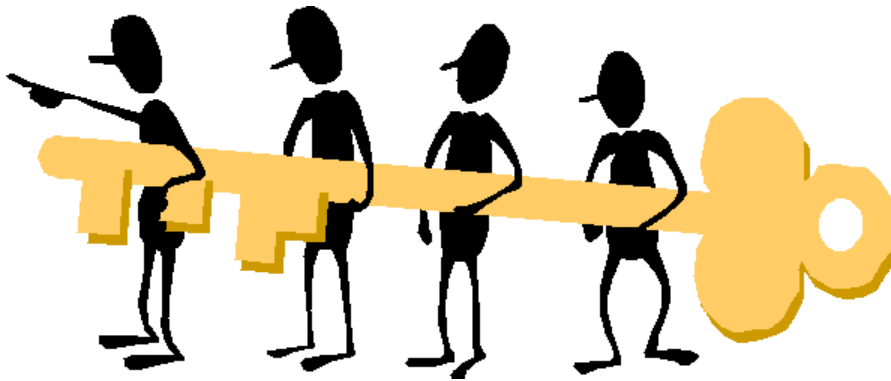


Being Truly Helpful



For years, we've asked Congress members to find the common ground that engenders social and economic justice for all and protection of our Earth.

The lack of concern, however, for these values has now set off alarms around the country and world. Undeniably, we're at a crossroads.

And what do so many of us do? We throw up our hands; we ridicule and criticize and blame. My experiences, however, as a wife, friend, volunteer, and as a veteran classroom teacher tell me that blaming does not yield the results we want.

It seems to me that too many of us have lost the impulse to be truly helpful. Yes, we're heartened by the selflessness of so many during these past weeks of flood and fire. But, do we need to wait for disasters before we choose to be truly helpful in all our circumstances?

As Democrats, I believe now is the time to show our helpfulness. We can and must:

- Stop ridiculing, blaming and using sarcasm.
- Stop even thinking there's another side! (We're all in one big lifeboat.)
- Unite as Democrats. Unify our message.
- Find common ground with others. Speak and listen compassionately.
- Step up! Look around. See what needs to be done.
- Volunteer. Lead. Help. Offer. Join in.
- State sincerely on signs/banners, in letters/editorials, on marches and microphones, Facebook and Twitter what is needed for the good of all.

America has always been about cooperation and compromise: Give-and-Receive. Yet, progress can seem so sluggish *because it takes time* "...to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defence, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity...."

Uniting to form a more perfect union is a day-to-day process. We can expedite that process by being truly helpful.

--- *Suji Fox*