

The Gifts of Collaboration

There have been many articles, books, training sessions and checklists to promote the process of collaboration but there are those who have a bitter taste for the process; they believe that collaboration is a waste of time and that nothing ever changes. Why is this? Where do these attitudes come from? Why can't it work? Is it possible that collaboration could strengthen your work and improve your response for victims of crime? In building a team, reflect on how working with others can enhance your work life; freeing you to focus on what you do best so you can support the work of others to produce absolute best efforts in serving crime victims and experience the gifts that come from effective collaborations and successful team building.

One of the joys of this work is the wonderful people who share their stories and expertise freely and it is this sharing that brings the most important gift of all—friendship with those who share your passion for the work. The more we celebrate who we are and expand our gifts to each other, the more we can support each other in this most challenging of professions. In creating a collaborative team, envision a world where we all work hard at what we love doing, moving forward in the field of victim's rights, making a real contribution to the ideal of justice for all, providing a new direction for crime victims, healing for victims and making a difference in the lives of others.

Review and reflect on the list below as you move forward in creating your collaborative team you will receive all or some of these gifts in your work with your team members in service crime victims in your Tribal Communities.

1. FREEDOM—to focus on your strengths
2. OPPORTUNITIES—to define your purpose with the team and for victims of crime
3. MOTIVATION—finding new ways to work
4. DISCOVER—more effective ways to serve victims of crime
5. UNCOVER—your true talents or hidden talents
6. CONNECTIONS—with others who have strengths you do not possess
7. NEW FRIENDSHIPS—discover like-minded people who share your passion for the work
8. REVITALIZE—yourself and increase your energy for the work
9. REALIZE—your dream for a better world that values justice for victims of crime
10. CREATE—a new vision for how victims in your community are served
11. INCLUDE—others who may have a talent or passion for the work
12. PROGRESS—increase the resources available for victims of crime
13. EXPAND—the opportunities for your own professional growth
14. CREATE—new strategies for serving victims of crime
15. UPHOLD—the work of your team members
16. SUPPORT—get support for your cause and your work
17. REDISCOVER YOURSELF—and your passion for the work when you share your story with others
18. NETWORKS—expand the work far beyond those who are on the front lines
19. STRENGTH—expand the support for victims of crime outside the field
20. PATIENCE—gain it for yourself and receive it from others
21. PASSION—find others who share your passion for justice
22. FUN—working hard and working together can be fun
23. GREAT STORIES—working hard and working together can make for some great stories
24. CELEBRATE—victim services can be lonely work, collaboration provides you with a cohort group and celebration

25. CLARITY—about your own work and the work of others
26. DIRECTION—no more floundering with problems that are better solved by others
27. FOCUS—using your talents and strengths for the best outcome for victims
28. SUSTAINABILITY—support for the work you love to continue well beyond your time
29. A BRIGHTER FUTURE—knowing that there will always be justice for all in some way
30. SHARING—the demand for services with others creating respite for advocates and law enforcement
31. SHARING—the credit for a job well done
32. CHOICES—the search for the most effective response for your community
33. DISCOVERY—of self and others' strengths, new talents and passion for the work
34. KNOWLEDGE—beyond your own
35. UNDERSTANDING—about the roles and responsibilities of others
36. MEANING—a deeper and richer meaning to your work and the work of others
37. TOLERANCE—for the quirks of others
38. APPRECIATION—for those whose working style and expertise complement yours
39. RELIEF—ability to share the leadership role with others when it is their turn
40. ACCOMPLISHMENT—getting things done that you could not do by yourself or within your own agency or unit
41. TRUST—for yourself and others
42. ACCEPTANCE—for who you are, what you stand for and the part you will play
43. CREATIVITY—increase your ability to solve problems creatively
44. COACHING—have a support group to call on for coaching and guidance

- 45. HUMOR—working together creates opportunities for humorous stories and sharing
- 46. SHARING—you don't have to carry the burden alone, there is help from like-minded people
- 47. COURAGE—is found in numbers, real change comes from courage
- 48. DISTINCTION—your different approach will distinguish you from all others and vice versa
- 49. STRUCTURE—collaborative teams provide you with a structure to accomplish more objectives than would otherwise be possible
- 50. OPTIONS—now you have a choice as to how you will approach problems

Note: The 50 Gifts of Collaboration was authored by Pam Moore, Victim Services Expert and Consultant for Unified Solutions Tribal Community Development Group, Inc.

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