

The *EDITOR'S* desk

Responsibility...

By Lorraine Leslie

When I look at the word responsibility I think of: taking charge of ones own actions.

When I asked a friend what she thought “responsibility” was her reply was, “Acting on a commitment...be it verbal, written, a thought or the completion of what you’ve undertaken to do ...with no promise of anything else.”

I’m noticing that society is taking less and less “responsibility”. Is it a generation thing or is it something our children have forgotten? Or, are parents are too busy with their own lives to take the time to teach their children responsibility? Are the values of parenting in our technology-driven society becoming too relaxed? Is it easier to let the *other* person do it? Without responsible people how do charitable organizations survive? How do businesses flourish? How do families remain harmonious and in tact?

Ask yourself: Are you responsible? **What** makes you responsible? **When** is your responsibility over? **Where** are you responsible? **Why** should you be responsible? **How** are you responsible?

RESPONSIBILITY has numerous definitions:

...the state of being responsible, accountable, or answerable, as for a trust, debt, or obligation...

I feel that in our busy lives it is important to take charge of ones actions. When driving a car you are responsible for staying in your own lane. When riding a bike you are responsible for wearing a helmet. Teaching children to be responsible is one of society’s greatest challenges in today’s environment. Is it up to the teacher? No. Is it up to the parent? No. It’s up to everyone who comes in contact with children to work together as a team. Our next generation will be responsible for taking care of us. Now’s the time to be responsible for them.

...a particular burden of obligation upon one who is responsible...

As the demographics are changing and the boomers are increasing in numbers daily, you may find yourself in a situation of taking care of an elder person. Don’t look upon this as a burden or an obligation ...but a wonderful life experience. Without them you wouldn’t be here. Remember that you are going to be in that same place some day. Our elders paved the way for us. We wouldn’t have all the marvelous freedom of living in this great country if it weren’t for our elders. Think about the developments in technology they provided for us. They took the burden upon themselves to make our country one of the safest places to live. They felt it was their obligation... their responsibility... to serve humankind.

...reliability or dependability, esp. in meeting debts or payments...

Isn't this what Visa is for? Only kidding. How happy are you when you open up that envelope to see you are almost at your limit again? Being responsible for keeping your bills in order can be less stressful when you pay them off on time.

...on one's own initiative or authority...

Well this about sums it up.

By giving yourself the authority to choose your tasks and taking the initiative to complete that task is what life is all about. Remember that old saying, "You only live once and this is not a dress rehearsal." Keeping on top of everything on a daily basis makes life so much easier. Don't procrastinate and leave it for another day. Get it done and then you can enjoy life so much more.

When it really comes down to answering the question "What is responsibility?" I think our number one responsibility is to respect yourself. Number two is to respect those around you. If you take the time to remind yourself of these two responsibilities, daily, then everything else will fall into place.

The feature women about whom I write, have traveled a long, winding road to success – each woman on her own journey; a journey that sometimes hasn't been smooth. These women open their hearts to inspire and motivate other women. of all ages. to follow their dreams and passions.