

Voices from Holden Village: Young Adult Development in a Mentoring Community

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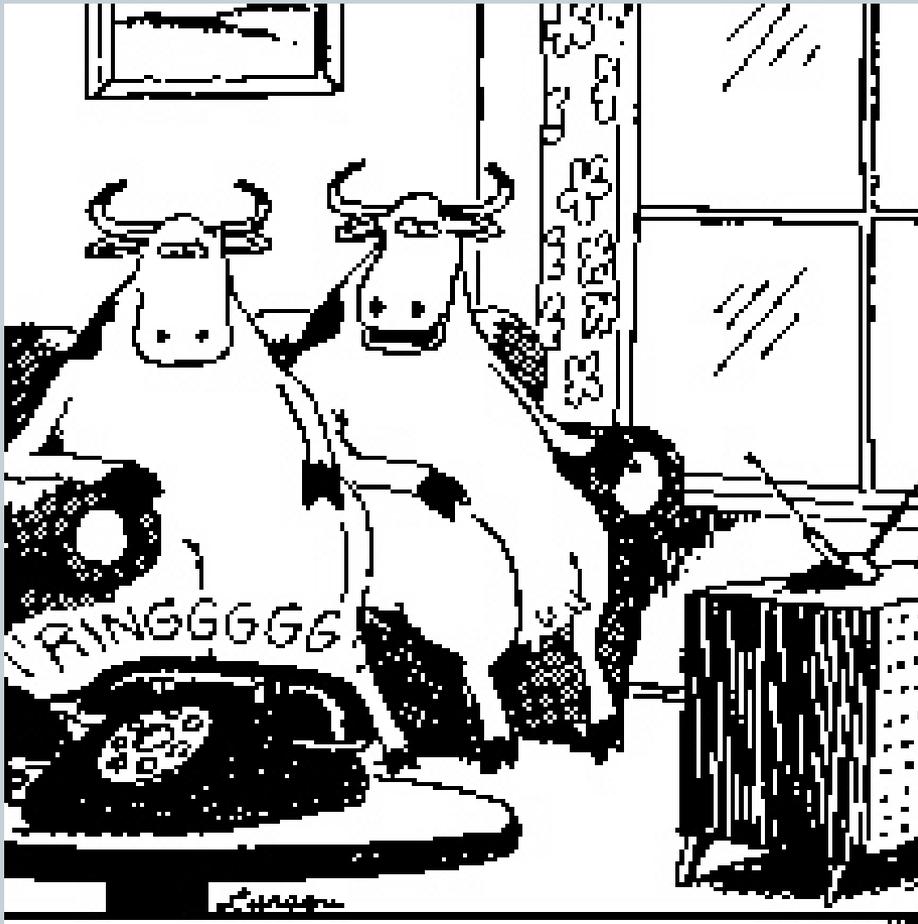


Holden Village



- Context of Holden
- Significance of Holden





"Well there it goes again... And we just sit here without opposable thumbs"

Vocare
Calling, Invitation



Vox
Voice

Vocation is a way of understanding the Self as:
Gifted
Free
Nested & connected
Mattering



- Sense of self
- Gifts, passions, values
- Worldview

- Connected
- Community
- Social Justice
- Service



Personal Identity

Civic Engagement

Work in the world

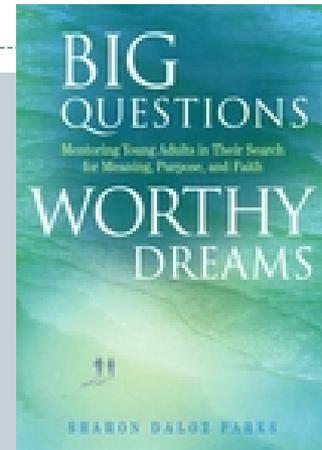
Spirituality

- Family
- Everyday life
- Job, Career

- The Sacred
- Meaning, purpose
- Transcendence

“Mentoring Community” (Sharon Daloz Parks)

- *Shared* narratives, values, & culture *collectively* mentor
- Practices (“hearth,” “table,” & “commons”)
- Mentors...
 - really “see”
 - ask “big-enough questions”
 - challenge & support
 - inspire & are accountable



Methodology



- 41 men and women with equal representation across 3 time periods: 60's to late 70's, late 70's to early 90's and 90's to 2005.
- Snowballing and informed sources
- 11 interview questions with additional probes (1-2.5 hours long)
- Additional focus groups, convocations, journaling, and surveys

Methodology: Interview Questions



1. To help us learn a little bit about your experiences before you served as a long-term volunteer at Holden, could you tell us a little bit about your own background?
2. What brought you to Holden as a young adult?
3. When you think about your time at Holden as a young adult what experiences stand out as being meaningful for you?
4. As you consider your Holden experience, what were some of the significant relationships that developed there?
5. How did Holden's community life shape you if at all?
6. In what ways was the physical setting of important to you, if at all?
7. How did or has Holden Village shaped or influenced your values, if at all?
8. How do you think your faith/spirituality or sense of meaning and purpose has been affected by your Holden experience, if at all?
9. Tell us about your experiences leaving Holden.
10. How do you stay connected with Holden Village and how does it remain a part of your life, if at all?
11. We started the interview with background information. We want to end the interview with finding out your current situation (work, commitments, faith involvement, religious involvement).

Interview Data: Coding



Themes and elements created from interviews (10 themes, 5-14 elements per theme)

Two raters per interview

Quantitative analysis of presence of themes across decades

Interlude: Dan



- Handout: brief excerpts from Dan's interview
- Two extended stays in the '80s
- "Winter Studies" program

Discussion

- What themes or ideas in this interview are relevant to young adults and the work that you do with them?
- What insights or questions does Dan's story raise?

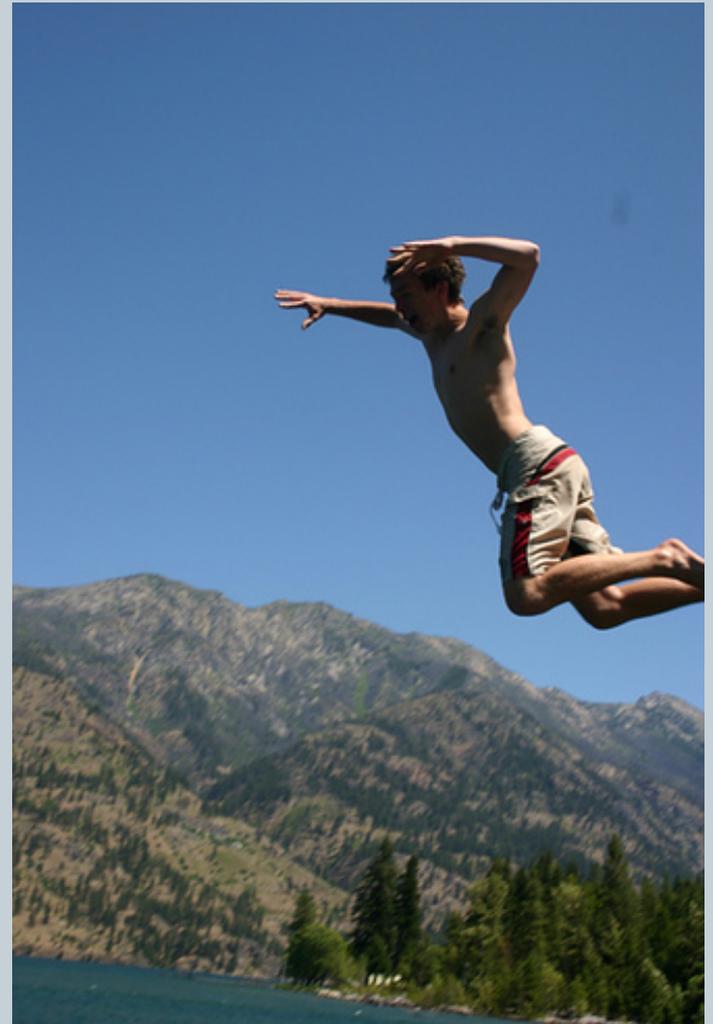
Journey



Journey



- **Journey as entering unknown/leap of faith/paring down (42%)**
- **Guide/bridge to Holden (68%)**
- **Holden experience with or because of family (42%)**



Place



- Beauty of nature (61%)
- Specific physical structure/place as meaningful (39%)
- Nature as metaphor (36%)
- Reflection in nature (34%)
- Specific natural place as meaningful (34%)



The “Ark”, a lodge, and Chalets



Mentoring



- **Holden director as mentor/model (68%)**
- **Manager/teacher/pastor as mentor/model (61%)**
- **Peer as mentor/model (78%)**



Religion



- Practice as important or new (59%)
- Relationship with God changed (61%)
- Views religion as central to Holden's mission (63%)



Background



- Involved in church through family (85%)
- Experiences similar to Holden (73%)
- Time of transition/crisis before Holden (60%)



Community



- Intensity (63%)
- Isolation (68%)
- Interdependence (78%)
- Not utopia (59%)
- Intergenerational/ family (56%)



Identity Development

- Community as part of identity (59%)
- Relationship development (83%)
- Find gifts/vocation/sense of self, integration and empowerment (56%)
- Religious/spiritual identity growth (51%)



Social Values

- **Environmentalism/sustainability (59%)**
- **Social justice/fairness (61%)**
- **Hospitality (41%)**

2008/06/18

Leaving Holden

- **Immediate leaving difficult (54%)**
- **Bring Holden values to outside world (63%)**
- **Return to village or formal role (73%)**
- **Maintain relationship connections with Holden (98%)**

2008/06/19

Narratives – the overarching Story

- **Religious/social constriction to freedom or grace (46%)**
- **Rootlessness to structure, rootedness, community (29%)**
- **Vocation: Understanding self and place in world (63%)**

Wider Significance: Implications for Mentoring Communities



- **Intentional mentoring**
- **Vocation emphasizes interdependence, contribution, and the common good**
- **What life stories are young people bringing? How do these relate to the Story of your community?**
- **Practices and places**

Wider Significance: Implications for Mentoring Communities



- **Work...**
 - and a “rhythm”
 - and meaning that goes beyond the task itself
 - and possibility for reflection
 - and contribution to the “common good”
- **Points of transition**
- **Identity and vocation develop *within community* rather than solely as an individual**
- **Model of vocational development includes identity, civic engagement, spirituality, & work in the world**

Questions?



- Questions for us?
- Insights for each other?



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Thank you!