BUILDING COMMUNITY IN RURAL TIMEBANKS

Stacey Jacobsohn and Lacey Sinn

Introduction

This workshop allowed participants to engage in an open forum focusing on the issues that surround rural area TimeBank. Participants hammered out a few of the problems relevant to small towns and rural areas; the exchange of ideas was wonderful.

Questions and Answers

Questions and concerns emerged regarding the general community feel:

- "Where is the value in art and music? Most folks from here need to have a talent in hard work!"
- "We are all there for each other through the tough times—why do we need a time bank?"
- "We already barter."

Answer: TimeBanking can help ease that attitude by engaging the community in special projects and ensuring quality of exchanges.

Question: How do we transition from being a giving community to being able to receive?
Answer: Workshops and learning opportunities.
Example: By receiving and using TimeBank hours, you can get to a workshop that can further your ability to be a better involved in the community. Members can be given the opportunity to take time off to do something new, like a cooking class.

Question: How do you connect with other communities?
Answer: Use strategy: "Go where the people are."
Partner with other organizations, like youth leagues, truancy courts, homecomers, the recovery community and the neighboring farms and ranches. Partnering with local clubs is a great way to initiate a special project. For example the Lion's Club, the FOP, the American Legions, the local grange, and local churches help the community already; why not join forces and ensure the quality of the exchange?

Question: What do you do about lack of available technology (internet and computers?)
Answer:

- If using Community Weaver with limited computers, billboards at local diners and churches could alert folks to your meetings and trainings.
- Check with your local United Way for help with technology
- Create some urban connections and co-produce a program that fits both your needs.

Participants

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