A Revolutionary Moment of Truth

Holiday food. Holiday stories. Family memories shared. We've done a lot of that in the last month. Over the holidays, we often have an opportunity to share memories with loved ones. It's funny how even the most uncomfortable memories can bring a smile to your face, its reflection now woven with wisdom and acceptance. We learn a lot in moments of great discomfort. Happier memories - the history we like to hold on to - can make us feel good, but even in a joyful moment a hard nugget can crystallize into something deeper and life-giving. Happy or hard, we refer to such an instance as a moment of truth.

Here is one of mine - decades ago, I remember sitting one of my sons down to teach him about "the birds and the bees". I was nervous and decided to take a very academic approach. I incorporated charts, diagrams, and information from various sources on what to do and what NOT to do. I remember the look on his face as I finished my comprehensive presentation. For a few seconds, he sat motionless. Then his head cocked to the side slowly as he looked at the charts. All of a sudden, he narrowed his eyes, got up from his chair and said politely, "Mom, I'll come back when you are ready to tell me the truth," and walked out of the room. (You can't make this stuff up.)

I have never forgotten that moment. His innocent response made me a better parent, and taught me several valuable lessons about truth:

#1) The Truth we *know* may only be an implausible opinion to others.

#2) We grow into Truth; we *hear* it but we have to *feel* it to understand it.

#3) Truth is always waiting for us to find it; it is a constant that never changes. We change to receive it.

Our work at the table gives us room to grow, allowing us to hear and feel Truth. Uncovering our shared history can be an upheaval of painful memories and historical harm that must be acknowledged on both sides of the racial divide. It is only by building relationships that we can develop the trust required to take necessary action for changes that override our customary self-interest. The move from 'head and theory' to 'heart identification' is required in order for lasting change to happen. And that's the truth.

Writer George Orwell said, ". . . the truth is a revolutionary act." As we reflect on last year's event at the Capitol, it becomes clear that our truth as Americans is indeed contested by alternative narratives. Yet we *can* move to a higher collective truth - a true democracy - if we seek inclusion and understanding that only comes from working to repair the past and growing *together* to ensure the future. Our goal as an organization is to build community -- to model the TRUTH of a racially healed world. This may take a few charts and diagrams, but more importantly, the change begins and ends with us. Let's make 2022 revolutionary. This is our moment of truth.

Happy New Year!
Danita