

Leadership Link

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You can dream, create, design and build the most wonderful place in the world...but it requires people to make the dream a reality.

-- Walt Disney

Walt Disney was a genius in creativity and a genuine visionary. He was a film producer, director, screenwriter, voice actor, animator, entrepreneur, entertainer, and philanthropist. I guess you can say "he has done it all" and the list could go on. However, he realized early in young adulthood that he and his brother could create an unbelievable amusement park but that alone does not make it a reality. It takes people. It takes people drawn to the park to make it a reality. He had to lead people – to build his dream, to staff the park and to bring in visitors.

In April, at the Family Voices Conference, we talked about the need for leaders to step forth and make a difference - make a difference in their families, their communities, their cities, states and nationwide. We talked about the characteristics and strategies of leaders. We ended the session that morning by asking each attendee to "go out and make a difference with their leadership." Believe it or not, there is a lot of similarity between the Disney Parks and you. You and I can visualize, develop and create the perfect formula and plans for our leadership journey. We can plan how we will learn more, how we will walk the talk, and how we will move mountains. The fact is that all those plans are for naught unless it involves people. You have to lead people -- to create a plan, to make contacts within the community, to talk to people in government and to follow you on the journey to your vision. People must be involved, following your example and producing results for "leadership" to become a reality.

Disney followed his passion. Your family member or friend with a disability is your passion. Disney wanted to make a difference. You want to make a difference. Disney left a leadership legend. What will you leave?

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