



Living the American Dream

In America, it is our hope that every man and woman in each new generation will have a better and more rewarding life than those who came before us. That each person can achieve their goals and aspirations according to their ability, perseverance, and hard work—this is the American dream.

Many believe the American dream has, in recent times, become the pursuit of material prosperity. It is true that we work too hard, stressing ourselves beyond our limits to have larger homes and nicer cars, leaving us little time to enjoy the fruits of our labors. During these difficult economic times, many entrepreneurs are looking toward a new American dream; one with less focus on financial gain and more emphasis on a balanced life.

Thomas Wolfe said, "...to every man, regardless of his birth, his shining, golden opportunitythe right to live, to work, to be himself, and to become whatever thing his manhood and his vision can combine to make him."

The American pioneer is the epic expression of that individualism, and

the pioneer spirit is a response to the challenge of opportunity, the challenge of nature, the challenge of life, the call of the frontier. That spirit need never die for lack of something to achieve. There will always be a frontier to conquer or to hold as long as individuals think, plan, and dare.

"My God! How little do my countrymen know what precious blessings they are in possession of, and which no other people on earth enjoy!" ~Thomas Jefferson

We are the new pioneers. In this era, where the entrepreneur has been left out in the cold by our government, we need to push forward even harder to achieve our individual dreams and the American dream. It is uncertain if the government is able to stimulate small businesses in America, so it is left to us to help each other in our time of need. The big banks have sold out to the government, leaving the small town banks to assist the up and coming entrepreneurs, and angel funders to help the start-up businesses and those having difficulty staying afloat. There are twenty million people out of work and the small entrepreneur is the only machine that can keep this country great.

"America is another name for opportunity. Our whole history appears like a last effort of divine providence on behalf of the human race." Ralph Waldo Emerson

We have written of many successful entrepreneurs in our region, each looking to the support of our local population to help them through the next few years until this recession subsides. The American dream is not dead. It is present, now more than ever, because we are forced to depend on one another to achieve the dream. The unemployment rate is higher than it has been in the last twenty years, which means there will be more pioneers, more risk takers putting their money and homes and future on the line to live the American dream. Support your local businesses. If you have been a business owner and are successful or retired, lend a helping hand and form networks to assist other businesses in the area. We must lift each other to reach our dreams.

"The spirit, the will to win, and the will to excel are the things that endure. ... Ask if you want to be a prisoner of the past or a pioneer of the future ..." ~ Elbert Hubbard