

American **Inspiration**

Thoughts for today and every day . . .

“Imagination lit every lamp in this country, built every church, performed every act of kindness and progress, created more and better things for more people. It is the priceless ingredient for a better day.” Henry J. Taylor



“Love yourself first, and everything else falls into line. You really have to love yourself to get anything done in this world.”
Lucille Ball



“Challenges make you discover things about yourself that you never really knew. They’re what make the instrument stretch—what make you go behind the norm.” Cicely Tyson



“On this day, God wants you to know that He doesn’t give you what you want, God gives you according to who you are.
Change who you are and change your life.”

American Update

The summer has flown by so quickly and it is hard to believe that the first football game is behind us, and we are heading into the fall with so many exciting activities and events. I hope that your school year has had a great beginning and continues to be successful.

I want to remind everyone about our year of supporting breast cancer research by participating in various activities within your community. If your team has had a

successful event, either volunteering or fundraising for breast cancer research, send in a paragraph about your activity, along with photos. We are going to post these stories on our web site and award one team a \$500 Grant towards American Dance/Drill Team contest fees. We look forward to hearing your many wonderful stories!

Our contest pre-registration will be ready to go “live” sometime next week. We currently have our 2011 contest dates and information posted on our web site. We have ‘frozen’ the fees from 2010, so they will remain the same. We hope that this decision will help your team better achieve your financial goals for 2011. We can’t wait to see many of you in the coming months!

Inspiration of the Week

PARENT POSITION: Mom, Mommy, Mama, Ma, Dad, Daddy, Dada, Pa, Pop

JOB DESCRIPTION: Long term, team players needed, for challenging, permanent work in an often chaotic environment. Candidates must possess excellent communication and organizational skills and be willing to work variable hours, which will include evenings and weekends and frequent 24 hour shifts on call. Some overnight travel required, including trips to primitive camping sites on rainy weekends and endless sports tournaments in far away cities! Travel expenses not reimbursed. Extensive courier duties also required.

RESPONSIBILITIES: The rest of your life. Must be willing to be hated, at least temporarily, until someone needs \$5. Must be willing to bite tongue repeatedly. Also, must possess the physical stamina of a pack mule and be able to go from zero to 60 mph in three seconds flat in case, this time, the screams from the backyard are not someone just crying wolf. Must be willing to face stimulating technical challenges, such as small gadget repair, mysteriously sluggish toilets and stuck zippers. Must screen phone calls, maintain calendars and coordinate production of multiple homework projects. Must have ability to plan and organize social gatherings for clients of all ages and mental outlooks. Must be a willing to be indispensable one minute, and embarrassment the next. Must handle assembly and product safety testing of a half million cheap, plastic toys, and battery operated devices. Must always hope for the best but be prepared for the worst. Must assume final, complete accountability for the quality of the end product. Responsibilities also include floor maintenance and, janitorial work throughout the facility.

POSSIBILITY FOR ADVANCEMENT & PROMOTION: None. Your job is to remain in the same position for years, without complaining, constantly retraining and updating your skills, so that those in your charge can ultimately surpass you.

PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE: None required, unfortunately. On-the-job training offered on a continually exhausting basis.

WAGES AND COMPENSATION: Get this! You pay them! Offering frequent raises and bonuses. A balloon payment is due when they turn 18, because of the assumption that

college will help them become financially independent. When you die, you give them whatever is left. The oddest thing about this reverse-salary scheme is that you actually enjoy it and wish you could only do more.

BENEFITS: While no health or dental insurance, no pension, no tuition reimbursement, no paid holidays and no stock options are offered; this job supplies limitless opportunities for personal growth, unconditional love, and free hugs and kisses for life if you play your cards right.

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