

## 21 Easy Recognition Strategies for Work and Life

Winston Churchill said it best: “We make a living by what we get. We make a life by what we give.” Here are 21 easy, no or low cost ways to recognize others and demonstrate your appreciation. So spread the love around!

### Appreciation and Recognition at Work

1. Give out awards for fastest staple-er, hands that fly across the keyboard the quickest, best deal closer, warmest smile, heartiest handshake, most authentic—you name it.
2. Hold other more serious contests.
3. Praise extraordinary workers in the company news bulletin or announcements.
4. Chocolate. Need I say more?
5. Take her out to lunch.
6. Offer to do one of his unpleasant tasks that he would normally have to do.
7. Ask him questions about his personal interests and aspirations.
8. Put up a “You’re Noteworthy” bulletin board, where staff can pin up words of thanks to their colleagues. Works for the family too!
9. Employee Olympics, anyone? What kinds of events or competitions could you create? What kinds of medals and awards would you give?
10. Ask the team to give him a standing ovation for a job well done.
11. Rotate weekly who gets the “Trophy of Awesomeness” (or whatever you want to call it), based on who went above and beyond the call of duty.
12. When did hand-written, honest to goodness, thank you cards go out of style?
13. Just say it. “I appreciate your efforts. Your work on this project was extraordinary.”
14. If all else fails, an afternoon off would certainly do the trick.

### Appreciation and Recognition at Home

15. You call it mush. She calls it a casserole. Eat it anyway. And smile.
16. He’s got unique admirable qualities—point them out.
17. Want to be a loving husband? Take over the chore she hates the most. (Once a year is not, I repeat, not enough).
18. Give his wagging butt a little pat. Oh, you thought I meant your husband’s? No, the dog, silly. We can show appreciation toward our pets, too, right?
19. Call her on the phone for no real reason—just to show her you’re thinking about her.

20. Schedule a day for just you and the person you love. Let him/her choose what to do.
21. Just say the words: Thank you. I appreciate you. You are what makes our family wonderful. Ahhhh. I'm feeling warm and cozy already.

## **About Blue Bridge Leadership**

At Blue Bridge Leadership, we provide a variety of career development and leadership development services. We work with individuals, teams, and organizations. Opportunities include executive and leadership coaching, team building, and corporate training. Plus, we offer career coaching, resume assistance, and outplacement solutions.

We help talented people flourish. We believe in helping them reach their highest potential. Additionally, we partner with them to overcome their challenges and achieve their goals. And although we are based in Grand Rapids, Michigan, we have worked with clients all over the state and beyond.

We have been interviewed and featured as experts in the coaching and leadership development industry. For example, media spotlights include Grand Rapids Press, Grand Rapids Magazine, Women's Lifestyle Magazine, Take 5 TV, West Michigan Woman Magazine, Carol Roth's Business Unplugged, WGVU's Business in Heels radio program, and WZZM 13 News.

**Better Leaders. Better Careers. Better Results.**