

Some Thoughts for the Holiday

Today at our Discovering West Edmonton Coalition meeting a group member asked the courageous question, "What do we want to do about the Newtown shooting situation?" The question was one of those inquiries that invariably takes one through a spectrum of emotions ranging from outrage to sadness, from anger to pain, and ultimately from passion to paralysis. The tragedy seemed to be too big, too overwhelming and too confusing to think about let alone to contemplate about what one could do!

So we did what human beings have done for thousands of years, we shared. We shared our stories, our aspirations, our fears and we started to take back our courage. With courage came clarity and with clarity came hope. It doesn't mean that we came up with solutions to the complexities of a situation that is just too convoluted and tragic to solve. What hope provided us with, were these insights; where there is darkness, there can be light, and where there is chaos, there can be meaning. At the end of our conversation what we committed to was sharing our experience with other coalitions. We also thought that we could float the idea of one taking some mindful reflection time over the holiday to make room for meaning to flow in. We also wanted to plant the seed of how we in our own families and communities might transform this tragedy into something hopeful for our children. We have committed to sharing these ideas in a dedicated and intentional manner at our January coalition meeting and invite you to do so as well. We would also like to share with you our thoughts and ideas and to also hear yours. This is our way of holding a hope candle to brighten the darkness that surrounds the families of the Sandy Hook School victims.

We leave you with this passage from Margaret Wheatley

***"There is no power greater than a community discovering what it cares about
Ask "What's possible?" not "What's wrong?"
Keep asking.
Notice what you care about.
Assume that many others share your dreams.
Be brave enough to start a conversation that matters.
Talk to people you know.
Talk to people you don't know.
Talk to people you never talk to.
Be intrigued by the differences you hear.
Expect to be surprised.
Treasure curiosity more than certainty.
Invite in everyone who one cares to work on what's possible.
Acknowledge that everyone is an expert about something.
Know that creative solutions come from new connections.
Remember, you don't fear people whose story you know.
Real listening always brings people closer together.
Trust that meaningful conversations can change your world.
Rely on human goodness. Stay together."***