

# Character Community



## E-News



*A Town of Richmond Hill initiative.*

*A Town of Richmond Hill Character Community monthly e-letter*

### February is Initiative

*I will recognize what needs to be done and do it, without prompting from others.*

February 2008

## Nominate Someone For A Character Award!

*Character Awards Celebration 2008 - Celebrate living with character!*

Do you know a group or a person who has demonstrated positive character attributes in their home, school, work or community? Why not nominate them for one of the Character Community Awards?

The Character Community Awards celebrate and recognize individuals of all ages and organizations across York Region who demonstrate positive character attributes from schools to businesses to your neighbour.

Nomination packages and information can be found on the Character Community Foundation of York Region website at [www.charactercommunity.com](http://www.charactercommunity.com).

Completed nomination packages must be received on or before February 15, 2008. All nominees will be recognized at an award ceremony to be held on April 3, 2008 at 7 p.m. in the Markham Theatre for the Performing Arts.



### The Little Red Hen

*A story of showing initiative and reaping the rewards*

There once was a little red hen who lived on a farm. The hen's friends were a little black dog, a big orange cat, and a little yellow goose. One day, the red hen found some grains of wheat. "I can make bread from this," thought the red hen.

The little red hen asked, "Who will help me plant the wheat?"

"Not I," said the little black dog.

"Not I," said the big orange cat.

"Not I," said the little yellow goose.

"Then I will do it myself," said the little red hen. And she planted the wheat without any help at all.

The little red hen asked, "Who will help me cut the wheat?"

"Not I," said the little black dog.

"Not I," said the big orange cat.

"Not I," said the little yellow goose.

"Then I will do it myself," said the little red hen. And she cut the wheat without any help at all.

The tired little red hen asked, "Who will help me take the wheat to the mill and grind it into flour?"

"Not I," said the little black dog.

"Not I," said the big orange cat.

"Not I," said the little yellow goose.

"Then I will do it myself," said the tired little red hen. So she took the wheat to the mill and ground it into flour without any help at all.

The very, very tired little red hen asked, "Who will help me bake the bread?"

"Not I," said the little black dog.

"Not I," said the big orange cat.

"Not I," said the little yellow goose.

"Then I will do it myself," said the very, very tired little red hen. And she baked the bread without any help at all.

The hot, fresh bread smelled very good. The little red hen asked, "Now, who will help me eat this bread?"

"I will!" said the little black dog.

"I will!" said the big orange cat.

"I will!" said the little yellow goose.

"No, you won't! I will do it myself!" yelled the little red hen. And she ate the bread without any help at all.

*Source: <http://pbskids.org>*

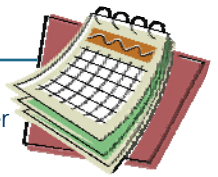
- The Amici Centre
- Arts Richmond Hill Inc.
- Between Friends
- Community Living York South
- The Curtain Club
- Girl Guides of Canada York South Division
- Helpmate Community Information
- Hill House Hospice
- Ja'fari Islamic Housing
- Learning Disabilities Association of York Region
- Lions Club of Richmond Hill
- Music For Young Children
- Music to Care for Your Life
- My Canada! Integration - Settlement Services
- Optimist Club of Richmond Hill
- Richmond Hill Aquatic Club
- Richmond Hill Canoe Club
- Richmond Hill Chamber of Commerce
- Richmond Hill Community Food Bank
- Richmond Hill Community Sports Council
- Richmond Hill Lawn Tennis Club
- Richmond Hill Rams Hockey Club
- Richmond Hill Community Soccer Association
- Richmond Hill Social & Bocce Club
- Richmond Hill Training Centre
- Richmond Hill Winter Carnival
- Royal Canadian Legion Branch #375
- Spiritual Assembly of the Bahai's of Richmond Hill
- St. Matthew's United Church Health Cabinet
- Stroke Recovery Network
- Volunteer Association of York Central Hospital
- Wilderness Lifeskills of Youth Inc.

## Character Shirts are now available in Youth Sizes!

Have you seen the Character Community t-shirts around town and would like one for yourself? Well, you can now buy them not only in adult sizes (S-XL at \$15 each), but youth sizes (XS-XL at \$12 each) as well! Please contact Risa Healey to order your t-shirt at (905) 771-5489 or [rhealey@richmondhill.ca](mailto:rhealey@richmondhill.ca)



## Upcoming Events:



- 2nd Annual Regional Character Awards - April 3
- Chamber of Commerce Character Business Breakfast - April 9
- Character Networking Night - May 1



### Taking Initiative: The Options are Endless

A recent poll of executives asked, "What do you feel is the single best way for employees to earn a promotion and/or raise?" Topping the list for 82% of the respondents was "Ask for more work and responsibility."

Employees who take initiative greatly enhance their chances for recognition, learning, advancement, pay raises, and bonuses - and have a more meaningful and exciting time at work. Here are some ways in which an employee can take greater initiative in his or her job:

- Thinking outside the box. To think outside the box, look for new combinations, ask "what if" or develop "what if" scenarios, consider approaches you've never considered before, brainstorm with others, and be a champion of new ideas.

- Doing your homework. Preparation is often the key to success in any endeavor. You will be more successful in convincing others that what you believe is the right thing if you are armed and ready with the facts.
- Taking action - capitalizing on opportunities. Progressive companies realize that they need employees at all levels who are willing and encouraged to take chances and to make decisions - and be willing to take responsibility for their actions.
- Making improvements. One of the easiest and most effective ways to take initiative is to be on the lookout for ways to improve the work processes, products, services, and systems that are a vital part of how the organization does its business.
- Persevering. Employees who excel at taking initiative usually must also persist in the ideas and actions in which they believe. To persist - even over the objections of your manager or others - takes even more commitment and courage.

*Source:*

<http://www.inc.com/articles/1999/09/16417.html>



## Initiative Quotes

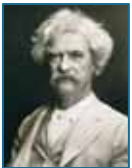


"A good plan implemented today is better than a perfect plan implemented tomorrow."

~George Patton

"If your ship doesn't come in, swim out to meet it."

~Jonathan Winters



"The secret to getting ahead is getting started. The secret of getting started is breaking your complex, overwhelming tasks into small manageable tasks, and then starting on the first one."

~Mark Twain



"Without initiative, leaders are simply workers in leadership positions."

~Bo Bennett



Council presented \$10,000 to representatives of the newly-restored St. Mary's Anglican Church (built in 1972) who showed initiative in completing an exterior façade restoration project as part of the Town's Village Core Facade Assistance Grant Program.

*Character Community E-News is a monthly e-mail newsletter to share information about upcoming events within our organization and beyond. If you would like to contribute upcoming Character Community event information, story ideas or photos, please forward it to the Editor, Michelle Lipkus, at [mlipkus@richmondhill.ca](mailto:mlipkus@richmondhill.ca).*

**Next Month's Attribute:**  
March is Perseverance