

Heart to Heart's founder, Dr. Gary Morsch, shares the following Amish parable as an illustration on what prohibits some people from volunteering and how organizations like Heart to Heart are providing "handles" for volunteers to help create a healthier world.

Once there was a farmer who needed to move his barn across the field. He called to his neighbors for help, and as all good neighbors would do, they came over. They got on one side of the barn to push, but it started to tip over. They got on the other side to pull, but most of them didn't have a place where they could get a good grip. They tried to circle the building and move together, but only those on the corners had a place for their hands.

Finally, frustrated, they gave up.

The next day, the farmer called to his neighbors again.

"My barn still needs moving," he said.

The neighbors were still willing, but less enthusiastic.

"We tried all day yesterday and couldn't budge it," they said.

"How will today be any different?"

"Come and see," the farmer said.

During the night, he had put handles all around the barn.

Now the neighbors could put their strength into the task. This time, they could move the barn across the field.

I believe that most people really do want to help other people, but the reason they don't get involved is that they don't know how. They might try a little, just as the neighbors did in this Amish parable, but they experience resistance because they don't see how they can be useful. They don't have any handles. ...If they knew how to get involved – if they saw handles – I believe they would get involved.

Handles on the Barn

Find your place of service at Heart to Heart today.