

Impact Principles

How we think determines our actions.



People have to believe they can change their situation. Without understanding what people think, we cannot understand what is important to them. Everyone has the ability to create a solution that will meet their needs. The poor don't believe this truth.

Poverty is the result of broken relationships.



Broken relationships lead to injustice, rob us of life, and are not harmonious. How you treat yourself, others, the physical and spiritual world have to be addressed for true impact to take place. Financial or material resources could ease symptoms but will never solve the root problems.

Everyone has resources



Don't focus on what is needed. Asking people what they need puts them into a receiving or victim mentality. Identify the resources they have and discover how they could be used effectively. Plan and take action based on their assets, not needs.

Don't solve people's problems.



Whoever provides the solution owns the problem. Help people discover their own solution by asking them what they recommend should be done. Introduce information, tools or technologies for them to consider. If an answer is incomplete provide more information and ask again.

Nothing worth doing happens fast.



The process of sustainable impact takes more commitment and time than meeting needs. It should involve as many family/community members as possible, identify assets and help them identify possible solutions. It is a process of building up capacity which is a marathon not a sprint.