

Mission • Vision • Strategic Direction • Quality • Innovation • Teambuilding • Communication • Leadership Development

As a student of leadership for many years, I've given a lot of thought to how important leadership principles frame the work that we do at MEND: mission, vision, strategic direction, quality, innovation, teambuilding, communication, and leadership development. In the coming months, I plan to unpack some of these themes, and in so doing, hopefully allow for some common understanding of what "makes things tick" in our agency. I also invite you as you read to respond with your own ideas, questions, and concerns.

While much of what I plan to write about focuses our leadership thoughts inward, I also hope to include ideas about how MEND is taking a leadership position among nonprofits in Los Angeles – and beyond.

Leadership development is particularly important in this volatile and difficult economic and social environment. What will foster resilience in MEND's board and staff to withstand the impact of this external turbulence on our internal operations, but more importantly, on our collective psyche? This is a journey, and I invite you to join me as we together build on our strengths to move MEND boldly into the future.

From the Leadership Literature

"[Volunteers] working in not-for-profit groups grapple with the full complexity of today's society and have become indispensable to our national sense of identity. They leave no room in their work for the deceptive simplicity of a single bottom line. To me, they're clearly leading us to reach the potential our culture so urgently needs to be realized."

Max DePree – Leading without Power

Max DePree is one of my personal favorites among the authors writing in the leadership genre. He is more of a grandfatherly sage than a management coach, and much of his timely advice focuses on the value of individuals in an organization. In *Leading Without Power*, DePree makes a strong case for volunteerism as vital to the fabric of society in the United States. He also invites those in the for-profit world to look at non-profits as "places of realized potential."