

Frequently Asked Questions:

What if I don't have any time credits?

Keep on trading! Time Banking is not about balancing the books. It is about trading skills in the community and reciprocity. For the system to work properly everyone will move in and out of balance at different times.

How is Time Banking different?

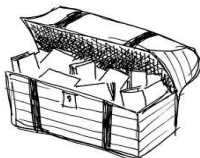
- Because everyone's time is equal
- It is not a charity- everyone contributes
- Skills that are often taken for granted are valued—especially skills that are not valued in the market economy like basic home help and caring, friendliness, listening, helping with day to day needs, neighbourly assistance and support.

What does it cost?

To cover the Time Bank's money costs, there is a small membership fee. To make sure that no-one misses out, there is a time alternative of four hours work for the Community Chest.

The Community Chest

A feature of Time Bank is the Community Chest. Members can donate their time credits to the Community Chest for someone else to use, maybe people who need extra help when frail or unwell, or local community groups. Members are encouraged to donate time credits.



How is a Time Bank Run?

Different Time Banks work in different ways. Things seem to work best over time when there is a paid Coordinator who manages membership, and organises and keeps track of trading. However in the early stages, Time Banks may have separate Coordinators for membership and trading who are volunteers and earn time credits for their work.

In Dunedin we are still setting up our Time Bank and have yet to establish any positions.

Perhaps you can help.

How can I find out more on Time Banking?

Time Banking is a type of complementary currency that acknowledges the value of work that supports family, community and democracy but which is not rewarded in the money economy.

The Time Bank concept was started in the USA by Edgar S Cahn and has spread around the world.

Project Lyttelton set up NZ's first Time Bank and now has 400 members.

For Time Banks now established around New Zealand, see **TimeBank Aotearoa New Zealand** at

>>> www.timebank.org.nz <<< and...

Try some of these resources:

No More Throw Away People by E. S Cahn (Book)

TimeBanks USA www.timebanks.org

Living Economies www.le.org.nz

Lyttelton TimeBank www.lyttelton.net.nz/timebank

Contact Dunedin Time Bank:

We are still in the process of setting up, the following contact details may change:

Email dunedintimebank@gmail.com or visit
<http://groups.google.com/group/dunedin-timebank>
or phone

Peter : 473 1681 / 027 379 4388

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Building community—

neighbours helping
neighbours,
exchanging skills, talents and
support

Dunedin Time Bank

Time banking is a way of trading skills in a community.

It uses time rather than money.

Members of the Time Bank share their skills with other members within the community and are given time credits for the work they do. With the credits they gain, each member can "buy" someone else's time, and get the service they need. Time Banks weave community one hour at a time.

Everyone's time is equal,
you give one hour's work,
you receive one hour's
time credit.

What is Time Banking?

Time Banking is a way of trading skills in a community. It uses time, rather than money as the measure of value to trade with.

Members of a Time Bank share their skills with other members within the community and are given time credits for the work they do.

With the credits they gain, each member can “buy” someone else’s time and skills and get the service they need.

Why join a Time Bank?

Time Banking adds a richness to members’ lives. As a concept, it brings “wealth” in the form of friendship, caring for one another, having our needs met from within our own community and getting help with things we can’t readily do.

Skills which are often taken for granted are valued—especially non market-economy skills—like mothering, basic home help and caring, listening, fetching and carrying.

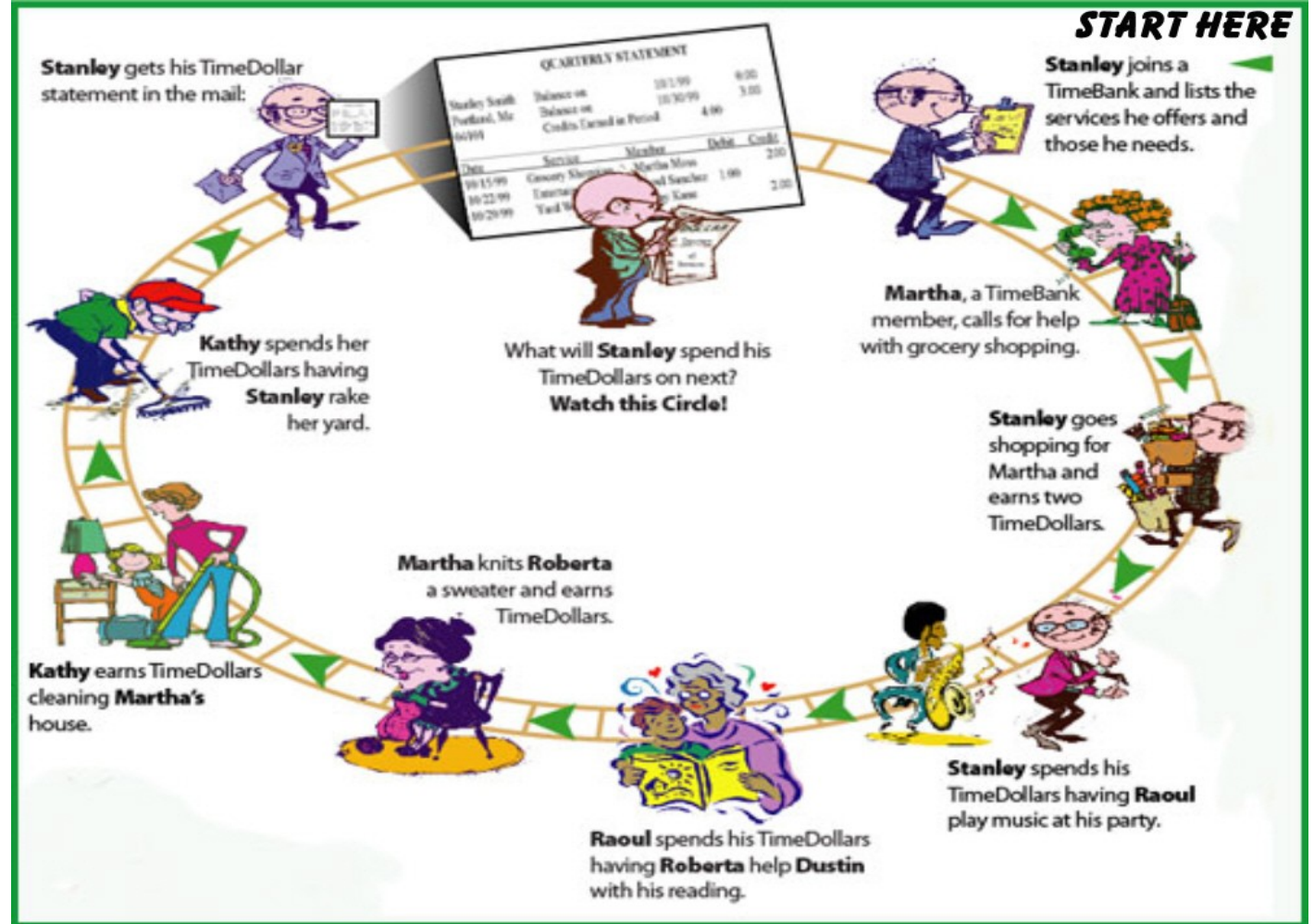
Over time as a result of Time Bank activity, a richer community develops where friendships form between people of different backgrounds, where the elderly and infirm are being cared for, where people with special needs are encouraged to participate.

Time Banking builds relationships and trust in a community. Everyone has something they can contribute to the wellbeing of the whole.

Everyone’s Time is Equal

With Time Banking everybody’s time is equal, no matter what type of work is done. 1 = 1. If you give one hour’s work, you receive one hour time credit. If you have another member do one hour’s work, they are paid one hour time credit. Every person is equally valued.

How Does a TimeBank Work?



What Skills can I Offer?

You can offer any skills except what you do for your taxable income. That means things we are good at, things we enjoy, hobbies or talents. Be creative!

We may feel that we have no spare time, but if we do the things we like and can do well, and get another member to do things we don't enjoy or can't do well, we may find the time you do have is spent more enjoyably and we are helping others in our community to enrich their lives too.

Some of the skills that Time Bankers can offer:

Cooking, sewing, gardening, child-minding, pet care, knitting, painting, splitting firewood, pruning, computer help, music tuition, bookkeeping, puppetry, preserving, nurse-aiding, transport for shopping or appointments, photography, setting up electronic equipment, technology coaching, compost-making, proofreading, graphic design, ladder work, parenting help and resources, craft work, language tuition, bicycle maintenance, companionship, art tuition and much, much more !!!