

TEN WAYS YOU CAN MAKE THE DREAM LIVE

1. Give up life as usual -- escapist television and games, time consuming, expensive travel and recreation, and devote the time to passionate advocacy for individualized empowerment.
2. Give up politically and socially correct conversation and become a single minded, repetitious communicator of the message of individualized empowerment -- so that when people see you across the street, your message will register in their minds even though you say nothing.
3. Speak to people with words of love, giving them sincere, loving praise for the distinctive positives that everybody has. They will be glad to see you coming and be far more likely to internalize your message of empowerment.
4. Recruit your family members and friends first. People from age one to a hundred can be good advocates. Severely disabled people living in nursing homes can be good advocates. Small babies and dogs can carry good buttons and signs with great effect.
5. The vital election campaigns of 2002 and 2004 are fully underway. Become a politician, promoting your agenda everyday through every political process. Volunteer and contribute money to the campaigns of good politicians. You will have ten times more influence than if you simply ask them for favors. Get into politics as if your life depended on it -- because it does -- and the lives of your children's children.
6. Become a media person -- write letters to the editors, participate in radio and TV talk shows, become friends with media employees and business and political staff. Become a media professional.
7. Use the electronic technology to send out brief talking points on the issues -- make sure they are 100% accurate. Most political advocacy is obvious hyperbole. It goes directly into the wastebasket.
8. Be an aggressive participant in your local and national advocacy organizations -- from AAPD, LCCR, CCD, NCIL, ADAPT, DREDF, People First, psychiatric survivors and People for the American Way to your local independent living center, disability and civil rights coalitions. If you support them, they will support your advocacy for individualized empowerment.
9. If there is no cross disability action group in your area, form one. Thirteen penniless people started the Christian revolution, and the same number started the modern Chinese revolution.
10. When necessary, send your messages of love and truth with militant action. You will be surprised how a small demonstration at a political, media or business office can change attitudes.