

Are You Living a Legacy or a Resume?
by Janet Christensen

As a Passion Map facilitator, I have the opportunity and privilege of working with people who are diverse in age, experience and career focus. As I guide each person in the art of discovering, accessing and bringing to life what they love most, I am frequently amazed and inspired by the genius and brilliance that is revealed. I am most fortunate to find such joy and inspiration in my work every day.

I recently completed a Passion Map with a young man in his late twenties and it is with his permission that I write this article. (to maintain client confidentiality he is not named in this article) This rather quiet young man has a good education and his motivation for doing his Passion Map was to search for his career niche. What became very obvious throughout our sessions were his strong values and his commitment to creating the life that he wants to live. Rather than following a path prescribed by well-meaning family and friends, he wants success on his terms. He is clear on what success means to him. One of his measurements of success is *living a legacy, not living a resume*.

What does this mean *living a legacy, not living a resume*? It means making choices that are in alignment with your values. It means being clear on who you are and what you stand for. It means doing what is important to you, because it is important to you. It means creating a life that has value and meaning for you and that you will be proud to look back upon. It means having the courage to say "no thank you" to things that, while they may look good on a resume, are not what you want to do, or that do not make good use of your talents, skills or passions.

At a relatively young age, this individual has figured out what Abraham Lincoln was referring to when he said, "You can please some of the people all of the time, and all of the people some of the time, but you can't please all of the people all of the time."

Many people continue to live their lives making choices based on what they think is expected of them, or because it will look good on a resume. We get a myriad of helpful information and advice from well meaning people, often unsolicited, and instead of our choices becoming clearer, we may get confused. Who knows best and who do we please? What is the ideal life resume supposed to look like? We risk sacrificing what is truly important to us, missing the opportunity to really shine at something and feel great in the process. Knowing our values and making choices aligned with those values leads us to live our legacy.

I look forward to witnessing how this young man's life unfolds as chooses to live his legacy and not just a resume. A wonderful caring leader is emerging, one who will look back with pride and satisfaction on his life and have made a positive difference in the lives of many others in the process.

Janet Christensen, Retirement & Power Coaching®, Presentations
Dynamic Awareness Inc.
(519)434-5397 janet@dynamicawareness.com www.dynamicawareness.com

