

BY BRIAN MILLER

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ENHANCING LIVES

Riding the Wave

At one point, it was easy enough to lie to ourselves and say that this area was immune to the recession. Today, as we approach the year 2010, everyone in America as well as most others across the globe, have been affected in one way or another. President Obama stated on 60 Minutes that he cannot believe that bankers are still writing themselves billions in bonuses when they are the primary cause of this financial meltdown. However, as we teach at Cutting Edge, you can blame everyone else for your shortcomings in life, but until you take personal responsibility and make something of yourself, the only person to blame is you. If other small businesses are surviving the recession and you do not...well whose fault is it?

People constantly ask me, "How is business going?" I typically answer this by saying, "Although we have not grown a great deal over the past year, we are trying to flow with the energy of the tsunami." In hap ki do or "The way of intercepting energy," we learn that it is much easier to flow with the energy of the attacker and use it to our advantage than to oppose it. This can hold true for the small businesses in our community. We cannot change the fact that a small percentage of our population has gotten awfully greedy and has made many poor choices to acquire wealth. Nor can we change that this struggle has been going on since the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution were signed more than 200 years ago. This struggle has been waged between the average, hard working, ethical people of this country and the elite ruling class of America. The only thing we can change is ourselves and our businesses.

Just today, we received a letter offering a space for lease which was previously occupied by a martial arts school in our area. We had a gentleman stop in to talk a few months ago who told us that 90% of his town's economy was based on tourism and no one was coming any more. This devastated their economy and forced almost all of his students to quit. When



The new look of Cutting Edge. We opened up the mat space and created a larger area for our parents all while adding a quiet room for our after school program and an additional storage room for equipment.

you hear and see these types of things, you realize that riding out the wave is the best thing you can do right now. The economy is like energy in the fact that it normally flows gently up and down like the ocean, but when the system is abruptly shocked, it causes the normal gentle movements to create a massive tsunami, taking everything in its path. If we allow our business to be flexible and flow like the wave by being open minded to our patrons, creative in our programs, and offering innovative concepts and ideas, we will flow with the energy and not be harmed as much by it. When we teach students about the dangers of being forced to defend yourself against someone yielding a knife, we explain that you should expect to get cut. However, if you are smart, use proper technique, and flow with the strikes, you will leave the fight with flesh wounds that can easily be bandaged, whereas if you do not, one really poor choice could be your demise.

Mr. Miller and the Cutting Edge Staff

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