

WE HOLD THESE TRUTHS  
TO BE SELF-EVIDENT

ECONOMIC  
DEVELOPMENT  
IS...

# SIDEKICK MANIFESTO

**A COMPLEX AND COSTLY PROCESS OF COLLECTIVE ACTION**  
COMMUNITY MEMBERS WITH VARIOUS BACKGROUNDS, PREFERENCES, AND CAPABILITIES  
MUST ORGANIZE AND TRANSFORM THEMSELVES INTO A SINGULAR AND POWERFUL  
VOICE OF CHANGE.

**A HISTORICALLY ANCHORED PROCESS**  
THE SET OF CHOICES, STRATEGIES, AND POLICIES  
FROM WHICH A COMMUNITY CAN CHOOSE TO  
PROCEED IS A FUNCTION OF PAST DECISIONS.

**A POLITICAL PROCESS**  
LOCAL, REGIONAL AND NATIONAL POLITICIANS AND POWER BROKERS  
MUST BE HELD ACCOUNTABLE IF THEY ARE UNRESPONSIVE TO THE  
INTERESTS OF THEIR COMMUNITIES.

**A CULTURALLY SENSITIVE PROCESS**  
SUCCESSFUL STRUCTURAL REFORMS  
IN ONE COMMUNITY ARE NOT EASILY  
TRANSPLANTED TO ANOTHER COMMUNITY.

**A LONG-TERM PROCESS** IT IS A STRUGGLE THAT TAKES DECADES,  
NOT YEARS.

LOCAL LEADERS WITH LOCAL SOLUTIONS TO LOCAL PROBLEMS  
WILL END POVERTY.  
WE WILL NOT.

WE ARE ONLY VISITORS | WHO DO NOT SHARE THEIR HISTORY |  
WHO DO NOT SHARE THEIR CULTURE | WHO DO NOT PAY THEIR  
TAXES | WHO DO NOT VOTE IN THEIR ELECTIONS | WHO ARE ONLY  
ENGAGED FOR SHORT DURATIONS OF TIME | WHO HAVE NEVER  
ENDED OUR OWN POVERTY

IN THE STORY OF POVERTY'S END, WE CANNOT BE HEROES.

**WE ARE SIDEKICKS!**

## TAKE THE SIDEKICK PLEDGE

**I WILL RIDE IN THE SIDECAR.**  
I WILL NOT LEAD. I WILL LISTEN AS THOSE  
ALREADY DOING THE DIFFICULT WORK OF BUILDING  
A BETTER FUTURE FOR THEMSELVES, THEIR FAMILIES  
AND THEIR COMMUNITIES DEFINE AND DETERMINE  
HOW TO END POVERTY.

**I WILL IGNORE SIRENS  
SINGING SONGS OF SCALE.**  
BUILDING DIGNIFIED RELATIONSHIPS  
IS A MUTUAL PROCESS OF LEARNING  
ABOUT AND FROM ONE ANOTHER.  
THIS TAKES PATIENCE, HUMILITY  
AND AUTHENTICITY- THESE THINGS  
CANNOT BE RUSHED OR EASILY SCALED.

**I WILL QUESTION THE UTILITY  
OF MY UTILITY BELT.**  
TECHNOLOGY AND GADGETS ARE HELPFUL (SOMETIMES).  
BUT, THEY DO NOT ADDRESS THE ROOT CAUSES  
OF POVERTY. POVERTY IS ABOUT POWER AND  
POLITICS.

**I WILL BE THE CONSTANT  
UNDERSTUDY**  
A CRUCIAL REASON THAT GOOD INTENTIONS  
SO OFTEN FAIL IS A LACK OF SELF-CRITIQUE.  
I WILL ALWAYS BE LISTENING, LEARNING, AND  
SEEKING A DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF MY ROLE  
IN THE STORY OF POVERTY'S END.

**I WILL WELCOME MY  
SIDEKICK SLAPS.**  
I WILL MAKE MISTAKES,  
AND WHEN I DO, I WILL  
TAKE RESPONSIBILITY HOLD  
MYSELF ACCOUNTABLE,  
AND ACT DIFFERENTLY  
MOVING FORWARD.

**I WILL STEP  
OUT OF  
THE  
SPOTLIGHT.** SUSTAINABLE SOLUTIONS  
TO POVERTY COME FROM WITHIN ARE  
BOTTOM-UP, AND FLOW FROM LOCAL  
LEADERS WHO ARE TAKING THE RISKS  
OF HOLDING THEIR POLITICIANS ACCO-  
UNTABLE AND CHALLENGING THE STATUS QUO.

**I WILL EXERCISE  
NARRATIVE HUMILITY.**  
I CANNOT KNOW ANYONE'S  
STORY OF MATERIAL POVERTY.  
I DON'T KNOW HOW IT BEGAN  
OR HOW IT WILL END, ITS NOT  
MY STORY BEFORE SHARING WITH  
OTHERS, I WILL SEEK PERMISSION:  
NO MORE STOLEN STORIES!

**I WILL EXPLORE MY DARK SIDE.**  
"DO I WANT POVERTY TO END? WHO  
WOULD I BE WITHOUT IT? WHAT WOULD  
I DO? DO MY POLITICS AND CONSUMP-  
TION PATTERNS PERPETUATE POVERTY?  
AM I COMPLICIT IN ITS PERSISTANCE?"

**I WILL READ "TO HELL  
WITH GOOD INTENTIONS"  
AGAIN AND AGAIN.**  
POLITICIANS, CELEBRITIES AND  
BILLIONAIRE PHILANTHROPISTS WILL TELL ME THAT I CAN BE A HERO.  
I CANNOT. THE POOR ARE NOT POWERLESS OR WAITING TO BE SAVED.  
ILLICH WILL CHECK MY DELUSIONS OF GRANDEUR.

**I WILL HANG UP MY CAPE.** IN MY SEARCH FOR MEANING AND SIGNIFIGANCE,  
I WILL LEARN TO TURN INWARD AND ACTIVATE MY OWN AGENCY BEFORE TRYING TO ERADICATE  
ANOTHERS MATERIAL POVERTY - WHICH I CANNOT.

