



Economic Mobility – “A Call for Collaboration”

In my Fall 2022 letter, I focused on a massive dataset of 72.2 million Facebook users that discovered social networks among youth of different economic strata were the most significant factor in gaining upward mobility. i.e., Friendships. Yes, friendships established across diverse economic groups simply through interaction and letting human nature run its course.

Amazingly, this research has not garnered much attention, so, I'm challenging grantees, institutions, and NGOs to do more.

There has never been a more critical or opportune time to address economic mobility. The reality of COVID taught us isolation fosters demise in all aspects of life, especially youth development and programs are finally back up and running. The beautiful truth in this proposition is that the solution doesn't have to be costly, complex, or burdensome. It also doesn't have to focus on building new and expensive programs. Pilot program opportunities can be found all around us, such as in our libraries, sports activities, houses of worship, after-school programs, field trips, and stem programs. Sir Richard Branson, Oprah Winfrey, Lin-Manuel Miranda, and Chris Gardner all attribute their success to overcoming challenges to achieve tremendous success from the friends they made. But you don't have to be famous to be successful. And we don't have to build new programs or tear down existing ones. We only need to shift our focus within the programs we already have to endorse greater diverse collaboration.

Organizations like First Tee exemplify this approach by using the game of golf as a platform for promoting friendship, character development, and life skills. By offering affordable and accessible golf programs, First Tee helps young people from different economic backgrounds come together, fostering lasting connections that can lead to greater economic mobility.

Our Convene, Collaborate, and Create campaign continues to be a cornerstone of our mission, and we are not about to give up. We are more determined than ever to develop working relationships with those who value building personal relationships. Join us in this mission if you believe it's never too late to make a friend. It could change a life, or, in this case, I believe millions of lives.

Kindest regards,

David Bartoshuk
President, SAGA Foundation
David@SAGAFoundation.org
www.SAGAFoundation.org

Sourced Material

<https://www.brookings.edu/blog/up-front/2022/08/02/7-key-takeaways-from-chettys-new-research-on-friendship-and-economic-mobility/>

<https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2022/08/01/upshot/rich-poor-friendships.html>

<https://www.nytimes.com/2022/08/01/briefing/economic-ladder-rich-poor-americans.html?login=email&auth=login-email>

<https://www.socialcapital.org/?>

[dimension=EconomicConnectednessIndividual&dim1=EconomicConnectednessIndividual&dim2=CohesivenessClustering&dim3=CivicEngagementVolunteeringRates&geoLevel=county&selectedId=06037](https://www.socialcapital.org/?dimension=EconomicConnectednessIndividual&dim1=EconomicConnectednessIndividual&dim2=CohesivenessClustering&dim3=CivicEngagementVolunteeringRates&geoLevel=county&selectedId=06037)