



BUILDING CHARACTER, FAMILY AND COMMUNITY
 A Community where good character is encouraged, recognized, and rewarded;
 where character awareness is a high priority; and where
 modeling of character is valued.

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**“It is easier to do a
 job right than to
 explain why you
 didn’t.”**

**— Martin Van
 Buren**

Dependability vs. Inconsistency

“Fulfilling what I consented to do, even if it means unexpected sacrifice”

Confiabilidad vs. Volubilidad

“Cumplir con lo que acordé hacer, aun cuando exija sacrificios inesperados”



"Promoting Character & Community"

A Horseshoe Nail

In 1485, on England’s Bosworth Field, the armies of Henry, Earl of Richmond, sought to overthrow King Richard III. As the Earl’s forces approached, King Richard summoned his troops and called for his best horse.

According to legend, the King’s blacksmith ran out of iron and could not make enough nails to secure all of his horse’s shoes. The blacksmith fixed the fourth shoe as firmly as possible without nails, hoping it would last.

In the midst of battle, King Richard saw a weak spot in the enemy’s line and quickly turned his horse to investigate. The shoe broke loose, the horse stumbled, and Richard fell to the ground. His horse bolted, and both Richard and England soon fell into Henry’s hands.

Never underestimate the importance of your work.

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KEY CONCEPTS OF DEPENDABILITY

Be Careful What You Promise

Take your commitments seriously. Develop the discipline necessary to set limits for yourself and fulfill your obligations.

Clarify Expectations

Ask questions in order to discern what others need from you. Do not operate on assumptions.

Get It Done

Set priorities, start working, and invest whatever is necessary to complete the job.

Correct Mistakes

Take responsibility for your mistakes, and find ways you can correct them.

Have a Good Attitude

Fulfill responsibilities cheerfully.



Dependability in Nature

The tank-like build of the musk ox is an ominous warning to any would-be attacker. But young musk oxen are not so imposing. The smaller oxen depend on the adults in the herd to stand between them and dangerous wolves.

Bringing in the Harvest

By the time Cyrus McCormick died in 1884, McCormick Harvesting Company employed about 1,400 workers and sold around 50,000 machines a year, making it the largest farm machinery manufacturer in the United States.

Cyrus McCormick shared his father's inventive vision; he built surveying tools and a hillside plow for his own use. When he found traditional grain cradles too cumbersome, he made a lighter model. In 1831, he took over his father's reaper project and turned out a working model six weeks later.

McCormick's reaper set a pattern still used in modern harvesters. A wheel bore the reaper's weight and powered the moving parts. A divider at the end of the bar separated the grain to be cut from the grain standing next to it. Reciprocating knives ran back and forth along "fingers" that supported the grain as it was cut. A reel pulled the standing grain toward the cutting bar and laid it neatly onto the platform as a horse drew the machine across the field. A man then raked the cut grain off into a row on the ground. The new machine allowed two men and a horse to do the work that had taken 13 men.

His products became known for their reliability, and he became one of the first manufacturers to offer a product warranty and customer credit. In 1851, the London Crystal Palace Exhibition introduced the reaper to Europe, and the machine won awards at fairs across North America. The French Academy of Sciences praised him for doing "more for the cause of agriculture than any other living man."

(1808-1884)

"Achieving True Success — How to Build Character as a Family" is available for purchase at cost for \$6 at Owasso City Hall