

Youth Ambassador Call 8.19.15

The call began with Kelly introducing, Christa, the program manager for Connective Leadership. She is working with the youth ambassadors to coach them on their leadership styles. She has begun to work with some of the ambassadors and is seeking to meet with them all by the end of September. Her goal is to provide them with guidance and show various leadership styles and skills so the ambassadors will be able to react to situations and circumstances in a leadership manner. So far, the ambassadors she has met have strength in many areas that will serve them well as they gain more knowledge about how to be a forceful leader.

Susan then came on to say that this leadership training is very useful for anyone, even someone older like herself, as there is always something new to learn. She encourages all the ambassadors to take advantage of this program.

Christa explained that Connective Leadership is based on behavior patterns and is divided into four specific styles. She works with the client to determine where their natural leadership style is. So far she has found the ambassadors well rounded but need some help in being competitive and pushing themselves. She is also seeing people who want to improve their social skills in a way to enable them to push others to take action. She noted that many of the ambassadors she's met so far are scoring in the high 5's to low 6's in a scale where 7 is the highest score, which indicates they have natural leadership skills. She wants to work with them to hone these skills to become consistent in their styles.

Kelly then gave an update on the new branding and the new website thechimein.org. Jeetan felt the site looks great and would like to see more content on it. He wants to make sure that the Facebook followers on the old page know about this new incarnation and move over to the new Facebook page. Kelly asked him if he would take some of the information about how thechimein came to be that's on the website on the new Facebook page.

Cat expressed concern about using the word "Youth" as she is in her twenties, as other ambassadors are, and feels that people will not take a "Youth" organization seriously. Kelly encouraged her and the others to feel free to edit any of the webpage content they wish to change. She wants them to feel that this is their place.

Jeetan suggested using the words "Young Adult" as they are in a transitional stage of life. Mara said that using Youth and Young Adult might be cumbersome. Steve noted that this is an extension of the Dream Project and has no problem with the term "Youth Ambassador". Susan suggested the word "Mentor" as a possible term to use.

Susan spoke about the upcoming trip to Guatemala. She needs to know the closest airport to each ambassador to fly international and/or if they need connecting flights or transportation to that airport. She also needs copies of everyone's passport. She also needs to know if you live in one country but hold a passport to another country. She also needs to know if anyone is

bringing parent with them. The organization cannot fund the parent but will need to know if they're coming for food and lodging. She also needs to know if anyone has special dietary/medical needs that have to be addressed. Her email address for anyone who has questions or information to share is chimein2susan@gmail.com. She also encouraged everyone to create a fundraiser if at all possible. Even \$100 will make a big difference in being able to fund this trip. Kelly said that she will be doing a fundraiser based on Dios de la Mortos in Los Angeles to help raise funds for the trip. She also asked the group to come up with items that would be good as giveaways to people who donate to the crowdfunding campaigns.

Then it was Jeetan's turn to continue his talk from last week. He said they live in a close family structure with aunts, uncles, cousins, grandparents all living together. In Nepal he lived in a small house with anywhere from 8 – 12 people. They have high respect for elders. It also is a male-dominated society with the man at the head of the household, although that is changing now with more women going out to the workforce. Still the man makes most of the decisions for the family.

Jeetan said that now that he is living in the United States he is seeing changes. Here a lot of his friends are leaving their families at age 18, although some still do live with their families into their 20s. He also said that many of the immigrants lived together when they first came to this country in order to save money and then moved out when they were able to afford their own house. He still lives with his family and likes the unity that it creates.

In his case, his uncle was the first to come to the United States. This made it easier for his family to relocate here. He has been in the United States for 8 years now and is now a US citizen. Even though he was born in Bhutan he was never given citizenship there and didn't have citizenship in Nepal as a refugee, so his American citizenship is the first one he's had.

Jeetan said food is central to his culture, with rice, dal, curries and pickled foods as the staples of their diet. There are festivals and celebrations every month. There is a major Hindu celebration coming up that lasts for 10 days. Its significance is the observation of good over evil. There is also a festival of light around the same time as Halloween. Another celebration where they go around door to door, singing, and receiving money. In the refugee camp, this enabled them to buy clothes for the year.

In his family, everyone lives together, so there are no separate bedrooms and no privacy. They even live close enough to neighbors to be able to smell their food.

There are things he has now that he really appreciates, like being able to talk freely.