Me as represented by the Strengthsfinder 2.0 Report

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If you had asked me to list my top five strengths before taking the survey or reading the book, I would have responded with: Intelligent, Creative, Responsible, Caring, Helpful. Granted my list is very broad in comparison to the Strengthsfinder analysis but I think that the strengths identified by the survey are intimately connected with those I had identified on my own. My top five themes are Connectedness, Strategic, Maximizer, Input, and Arranger. I think these are accurate descriptions of my strengths.

The Connectedness theme appears in my caring and helpful nature and reading the description of Connectedness in the report provided was like taking many of my Facebook posts and discussions and putting them together in one place. I like to say that “Creator has a plan – he just hasn’t shared it with me” when I can’t see exactly why something is happening (like my car breaking down the night before an eagerly anticipated trip and gathering!), but the Strategic strength in me quickly formulates alternate plans. I am proud of the fact that I usually have not just plans A, B, and C ready but many times plans D, E, and F as well. Strategic can also be very creative since it takes flexibility to change direction quickly when needed and responsible since it would be easier to let things go but a conscientious person works through the hard patches to reach the goal.

The Input theme represents me fully in that I love to collect knowledge and classroom books and resources – so much so that I have a storage unit with over 1000 books for my classroom library and 100’s of games. Here is where my intelligence comes in as well as creativity in my choices of materials and how I use them.

I know a weakness is getting things done (unless or until a deadline looms) and Strengthsfinder says that that’s ok and, as a Maximizer, it will be important in the future to realize where my weaknesses lie and find others who can fill those holes while my strengths work for them as well. One discrepancy I see here is that I tend to take things on myself rather than burdening anyone else with the tasks mostly because I have been let down so much in the past both personally and professionally that I don’t like taking those chances. I, therefore, often subject myself to added stress and work trying to complete everything so as not to let anyone down.

So how do my strengths work together in my daily life? Here’s an example – as a Cub Scout Pack 68 leadership committee member, I was concerned by the lack of interesting and engaging gathering activities being presented at pack meetings. My response was to volunteer to plan and run these activities every month. I have taken my education background along with knowledge of child development and created activities that are meaningful to the scouts and deter the dreaded all out game of tag that used to ensue in meetings past. I should be letting the Cubmaster plan the after ceremony activity but after one successful meeting of “capture the flag” he didn’t seem to have a vested interest in coming up with anything unique or stimulating so I’ve shared ideas with him and actually created and run the past couple months post ceremony activities. Very often, other committee members offer to help but I turn them down feeling that if anything goes wrong it should be because I screwed up not because someone I relied on fell through, so tomorrow morning I will start the last minute rush to bring my vision to life tomorrow night.