

Discovering Your Impact and Legacy

How You Make a Difference In Someone's Life Can Surprise You

Embarrassing. I was 10 years old when a girl I liked pointed it out to me. I was turning my S around when writing. That wasn't the only letter I got confused about. My b became d or visa versa. I wasn't sure about q and g.

It wasn't just how I was writing them but how **I was reading them.**

I would take longer reading than other kids. I couldn't finish my tests. I told one teacher I didn't have enough time. He told me, "You just didn't study." It got to where I felt hopeless. What now?

I tried other avenues. Metal shop was a failure. Sports wasn't any better – skinny, light as a feather, and slow as my reading.

The Diagnosis That Saved Me

I fell into a depression. I thought I would be living with my mother for the rest of my life. Until, she took me to a psychologist. He had me do tests and talked with me. My eyes and my brain were turning certain letters around.

I had *dyslexia*.

My mother refused to let them put me in Special Ed. Instead, I adjusted how I operated with my condition. I went from being a C and D student to an A and B student, finishing with straight A's.

I got my High School Diploma and later was on the Dean's list in college.

My Impact

Years later, my mother asked me to talk to her friend's grandson. He was having the same problems in grade school. He felt no one understood him.

I sat down with him at a Subway restaurant. He listened to my story as we had sandwiches, chips and a drink. I didn't know if what I was saying was helping him any. His look was more of amazement than discovery.

What I didn't realize at that time? **My impact would be a legacy.** His life like mine would be changed forever. Shortly after, he went from being a D and F student to a straight A student.

I was amazed that a short conversation could change someone's life that fast.

My Legacy

You help people to adapt or do better – you change their life. Forever. That's a legacy. One you may not realize you had. One that you'll hear about in passing. One that you'll see and say, "Did I really make that much of a difference."

Look at other's around you:

- My Grandfather as a business owner helped his community in many ways
- **My Mother as a Juvenile Police Detective rescued kids**
- I – after remembering this story – realized I had a legacy

Do you have a legacy?

Measuring Success

Your personal and business success is usually measured by profit. The bottom line is focused on more than the difference you make – even to one person. The relationship with your customer or business associate seems trivial...

But you don't realize how much impact you have.

Remember the Christmas movie "It's a Wonderful Life" and what it meant? You and your business would be missed if both never came into being. **You have an impact.**

The Las Vegas Health & Fitness Chamber of Commerce was created to make an impact. People in our community are affected whether you see it or not. Better health and fitness for even one person is a victory.

Would you like to make more of a difference?

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It's time we made an even bigger impact and an even greater legacy.