

MAGGIE'S MUSINGS

Meaningful work results in a meaningful life

As I was creating what I call a Draft Transition Plan for my business, I watched a couple of TED talks which I had received from my dear friend and colleague Maggie Jackson from OrganizedLife.us (if you need organizational help of any kind, check her out, I can give you a testimonial).

Maggie led me to Brene Brown videos and I could encourage you to watch two of her talks: "On Vulnerability" and "Listening to Shame." These talks are both powerful, research-based messages and were particularly helpful to my consulting business and to me. Brown states that vulnerability is in the birthplace for all innovation, creation and change. This is a new way for me to think about the work I do consulting with companies and organizations. I have always known that it takes integrity and humility for leaders to face the tough solutions necessary to overcome life's obstacles. However, I have never thought of the fact that it comes from the power of vulnerability.

I believe I am vulnerable when I reach out to the readers in the *CBJ* through these musings, because you

reach out to me and tell me. As I continue to plan and contemplate "why am I in consulting," I went back through my business library looking for inspiration and, of course, *Good to Great* by Jim Collins came to the front once again.

We all spend a considerable amount of time in our working environments and depending on our work culture, whether it be positive or negative, it affects our home life. I dream of a world where people work together and appreciate each other's differences and talents, while doing good for each other and the economy.

In *Good to Great*, Mr. Collins states:

"When all the pieces come together, not only does your work move towards greatness but so does your life. For, in the end, it is impossible to have a great life unless it is a meaningful life. And it is very difficult to have a meaningful life without meaningful work."

Meaningful work for me is assisting businesses and organizations in putting the pieces together to build more meaningful work for its employees. This in turn helps me, as well as my

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clients, to have a more meaningful life.

I have been blessed with the opportunity to see meaningfulness happen with many clients over the past few years as I have lived Collins' book conclusion:

"...you might gain that rare tranquility that comes from knowing that you've had a hand creating something of intrinsic excellence that makes a contribution...and... gain that deepest of all satisfaction knowing that your short time here on this earth has been well spent, and that it mattered."

So if our entire time working is all a transition plan, make it the best one you know how. And if you can't figure it out, go ahead and be vulnerable enough to find someone who can help you. There's no shame in asking. ●