



PERSONAL VILLAGE



NEWSLETTER

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Invest in your friendship nest-egg

In a coffee shop recently I had one of those chance encounters with a retired professor. He talked about the challenge he faced keeping his life full and stimulating, now that his academic life had come to an end. As we talked it became apparent that, outside of his beloved wife of fifty years, he did not have any friends—none. He was very interested to learn about how much effort I put into creating and growing a diversified circle of friends and acquaintances.

As we talked I happened to mention that it had been a life long effort of mine to invest as much energy into creating a rich circle of friends as I did in my retirement, my health and profession. I said, “We carefully save for retirement and invest in our health. I also invest in my friendship nest-egg. So when I grow old and people close to me move on or pass away, I will always have a rich portfolio of friends who are still standing by.”

He was dumfounded. It had never occurred to him that if he were to lose his one dear companion, he would be completely alone. He left that day with a whole new outlook on building his Personal Village.

Just like we create a diversification of skills, have a selection of clothing to suit the proper occasion and create a strong diversified financial portfolio, we also are wise to diversify our investment in friends and family and community. It takes careful planning and persistence to accumulate a good financial nest-egg. And it takes the same planning and persistence to collect a treasure trove of friends. The good news is, it is never too late to start.

Take a few minutes to make a list of people who are your friends. Make five categories: 1. Life long friends, 2. People you can call in the middle of the night who will respond immediately, 3. People who support your passions and excitement, 4. People who might turn into great friends eventually. 5. And finally, make a wish list describing the kind of friends would like to have around you as you march through life.

Next month, we'll talk about ways and places to invest your efforts toward building your friendship nest egg.

Sidebar Note:

In **Personal Village** - *How To Have People In Your Life by Choice, Not Chance*.
Study very carefully:

Chapter 9 — Roots in Friendship

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