enough of their time and/or efforts, as in so many other teams. Make certain that those players in the game –giving full effort, and on the sideline (other supporters), stay focused on the direction of the team (unit or organization) and not the lack of dedication of those who do not understand that being a good team player takes dedication.

Contact Us:

8801 JM Keynes Drive, Suite 440, Charlotte, NC 28262
(704) 595-1735 office; (704) 595-1736 fax; (877) 595-1735 toll free
www.kenstonjgriffin.com

**Academic Training, Community Development, Peak Performance Coaching,
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BIG EVENTS in JUNE

- June 1** Dream Builders Communication, Inc. travels to Troutman Elementary to celebrate the successes of the 2009 DBC Spring program with 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade students. 45 students were selected to participate in the program this year.
- June 2** Master Trainer Y. Polk will be in Harnett County Schools concluding the 2008-2009 DBC Year long programs. These sessions are sure to inspire the students to read more this summer than ever before.
- June 9** Iredell Statesville's – Monticello School and Springs Academy have come together to have a graduation ceremony with special keynote guest –Kenston J Griffin, CEO of Dream Builder Communication, Inc. this is bound to be the most engaging graduation of the county.

June 9



CMS- Bishop Spaugh – has locked in Dream Builders Communication to present as keynotes for the promotion of the 8th grade students, as they prepare for high school

- June 11** DBC has been invited to speak at Charlotte's most prestigious Leadership Development Institute, with networking, and strategic development, in order to cultivate Charlotte for world class results.



June 26-29



Dream Builders Communication, Inc staff, family and friends embark upon the training retreat of a lifetime. Come cruise with the Dream Builders as we cruise to the Bahamas, while receiving the very best in Leadership Development with DBC's top performers.

- June 29** Dream Builders Communication, Inc. Keynotes and Kickoff the Freshman BRIDGE Summer Experience for Livingstone College. This keynote address, entitled "*Bridging the Great Divide*" will provide students with the tools needed to launch their college careers. While motivating, empowering, and educating the incumbent freshmen class during this POWERFUL 6 week program, DBC will truly begin towards "*Bridging the Great Divide*."

