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# HUMAN RIGHTS AND TIMEBANKING

Edgar Cahn, Audrey Jordan, Elvira Méndez, and Sharon Lee Schwartz

**Framework** (Edgar Cahn): Human rights, domestic violence, and racism are issues that TimeBanking must address. Everyone being nice is NOT enough.

TimeBanking addresses:

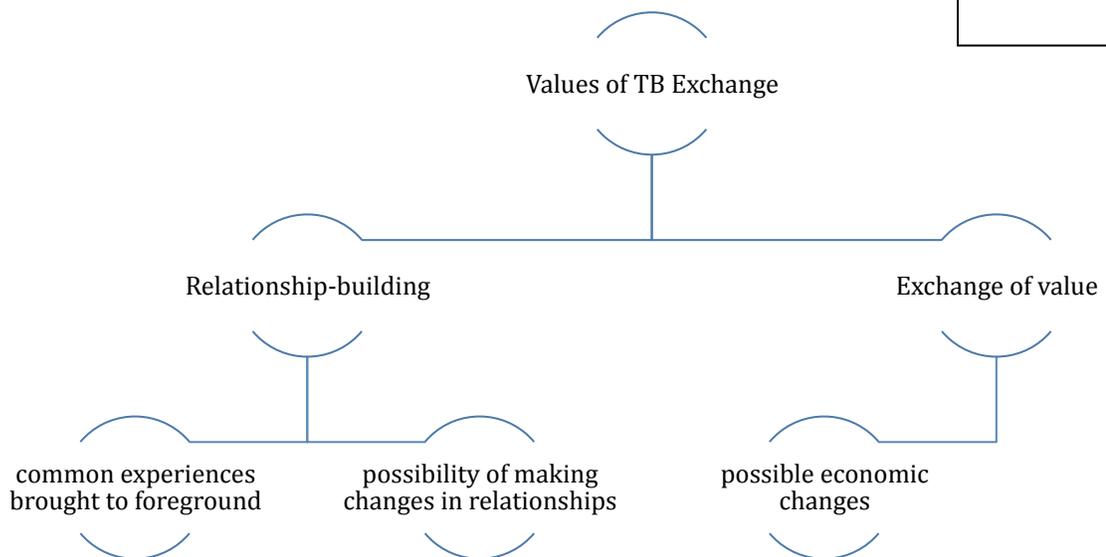
1. Loneliness and Isolation
2. Injustice → Set in motion process to challenge and fight unjust systems

**The power of social networks to address injustice** (Audrey Jordan)

- Philanthropy is all about “charity,” fixing broken people
- You need people to *want to change* (transformative shift)
- Need to make the case for TimeBanking on 2 fronts

## Participants

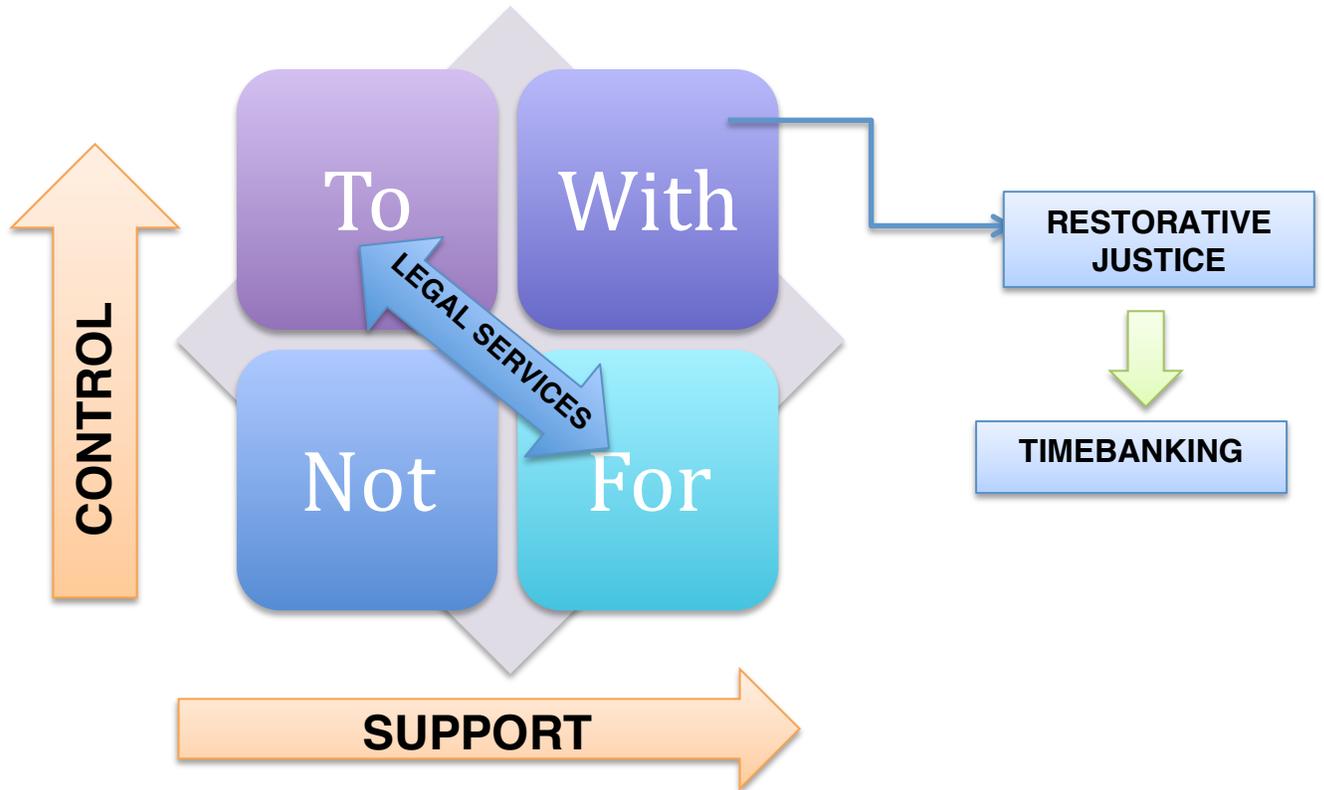
Angana Shah  
Janine Christiano  
Jordan Weinberg  
Marydale Stevens  
Michele Magar  
Nick Kacher  
Audrey Jordan



**Legal Services, Bringing Justice to Members of Poor Rural Community** (Sharon Lee Schwartz)

- Frustrated with the model: Legal aid can only help one person at a time, but systematic problems of injustice remain
- People are *solutions*, not *problems*

# COMMUNITY SERVICES



TBing and creating a health care economy are aspects of preventative law. How the partnership happened:

- Presented the idea to
  - United Way
  - League of Women Voters (who supplied a project leader)
- Now there are 200 members, but more are needed
  - Pay clients with TDs for taking class

## **Domestic Violence Focus** (Elvira Mendez)

- Working with 5,000 women who are clients of partner organization
- Screening process shows up domestic violence → Response by team
- TimeBanking includes both men and women; because all are valued, it builds a sense of social belonging.
- Creates new models: from individual services → groups
- The human rights framework: TBing is about helping and EMPOWERING

- Especially important in Spain, a country with 6 million migrants from Latin America, north Africa, and China to a country of 40 million
- Madrid has become a multicultural city in the last 10 years

### **Other comments**

- How do we address the needs of migrant labor (Janine Christiano, Arroyo TB)?
  - California N. Rural Legal Aid: Migrant laborers become translator
  - Banco Del Barrio: Community Health
  - Fair Housing: send a white person who is told there is housing and then a non-white person who is refused
  - TimeBank Hours are not counted as income, so they can be earned.
- What about confidentiality?
- St. Louis Residence college- anyone can give a course
  - Group of residence paid \$25 to give a course; residents paid in TimeDollars, which were earned by applying the course skills
  - Want to get to the point of charging for the course and offering an advanced course