

THE EXTRA POINT

BY JERRY ROBERTS



311 What is Your Super Power?

The article discussed super powers in the workplace. It claimed we all have super powers, but I was drawing a blank when it came to identifying mine. Could I be the only one without them? I'm Jerry Roberts and let's find out what those super powers might be, next, on The Extra Point.

A quick definition of super powers. This is not about normal strengths and weaknesses. These are the unique things that make you special, that separate you from others — talents that can help you make a greater impact.

When I think about people with super powers I think of a guy I've mentioned here before, Big Ed, the manager at my first real job. He did so many things well but I think he had the power of clarity. He could take a complex idea and break it down to plain language so anybody could understand.

When I think of super powers I think about people I've known who have a great memory and can instantly recall names to go with faces, plus detailed information about their family and career. In that respect I've never known anyone who can match former governor Carl Gutierrez.

Getting people to see your position and then getting them to take action, to be someone who is extraordinarily difficult to say no to is definitely a super power. When I think of those skills I think of a lady who is both tireless and relentless, but all to benefit people. I'm speaking of former KUAM-TV news anchor Carmen Kasperbauer.

I don't have one specific name for the next super power but those who possess it belong to a special legion of people who can take an irate customer and calm them down in mere moments. Their combination of voice, smile, eye contact, empathy, caring, and taking

ownership of a situation more often than not leads to a happy ending.

I've known people who sent out a vibe that made strange animals feel comfortable around them...or they're able to motivate workers...or they show unbridled enthusiasm that spreads like a good virus throughout an organization. All of these are super powers.

So what is your super power? This isn't about being great at your job, this is about something truly unique, like in the examples I gave. If you're a little unsure, let me offer some help.

I want you to think about the compliments you've received, whether it's at work or in your personal life. Make a list of both what the compliment was and, if you remember, the person who gave it to you. Look at the list and see if there are any items repeated. If several people have noticed the same thing about you, that might be a pretty good indication of your super power.

If you're still unsure, another way to get a good handle on your super powers is to ask those people who know you best. It could be family, friends, or coworkers. Don't complicate this, just ask them straight away, "Hey, if I have any kind of a super power, what do you think it is?" You just might be amazed at what people say, and I'll bet you'll be smiling inside.

That's The Extra Point. Get out there and make something good happen today. For 93.3 and the Ray Gibson Show, I'm Jerry Roberts.

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