

Chime In Youth Ambassador Call 9.9.15

Kelly began the call by noting that we are in the phase of the Hero's Journey called The Reward. She noted that everyone in this group is good at giving but challenged everyone as to how prepared they are to receive.

Benjamin said it was always easier to give than to receive as he wondered if he was worthy for the gift. Then once when he was flying to London with \$40 in his pocket, he was hitchhiking in the rain to get to his destination. He didn't think anyone would pick him up and as soon as he thought that a truck stopped to pick him up. He didn't stop to look at the person first and as they drove he realized the driver was drunk. He asked himself if there was a reason he was supposed to be in the car. He started to speak to the man and realized that the man had lost his loved ones and his house and had wanted to kill himself. Benjamin told him that he was courageous not to have killed himself. The man wanted to drive Benjamin to his destination. Benjamin was hesitant because he was drunk, but the man so wanted to drive him, to do something nice to someone else, to make himself feel good, that he agreed to go with him. This was then Benjamin realized that accepting the gift was also a gift to the giver. Later someone wanted to give him money, money that he needed. He was reluctant to take it until an Andean Elder told him that the universe was giving him these funds as a gift and that he must take it. He took the funds and used some to give to his family.

Kelly told about when she hosted a group of monks and that they always said a prayer when someone gave them a gift. They told her the prayer was a prayer of thanks and also a prayer to release them from any attachment they had from the gift that would make them feel as if they owed something to the giver.

Susan said it's difficult for her to accept rewards or compliments. She realizes she has to work on accepting compliments and thank the person for their gift or encouragement and then finding a way to pay it forward. Susan says it's a skill that can be learned.

Cat said that gift giving and receiving also creates a connection between the people. She also gave an update. Today she went to a place called Morning Glory where people go before work. They have yoga and dance and places to relax and have coffee, and felt it was an amazing and energizing way to start the day and connect with people. She's hoping to work more on her project in the coming weeks.

Kelly took this moment to call attention to the crowdfunding campaign for the Guatemala trip. So far nearly a thousand dollars has been raised.

Lea Anne has been thinking about doing car washes to fund raise and wondered what to do with the money. Kelly suggested she open a bank account with the funds and then make the donation in her name. Susan said she might want to give the money to her mother to donate so that her mother can claim the tax deduction, as the donations are tax deductible.

Lea Anne also started a new job and is very excited about it. She admitted she is not good at receiving rewards and realizes she has to learn how to accept gifts and compliments.

Jeetan said that he considers smiles as rewards and that he doesn't like to take credit for things that he does. He has received a lot in his life and is giving a lot now and sees this as a balance. It's his way of paying it forward.

Kelly asked everyone to imagine getting a compliment. She told everyone that before responding to take a deep breath, look them in the eyes and say thank you and be in the moment of gratitude and thankfulness. Then take another breath and think about how what they gave you will have a great impact on you.

Susan also said not to judge someone if they don't accept praise or a gift well. Let go of your expectations and give for the sake of giving.

Benjamin said he appreciates the call and Kelly's exercise. He allows compliments to fill the dark places in himself which enables him to say thank you. He appreciates the reactions he gets when others see how they value him. Benjamin is about to embark on a journey of playing music and painting with homeless people on the West Coast. He's excited about riding the wave of goodness that he sees happening on this trip, so grateful that he's able to share these arts with people who might not otherwise get the chance to express their creativity. He surprised Kelly by announcing that he'll be in Los Angeles on November 1st and volunteered to perform at the fundraising event happening that night. He also asked the group to send love to some people he knows who are ill and in need of support.

Tony checked in and talked about the socio-political movement going on in Guatemala right now. He's working at his job building houses and is looking forward to the group joining him in December. He introduced Sophia who spoke about the settlement in Guatemala City where the houses will be built. The area is on the side of the Guatemala city dump and people were there to recycle items to earn money. Living conditions are tough. It smells bad. But the people there are fighting to live a better life. They are nice and willing to work. Currently they are living in very small living spaces cobbled together with recycled materials like wood and plastic, whatever they can find. There is garbage under and near their houses. In March they built 12 houses and then built six more. In these houses the walls are secure and water-tight. They are working with community leaders to determine which families need housing the most. The school where the group will be staying is not too far from this area. The houses that will be built will be made from fiberglass and concrete and will be more substantial than the houses they are living in now. The goal is to build 150 houses in all.

Kelly asked if they are able to incorporate art, such as Benjamin's art, into these buildings. Tony will send pictures and will see if this can become a reality. Susan asked if there's anything we could bring to donate to these people. Tony said their focus is house building and they're not

set up to take other donations. Kelly said that anyone who has questions should forward them to her and she will send them to Tony and Sophia for answers.