



PERSONAL VILLAGE



NEWSLETTER

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Create Your Alternative Family

The alternative family is a family you choose for yourself--through marriage, domestic partnership, a blend of relatives, friends, and neighbors, or any number of select relationships. These close bonds, however they are formed, can augment an already existing nuclear family or they can provide an alternative for those of us without one. However, unlike the family into which you were born, alternative family is one you can create to meet your needs.

Lila did that. She was a single working mom who found herself socially stranded. A Habitat for Humanity house became available so at least she had a place to live, but initially she did not know any her neighbors. Her social circle consisted of the people at work, a few other single moms at the day care, and her distant mother. Roaming in her neighborhood she found a retired couple, Karen and Bob, whose own children were raised and far away. Practicing the Principle of Seven, Lila succeeded in developing a beginning relationship with them. Gradually

Bob and Karen became alternative grandparents to her children and a great source of support to Lila.

Next, Lila very intentionally invited Sally, one of the other moms, for tea and dessert. Then came a birthday party with Lila's and Sally's kids and Karen and Bob. An alternative family was under way. Lila kept adding people whom she felt would support herself and her children, and whom she could care about as well. Karen and Bob now had some children in their lives, the children had grandparents, Lila had another friend, and the Thanksgiving table was full.

This is just one example of an alternative family. By carefully and purposefully bringing together trusted people who share your values and have your best interests at heart, you can create a net of relationships that nurture and support you and your loved ones at any phase in your life.

A preview from my forth coming book: *The Heart of Community* — *The Complete Guide to Personal Village*, to be published early 2008.

Personal Village Classes

Community Studies Class

This in-depth class is open to serious community building students. We meet in Seattle the second and third Thursday of every month with some additional all day Saturday sessions. Contact Marv if you are interested.

Marv is Available

Marv is available to create a community building class for any group. He can tailor it to meet your needs. Call him for more information

Personal Village Calendar

Online Personal Village Workshop

This seven session class will give you the hands on practical skills to build a supportive Personal Village for you. It will include e-mail interaction, homework, and actual practice with new people and a weekly Saturday morning conference phone session 8am to 9:30am PST Saturday, October 13, 2007 through December 1, 2007

Cost: \$375.00 including two books. (\$275 advance registration price break until September 15)

Register online: www.personalvillage.com

Communication for Couples Workshop

October 27, 2007, 9am to 6pm
Contact Marv at 206-364-9494
marv@marvthomas.com

For more information on any of these events go to personalvillage.com or contact Marv directly at 206-364-9494 or marv@marvthomas.com

Contemplation of the month:

Include new people in your family activities. Invite them to dinner and family celebrations. If they seem to fit, ask them back for more. Keep inviting them until they become a regular.

Visit us Online at personalvillage.com