



171 Branham Lane
10-122
San Jose, CA 95136

Phone: 408-960-7415
E-mail: kathi@kathilipp.com
Website: www.kathilipp.com

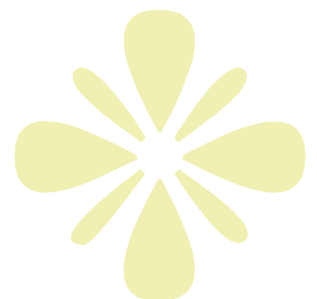
Getting by with a Little Help from My Friends – Create Your Own Board of Directors

By Kathi Lipp

“A friend is someone who knows the song in your heart and can sing it back to you when you have forgotten the words.” Unknown

I’ve never really understood what a board of directors does. To me, they have always represented a bunch of old men in navy-colored suits sitting around a massive highly glossed table arguing about who was going to run whatever company they happened to be on the board of. Obviously, I have watched one too many Michael Douglas movies.

A few years ago, I have the opportunity to work with a real-live breathing board of directors. This was not the group of blue suited fat cats that I had expected. One man was a high powered lawyer in the area. Another was a real estate developer. Another board member was a woman who had formerly owned a car part company with her husband which they had sold. Her full time job was now working for the organizations that she



loved and supported – including being on the board of the non-profit that I worked for. Another board member was the pastor of a growing local church. It was an interesting mix of people – not at all what I had expected when I was first told I would be working with a board.

Another surprise was how involved the board was with the day to day operations of the organization. I thought that the board would meet once a year to vote on some financial matters and be done for the year – not this board. They were out in the world fundraising on behalf of our work, as well as spreading the word about what our ministry was about. These people, while not in the office every day, were the ones who were making sure what we did stayed on course.

When you are trying to reach goals in your life, there is nothing more valuable than having a team of people around to support you, cheer you on and give you advice when you need it. This is why I encourage you to assemble your very own Board of Directors.

In a company, the Board of Directors (or BoD) is responsible for helping the president determine the mission and direction of the organization. If you are the president, and your life is the organization, then the BoD is made up of people that you trust enough to give you council on how to determine what direction your life will take, as well as important decisions along the way.

My BoD is the group of people who are experts on me. Besides my husband, my EB consists of three friends who know me well and are willing to invest the time and energy in my life to help me achieve my goals.

They run like a real board of directors, too. These are the people that help me figure out the overall direction of my life. When there is a major decision to be made, (job change, ministry change, or most recently, the man I was marrying,) these are the people who can give me wise input on those decisions. They know my weaknesses and my strengths. They know my temperament and know the right questions to ask before I make a major change.

When picking your own Board of Directors, here are some things to consider.

- the wisdom demonstrated in their own life
 - willingness to invest in your life (and your willingness to do the same for them)
- their level of maturity in their spiritual life

It can be a formal or informal arrangement. I meet with two of my “Board Members” once a week to hold each other accountable to our goals in life. You may just want to keep things more informal- knowing that there are people who can give you wise advice when you have major decisions in life.

Find those friends who can help you stay true to the calling that God had put in your life. Trust me, they will be glad (and honored) that you asked.

Kathi Lipp is a popular speaker in northern California. To find out more about how to reach your goals, visit her website at www.kathilipp.com