

# “When You Come to a Fork in the Road, TAKE IT!”

## Award Acceptance Remarks

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### EXCERPT 1

I am deeply humbled by this recognition and by this incredible award, which keeps alive the legacy of our founder **Julian Marcus**, a retired businessman from Bexley with the will and the energy to change things in Central Ohio.

I never knew Mr. Marcus.

He died in 1982, a decade after establishing this organization.

But what I do know is this: Mr. Marcus believed that older workers are productive, dependable and still talented – and have an important place in the work world.

That’s why he was so persistent, and so passionate, about helping people over the age of 50 discover their hidden talents – and find meaningful work.

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**So if you’re 50 years old – and you’ve already worked for 30 years – what *are* your opportunities?**

For that matter, if you’re 60 years old – and you’ve worked for 40 years – what’s left for you to do?

**Clara Barton knew what to do.**

Because 133 years ago today – on May 21, 1881, when she was 60 years old – Clara Barton co-founded the American Red Cross.

And what’s even *more* remarkable?

For 23 more years – until she was 83 years old! – Clara Barton continued to *lead* the American Red Cross, providing compassionate care to people in need.

**Like the American Red Cross, Employment for Seniors helps people facing difficult circumstances through no fault of their own.**

And that’s the reason why, in 2003, I accepted Rocky Parker’s invitation to join the Board of Trustees.

**Employment for Seniors was facing a crisis and needed help.**

Funds were drying up.

This organization could no longer sustain itself through grants alone.

**We had reached a fork in the road.**

Should we consolidate our operations and merge with another organization? Or figure out how to stand alone – and try to grow?

**The board had a difficult choice to make.**

But there was no track record. No crystal ball. And no guarantee of success.

It was unfamiliar, uncomfortable territory.

**So we looked to the wisdom of baseball great Yogi Berra, who once said, “When you come to a fork in the road, TAKE IT!”**

And the board did.

## **EXCERPT 2**

**Whatever your motives, whatever your talents, whatever your gifts: I hope you will make today the day you decide to get connected – or reconnected – to Employment for Seniors.**

I'll be doing that in June, during a strategic planning session with former board members, to determine how Employment for Seniors can help clients and employers even more.

**After all, there is so much more to do.**

But I continue to be inspired by people like **Julian Marcus**, our founder, and **Clara Barton**, co-founder of the American Red Cross.

Both of them were **humanitarians** in every sense of the word.

I'm convinced that if Julian and Clara had ever crossed paths, they would have been kindred spirits: Julian applauding and supporting Clara's efforts to lead the Red Cross every step of the way – from her start at age 60, until her retirement at age 83 – an incredible, 23-year run.

**Let us all do the same, applauding and supporting efforts by Employment for Seniors.**

Let us work together to make sure the greatest generation in Central Ohio right now – thousands of traditionalists and baby boomers with skills to use, young people to mentor and contributions to make – can continue bringing value to our workplaces, to our economy and to our lives.

Thank you. ◀