



Standing Strong Together™

COMMUNITY BUILDING LEADERSHIP TRAINING CERTIFICATION

Session 7 - Message to the World

February 17, 2021

Graduation Day



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Being The Voice of Change

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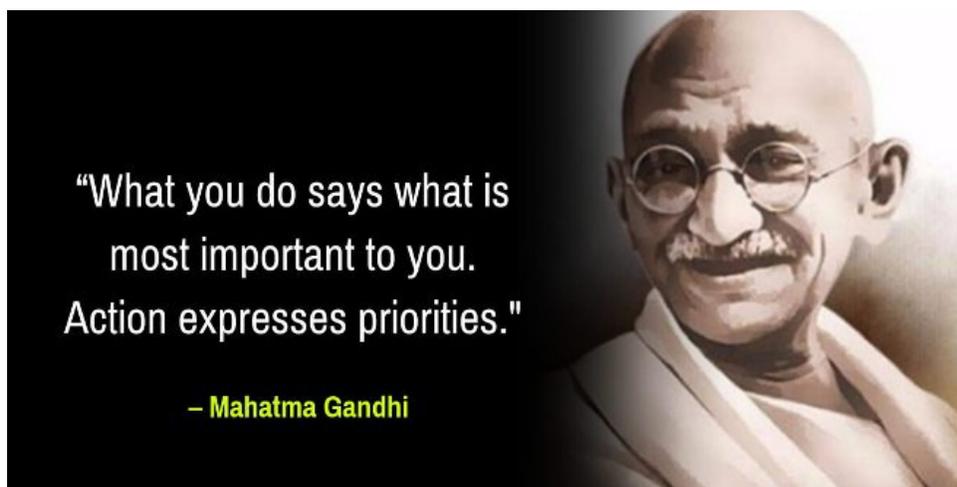
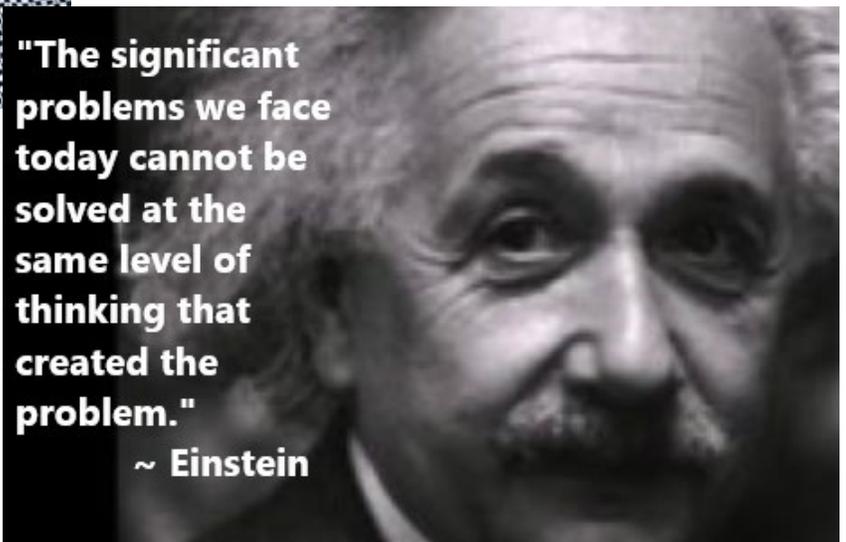
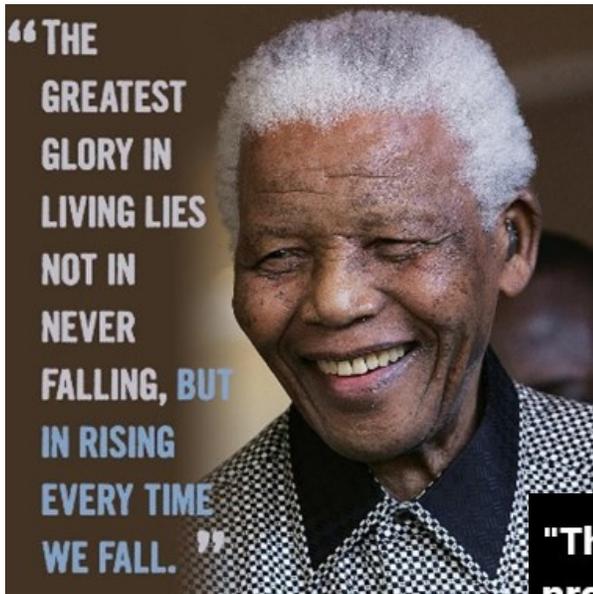
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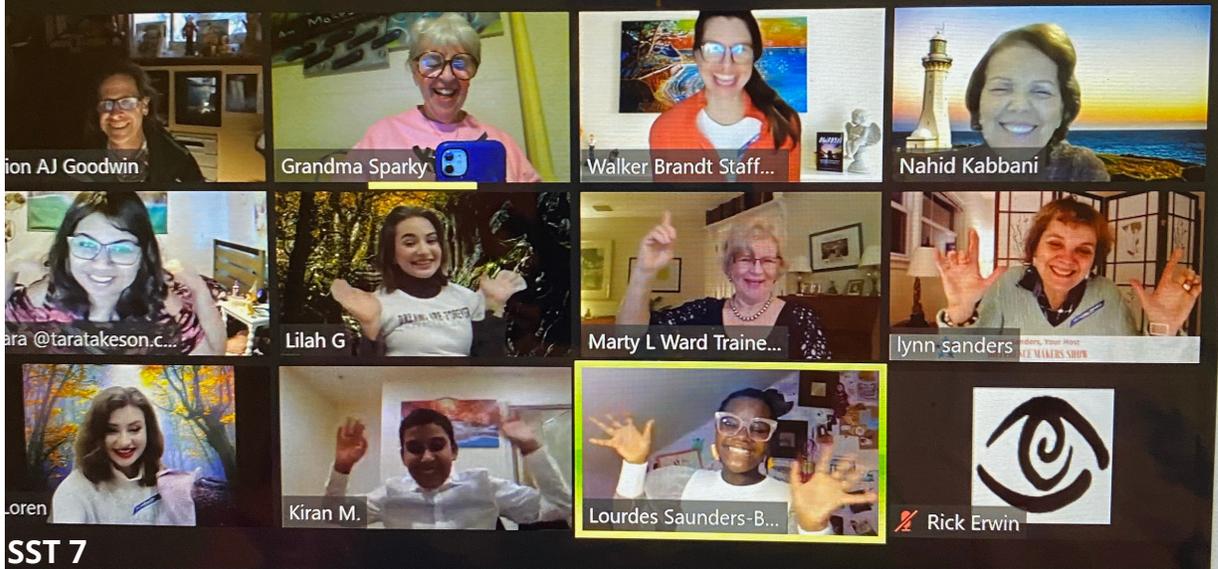
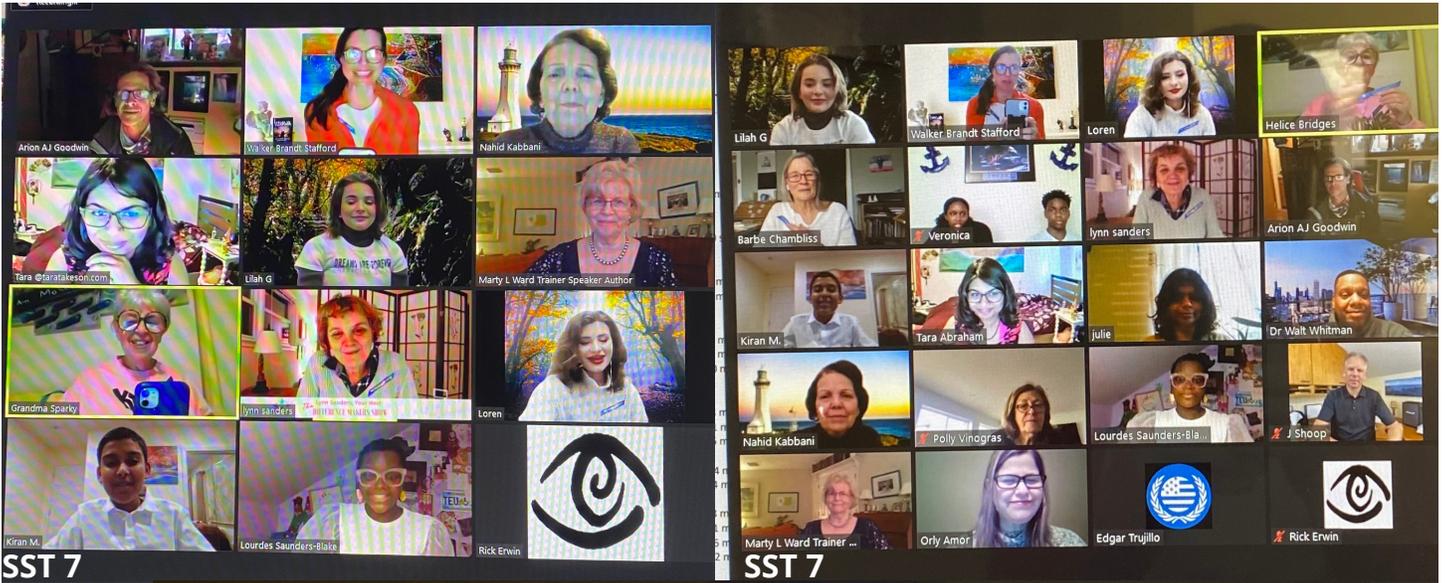
The Message of a Leader

Empower the Dream



Celebrating You, BING!

Standing Strong Together™



Graduation Speech Excerpts

Marty Ward – Confidence Builds Success Academy, Inc. Melbourne, FL
The two most important days in your life are the day you were born and the day you find out why. ~ Mark Twain

“Out of the shame and humiliation I discovered why I was born. To express our soul’s signature. Our Talents, Abilities, and Gifts, TAG as I call them. My dream of having our TAG’s for change philosophy taught in schools across the United States and working with the UN on their sustainability goals of quality education and gender equity now seems possible.

When I honored people with the Blue Ribbon Ceremony I had the opportunity to witness firsthand the transformation of each individual as they realized their value. Standing Strong together with the youth gave me a fresh perspective in how they view the world and their passion to make a difference.

As a result of participating in Standing Strong Together program and witnessing Sparky’s success, I am now thinking bigger.
BING! I believe my dreams will come true!”

Lourdes Sanders-Blake 14 years old, JW Dodd Middle School, New York

“It has been an amazing journey. Everyone here has great inspiration and great things they are striving for. Blue Ribbon has really made a difference, it has opened my mind to bringing unity to the world. How that we can indeed make a difference, even the smallest act of telling someone that they make a difference can change the world.”

Kiran Manansingh 13 years old, JW Dodd Middle School, New York

Progress is impossible without change. Those that cannot change their minds cannot change anything. ~ George Bernard Shaw

“I thought that was me when I first came to Standing Strong Together because I was such a shy and shallow minded kid who never wanted to open up to anything new but over time and being with all of you as shaped me into who I am today. I feel much more confident about speaking in public.

I’d like to honor all of you guys for being such great people and making me who I am. If it comes from the heart than it is as good as you can give. My dream was really to become an engineer, that was one, but also I wanted to take away all the struggles that other people had to face...and I just wanted to change the world and thought the Blue Ribbon program could really do that.”

Cont...

Tara Abraham – University of California at Davis, United Nations Assoc., Sacramento Chapter

You are a light at the end of a tunnel transforming anger apathy and violence into love, unity, and peace among all people for this generation and all generations to come. Who you are makes a difference. ~ Grandma Sparky

“Honoring others comes from vulnerability and that can be scary because we don’t know how other people will react but lucky for us Grandma Sparky laid out 7 powerful steps to honor one another because as she said, “when you honor someone with a blue Ribbon it gives you permission to both give and receive acknowledgement.

In was an honor learning from and growing with this group pf intergenerational leaders around the country reaffirming my belief that whether you are younger or older you are worthy you matter and you have something beautiful to give to this world.

Being in this training for the past six weeks was empowering so much so that I created a Blue Ribbon committee for the UNA Sacramento chapter with a goal to make sure that everyone in my community understand that who they are makes a difference. It starts with a Blue Ribbon, like Grandma Sparky says, “The Blue Ribbon is a tangible visual symbol of love, peace, and unity.”

Lynn Sanders - Difference Makers Media, Wilmette, IL

What you do makes a difference and you have to decide what kind of difference you want to make. ~ Jane Goodall

“That message speaks to my heart. It’s who I am in my soul. I am a Difference maker catalyst, as Orly suggested...I am shining a light on visionary leaders by helping them create tell and share their stories to make a bigger difference in the world. Ultimately we all choose what difference we want to make.

I’m focused on bringing out inspiring, empowering, and uplifting stories to transform lives. It has been so fulfilling to get uplifted every week from so many amazing people. Learning with this intergenerational team has been especially fun and joyful. Where else can you get training with leaders of all generations working together to make the world a better place? During this I discovered that my networking is gift, that I am a connector!

What I have discovered with the Blue Ribbon is that by honoring others, either virtually or in person I myself feel the love and acknowledgement coming back to me.

Cont...

This program has reinforced my confidence and made me realize that I really am a difference maker. My dreams are creating an empowering series of children's books about visionary leaders making a difference. And some of them are here right now. I'd also like to impact 1 million people worldwide by incorporating the Blue Ribbon into my programs. As part of the Standing Strong Together team I've seen how each of us can help each other achieve greatness."

Kai Simon 14 years old, Oak valley Middle School, San Diego CA

Make your life a masterpiece, imagine no limitations on what you can, be, have, or do. ~ Brian Tracy

"When I first joined Standing Strong together I was nervous but realized I joined a huge family. I have dreams for the future to become a professional NFL player, attend LSU and play college football, get married and have two adorable children, a nice home and a pool.

Being a part of Standing Strong Together helped me learn the smallest thing like a ribbon can change a person's life, or even save it. Strengthening my leadership abilities will make my dream come true because on the field the team needs the motivation and drive, and I have that.

Having both teens and adults in the group was super beneficial because I have had the opportunity to engage with teens and adults alike which gave us the space to be seen, heard, and work on the development of our own voice. Who I am makes a difference."

Orly Amor – Co-founder Global Mentoring Coaching, Brooklyn NY

"I've learned new vocabulary through this experience, *intergenerational* was not in my vocabulary.

Brad got me over my fear, would you imagine that me having a fear of presenting somebody with a Blue Ribbon? I love giving gifts, it was just something I needed to get over. Now I'm presenting people with Blue Ribbons, virtual Blue Ribbons...it's a blessing and a pleasure and an honor.

Standing Strong Together is all about collaboration, giving, sharing, moving. Be a mover and a shaker I did not know my capacity of moving and shaking as much as I did during this experience. As a speaker and author who has moved 200,000 people around the world, helping people all over the world, this has been one of the most rewarding experiences.

Cont...

One of the things I wanted to share today, and my message, is to not leave a power behind, we don't know our power its really the message. I teach in my networking class the power of three, but then there is also the power of one. Each one of us knows 300 people and each one of those 300 knows 300. 300×300 is 90,000, and $90,000 \times 300$ is 27 million. Each one of us can impact 27 million people. All we have to impact is one person. The impact we old each one of us is not to be taken for granted. We just have to believe we can impact that many people. It's really just one step away."

Loren Roberts 17 years old – Co-founder of Dreams Are Forever Events, Coeur d' Alene, ID

Happiness can be found even in the darkest of times if one only remembers to turn on the light. ~ Harry Potter

"When I first came to Standing Strong Together I was someone who had a very low sense of self-esteem and I didn't feel like I made much of a difference in the world. I was struggling to be happy. Overcoming negative thoughts and self-doubt was a big obstacle. I knew I wouldn't be able to reach my goals unless I changed the way I thought about things. I knew I had to become a happier more positive person despite what I was going through.

Since taking part in Standing Strong Together I've learned to embrace things I used to hate about myself as positive qualities and discovered a new sense of self confidence. I've been able to form stronger bonds with my family and friends. A dream of mine is to brings smiles and joy to children and their families through the songs and stories of their favorite characters. I support the dreams of my friends and family by helping them with whatever they need to make their dreams come true. The new goals I have for my life include publishing my books series I have been working on since the age of 11.

What I have learned in Standing Strong Together has changed me from someone who was clouded in self-doubt and guilt to someone who is now learning to accept myself and see that who I am makes a difference. I want to give back to other using the skills I've discovered I already have and what I have learned in Standing Strong Together. I'm excited to keep honoring people with these special Blue Ribbons and I can't wait to see how it impacts and changes the lives of others around me."

Cont...

Kira Simon 15 years old, Del Norte High School, San Diego, CA

When you want to succeed as bad as you want to breath then you'll be successful.

~ unknown

"The dream I have for myself was to be a model, more specifically the high end of the industry doing things like fashion shows, couture campaigns, and editorials with Channel, Louis Vuitton, Versace. My dream has remained the same and will always be the same even after it has become a reality. I want my success to spark others success.

My main goal is to be scouted at 16 and get into the industry where soon I'll be respected and noticed for my potential for what's to come.

Being in a situation where teens and adults are in the same setting has given me the opportunity to gain wisdom and different perspectives. The simple message that the Blue Ribbons communicates has reinforced my quote to myself which is *I am a legend, I am an icon, and I am the moment.*

The value of leadership becomes a factor of my success when my motive is to inspire others to run towards their dreams and live a life they deserve."

Walker Brandt – Actor, Model, Author, Los Angeles, CA

"I am a Being of Light engaging life in the universe of infinite possibilities!

Standing Strong Together represents being willing to see your light, showing it in the presence of others, owning what it is, and *together* reflect these combined lights we all are out into the world. A beacon for choosing to let love, respect, and personal dignity be the lens through which we see others.

Because I said so. I'm the parent. You don't deserve an answer. Your too young. Be quiet. These scarcity phrases don't have any value in the environment of Standing Strong Together™ Community Building Leadership Training.

The safe space of this training is for nurturing the soul and filling places inside with the light we share. It is an ever-growing place to share ideas, fine tune them, discover our dreams, and support one another in making dreams come true."

**"Acknowledgment is pointing to what's working.
Teach Love, it's the knowledge of the moment."**

-Grandma Sparky

Grandma Sparky's Message to the World

Uniting Humanity Through the Power of Love

WHY STANDING STRONG TOGETHER™ Community Building Leadership Training?

In the late 1980's and 90's I started to do Anti Bullying School Assemblies in middle and high schools. In middle schools, I did 3 separate assemblies (6, 7, & 8 grade) with about 600 hundred students in each. High school assemblies were in the large gym holding up to 2,500 students.

I opened each assembly by simply looking at the students and saying, "One out of every 3 of you has been abused and I know it. So, if it isn't you, it's someone on either side of you. Who you are makes a difference. Each of you deserves to be appreciated, respected, and loved. In a moment, this will be your assembly. If you've ever bullied or hurt someone, I want you to step up to the stage, state your name, say what you did, and apologize to that person. If they are in the assembly, I will ask the person you apologized to step up on stage. You can shake hands, give a high-five, or hug. Do whatever is natural. If you have ever been bullied or harmed by anyone, I'm going to ask you to step up to the microphone and tell everyone what happened and how it felt. If anyone in the audience wants to come up to the stage and give this person a hug, I invite you to do this."

And the students stepped up, one after another, for an hour or more, they apologized, shared their pain, and made a difference. It was deeply emotional. Hundreds of students lined up, one-by-one they stood up to the microphone and said things like, *I tell everyone that my brother is a real jerk, but the truth is, I'm just jealous of him and he's really a great guy. So, I'm sorry.* And the boy who said this brother raced to the stage and they hugged and cried.

Following a 7th grade assembly, a boy raced up to me and asked, "How do you get them to open up like that, you're not a rock star?" I replied, "Peter, ask your parents to write you a note to get out of school this Thursday morning. I want you to be my guest at a breakfast in LaJolla, CA. You will meet more people who make the impossible possible"

A few days later, Peter showed up to meet me at the hotel. About 200 people were in attendance. We sat in tables of 8. Before the guest speaker spoke, we were each asked to participate in a table exercise. This morning we were asked to take 30 seconds each and share what we were up to or a dream we had.

Cont...

When it was Peter's turn, he said he had a dream to record his guitar music. Seated next to him was singer/songwriter Karl Anthony. Karl had just returned from the Soviet Union where he had performed a concert in front of 10,000 people. Without hesitation, Karl handed Peter his card and said, "Come to my studio and I'll record your song for you."

When our breakfast meeting was over, I walked Peter out to the parking lot. He was so pumped! That morning he met many of the great people in the room. Our speaker was the head of the NASA Space Agency who showed us a blueprint of how they were going to land on Mars.

I stayed in the background and watched Peter as he approached his mom, grinning from ear to ear as he showed her Karl's business card. I imagined he was telling her that Karl had offered to record his song. I watched in horror as his mother ripped the card in half and threw it to the ground, then wagged her finger in front of his face as if to say, *nobody gives you something for nothing.*

Peter's shoulders dropped, all the light in his face had disappeared. In a single moment, his dream had died. She didn't know that people like Karl and me would support and give to a young person like Peter...no charge...we just wanted to see him succeed.

What happened in that moment led me to make a big decision. Doing one assembly at a time wasn't going to make the difference without parents knowing how to empower and support their kids. I had to create a change in the entire community of San Diego. This was the beginning of Standing Strong Together™.

That was 35 years ago, now my vision has extended to giving youth a voice to transform their nation and the world...one child...one community...one country at a time. Today our Who I Am Makes A Difference® Message has impacted over 50 million people worldwide averting adolescent suicide, eradicating bullying, stopping crime and violence.

It is my dream that 1 billion people to be honored with the Blue Ribbons Worldwide Blue Ribbon in 2021. Setting the groundwork for training for 259,000 student leaders in Standing Strong Together™ Community Building Leadership Training the next 10 years. Those 259,000 students represents 25% of our nation. These students will train 5 million peers, teachers, parents, and neighbors the Blue Ribbon 5 Star Foundation, creating positive social change, making their dreams come true too. The Blue Ribbons Worldwide goal is to raise \$100,000,000 in these next 10 years to make this dream come true!

WHO YOU ARE MAKES A DIFFERENCE!

Love Grandma Sparky

BING!

