



## The Power Of “WE”

During the fear and loathing of COVID-19, I realized that we lost our reliance on the power of “WE.” WE, that mobilizing super-power that put a man on the moon, beat down fascism in two world wars, and cemented our common bonds during the good times, was just another casualty of the pandemic. While the virus was taking the lives of millions, our faith in our institutions was eroding, our trust in democracy became infected, and our sense of community was siloed. Ironically, our connectivity via technology has never been greater, and our sense of community and shared achievement has never been more fragmented.

So, how do we restore the power of WE? At SAGA, we continue to believe in the tremendous power of working together, and we recognize there is no limit to what can be accomplished when it doesn’t matter who gets the credit. We see it every day in our grantees’ leadership and encourage everyone to double down on looking to each other to build a better tomorrow. Here are our keys to reaching out to your community and restoring the power of WE.

- **Look for collaborative partners with welcoming leadership approaches**
  - Avoid approaching everyone else’s win as your loss
  - Honor dignity, inclusivity, opportunity, and working together
- **Get out of your comfort zone**
  - Engage with others who don’t look, talk, or think like you do.
- **Pool your resources effectively**
  - Collaborate to strengthen your weaknesses and share your strengths
- **Reduce duplication**
  - Maximize efficiencies by focusing on what you do best
- **Never underestimate the potential for pilot programs (It’s all good!)**
  - Recognize that unmet expectations are simply learning experiences

This list is not absolute and I welcome you to share your thoughts and experiences on the subject. The most impactful and amazing aspect of working as WE is the tremendous multiplying effect of shared experiences, resources, and energy. For the last year, SAGA has focused on the power of WE to increase economic mobility among the underserved. We are thankful for our collaborators, such as First Tee, PAL, and Job-Train, to name just a few. We would love to add you to the list of WE to explore solutions to chronic problems.

Kindest regards,

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