

FRIENDS

Friends make life worth living.

Things are nice, things are fun, things ease the way, but things do not compare to friends.

Friends are what life is made of. Friends are the memories. Sure, we remember the event, the ski slope, or the beach, but it's the people, the friends, that made the event what it was.

What's a celebration without friends to share it with? What's a great meal without someone to enjoy it with? What's life without others?

We drove 1000 miles to attend a 60th birthday party. The location was great, the party was great, but the value was the people. I had been a friend of the birthday girl since we were five or younger. We could not remember when we were not friends.

The party was people, memories, and relationships. Gone, at age 60, is the conversation of who has what, status symbols, and 'position'. Now, at age 60, it's about real things - relationships, long term friendships. It's about reconnecting with friends who have moved away. It was people and people respecting one another and having fun with one another.

Part of the fun of a party is meeting new people and making new friends. It is always interesting to meet a friend of a friend. Often, you find you like the new people also. Like attracts like.

Watch kids. When kids get into a new situation they usually hold back and look around. They find someone with eye contact and then move in to start an interaction. Kids reach out to one another and communicate. They communicate even if they can't use words. Looks and gestures work for kids. The same happens for young adults.

Watch how many friends the kids make. Do you make as many friends as kids? If not, might it not be a good idea?

Friends take time and commitment. Relationships work based on time invested. The value of the relationship works best when there is an investment in time. By time we mean focused time, not watching television with the other person in the same room.

Friends make memories together. Friends support one another in good times and bad times. Friends stand by friends.

Who is your best friend? Who is a friend you truly cherish but have not spoken to in too long a time? Why not call him today?

Make a list of all your assets. When you stop listing things then start to focus on the things of real and lasting value. Make a list of your close friends. You'll feel better about the list of friends than you will about the list of things. Try it. You'll be surprised. What brings the biggest smile to your face? I'll bet it's friends.

What's the next step? Be sure to invest the time in your friends. Investing in friendships pays a lifetime of dividends. You'll have a wonderful life if you do.

Who are your friends? Who is your BFF (best friend forever)?