People First
Community
TALKS

Conversation with Mauricio & Steve

In this People First Talk, we explored peer-driven approaches to activate agency and leadership from within communities. Watch the talk **here**.

Key ideas

- Peer-driven change entails enabling groups of families within a community to come together to develop their own solutions to challenges they are facing.

- Key elements of the peer-driven change approach are: (1) Create a leadership vacuum (2) Foster relationships (3) Enable learning networks (4) Provide access to resources.

- Creating a leadership vacuum enables families to come up with their own ideas. Since they are living with the challenges, they typically have better ideas about the solutions.

- Fostering peer-to-peer relationships creates mutuality. To support this, we can ask questions such as: How are you learning together? How are you helping each other? How are you working together? How are you paying it forward?

- Learning networks enable families to get exposed to ideas outside of their community. While we can provide options, families should lead in articulating what they need.

- Self-organized approaches are more cost-effective & sustainable over time.

- Peer driven-change requires a shift in one's own leadership. Instead of providing ideas, it's about stepping back and playing an enabling role. This requires giving up power.

 Mauricio Miller
Founder, Center for Peer Driven Change

 Steve Dobo
Executive Director, Up With Africa

"**Create a leadership vacuum, and then wait…because most families have a better idea about how to get their people out of poverty than we do.**" - Mauricio Miller

"**The power is with the community. They drive the agenda. It's their ideas.**"— Steve Dobo

Our next People First Talk will be held on the margins of the UN General Assembly with Darren Walker (Ford Foundation), H.E. Ellen Johnson Sirleaf (Former President, Liberia), Anne Marie Burgoyne (Emerson Collective), and Caren Wakoli (Emerging Public Leaders & Emerging Leaders Foundation) on Tuesday, September 20th, at 8:45am EDT. The event is currently at capacity, but please join us via livestream **here**.

For more information on the People First Community and effort, please visit peoplefirstdev.org. or sign-up here.
To learn more about Mauricio's work, please visit the Center for Peer-driven Change.