



March 1, 2008

Tony Silard
Executive Director
The Center for Social Leadership
1050 17th Street NW, Suite 520
Washington D.C. 20036

Dear Tony,

It has been a few months since my session at The Center for Social Leadership and I felt compelled to write to you. First of all, I made such a good friend while I was there. Sheila King McFerran from Volunteer Central in Huntsville, Alabama and I have shared so much both professionally and on a personal level. She and I have become mentors to each other at our jobs and we have also become good friends. Had it not been for my week at CSL I would have never been exposed to so many great folks.

There are many things about that week that have stayed with me. For one, the entire time I was there I was so intellectually intrigued by all that we did. I loved reading and discussing the Harvard studies. How lucky we were to be exposed to such great professors and have such meaningful one-on-one conversations with them.

So much of the work we did on work/life balance continues to stay with me. I remind myself how important it is to 'start' my day at a certain time but also to 'end' it. Just as I turn my computer on in the morning I need to turn it off at night and focus on the important things like family and exercise and my overall well being. I hear your voice in my head often saying to me "If you check your emails now, it is going to mean one thing: new work." And especially when I don't listen to you, and go ahead and check my emails, I am reminded about how right you are.

The opportunity to meet folks from all over the world was one of my favorite parts of the week. There is something to be said about discussing the needs of my non-profit in inner city Baltimore and hearing the perspective and feedback about it from a colleague who faces the same issues in India. To me that was one of the most exciting things about this program.

Thank you for offering this great opportunity to me. I have told my colleagues about it and recommend it to anyone who asks me about it. I look forward to keeping in touch and working with you in the future.

Best,

Patricia A. Granata
Executive Director
NFTE Baltimore