

## **ALMOST IS NOT ENOUGH**

By Dr. Edward Lin

January 5, 2007

Dear friends,

Once upon a time, near the outskirts of a village, the people discovered a special tree that had sprung up on the slope of a hill. It was identified as a tree that needs regular care, irrigation and fertilization, but bears nutritious fruits and its leaves and bark have good medicinal value. Everyone was glad and soon started to enjoy its many benefits. Everyone also thought others must be tending to this tree because, surely in a whole village, there must be enough people willing to fetching water and applying fertilizer on a regular basis!

Unfortunately only a few people actually did. Some got weary and overworked and could not continue. Few villagers noticed. After a period of time, the tree died.

Does this analogy have a familiar ring? Many times in my life (more than I can be proud to admit) I have heard of or come across good causes worthy of my support (whether it is 80-20 Initiative, Habitat for Humanity, Doctors Without Borders, SaveDarfur or NPR) and I ALMOST took action.

ALMOST.

And nothing happened until I actually did something about it. . I had hoped to get this column out well before the New Year arrived, and each time, I ALMOST succeeded as I wrestled with juggling my many existing commitments and how best to convey a special message to each one of you, my friends. As days went by, New Year arrived and came.

If our annual CNY & MAF events ALMOST got organized, and ALMOST took place,  
If our bimonthly newsletter ALMOST got published,  
If our small team of dedicated volunteers and board members ALMOST did what their hearts tell them to do...  
Would it ALMOST satisfy us and meet our needs?

Our community cannot reach its potential—nor remain as good as it is—if apathy is allowed to fester. .

Just do nothing and apathy spreads everywhere like a contagious disease.  
Just do nothing and what you take for granted may no longer be there tomorrow.

This New Year, I hope you include in your resolutions to be proactively involved.  
Watch this heartwarming video on the Youngest Grocer in America:  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XF8nRC6-YAU&mode=user&search=>

### **How we all can make a difference.**

One thought can spark a movement,  
One tree can start a forest,  
One bird can herald spring,  
One smile begins a friendship,  
One handclasp lifts a soul.  
One star can guide a ship at sea,  
One vote can change a nation,

One candle can wipe out darkness,  
One step must start each journey,  
One person can make the difference,  
And that person is YOU!

The question each of us must answer, deep in our conscience, is not whether we can afford to be involved, but rather whether we can afford **NOT** to.

We all want a better world for ourselves and future generations. If we want them to grow up courageous and take on the challenges as fiduciary keepers of planet Earth , then WE must teach and lead by example! Let's walk that talk, put our dreams into action, AND DO WHAT IT TAKES TO MAKE IT COME TRUE.

My friends, when you see your fellow GCAA volunteers, committee chairs, and Board of Directors, help their spirits soar by asking, "What can *I* do to be of help?" We'll all grow together, as individuals and as a vibrant community. Thank you!

*Ed*

Dr. Edward Lin  
President, GCAA  
Encourage Inspire Empower

*"You must be the change you wish to see in the world" Mahatma Gandhi*