



Vision: To foster connection, community, and leadership that unites people.

Mission: By engaging in honest sharing and compassionate listening, inspired by the Red Boot 11 Steps, we create places where people feel safe, connected and loved.

Process: The Coalition's 11 Steps form the basis of weekly, one-hour Red Boot Coalition (RBC) meetings that are chaired by trained Red Boot Guides. As we practice these steps, we discover that our biases are challenged, our assumptions are questioned and the barriers that once separated us come down. We learn things we never knew - about others and about ourselves - and this changes how we lead at home, at work and within our communities. The program is also available in a kid's version for grades 2 through 8.

Participation: Anyone who yearns for a deeper and more compassionate approach to how we engage with each other is invited to participate in RBC meetings. Red Boot meetings can occur wherever people congregate. Examples include workplaces, religious institutions, non-profit agencies, prisons, diners, libraries and schools. Check out our website to see if a meeting is already happening in your area.

The RBC Story: Molly Barker, better known as the Founder of Girls on the Run, created The Red Boot Coalition in 2014. After serving on the Commission for Political Reform, a group tasked with exploring ways to encourage more civil discourse at the highest levels of government, Molly was not fully satisfied with the results of their work and decided to venture off on her own to get to the root of what drives the "us versus them" mentality. In August of 2014, she put on the red boots given to her by her daughter and drove from Charlotte to Las Vegas and back. Those red boots pushed Molly outside her comfort zone and spurred authentic and unexpected conversations that otherwise might not have occurred. After listening to hundreds of Americans share their personal stories on family, work, community, and life...she came back a changed woman. Upon her return, she realized her encounters on the trip had been the heart-driven, open dialogue she longed for...the kind missing in many of our communities. After several weeks of soul-searching, she wrote the Red Boot 11 Steps and the accompanying meeting script based on these experiences.

In October 2014, Molly led the first-ever Red Boot Coalition meeting at a small Charlotte café called Another Broken Egg. Since then we have been growing rapidly! Please check out our website (below) for our most up-to-date list of existing meeting locations throughout the country.

For More Information: Visit our website: www.theredbootcoalition.org to learn about how you can get involved, or email info@theredbootcoalition.org with any questions. Connect with us on Facebook, Instagram: @redbootcoalition, and Twitter: @redbootoutreach.

We Listen. We Learn. We Lead.

The Red Boot Eleven Steps

Step One: We came to see that, despite sometimes feeling helpless, angry and even apathetic about the current course of human events, we each play an essential role in our communities, our families, and our lives. **We matter.**

Step Two: We came to see that, despite sometimes feeling small and powerless, we possess the power to positively influence all those with whom we come into contact, which on any given day can be literally hundreds of people. **We are empowered.**

Step Three: We came to see that, despite at times feeling fear in admitting so, we are imperfectly human. This means we are free to make mistakes and free to admit when we have done so. We are wonderfully human, each with our own story and our own experiences. **We are transparent.**

Step Four: We came to see that, despite sometimes feeling overwhelmed by the increasingly “noisy” effects of technology and the busy-ness of our lives, we can choose what and whom we allow to influence our minds, bodies, and personal environments. **We are intentional.**

Step Five: We came to see that, despite sometimes being fearful of those who are not like us, we have more in common than we realize. We approach those we meet with positive intent and likewise assume that they come to us with positive intent. **We are open.**

Step Six: We came to see that, despite often feeling stressed by the demands of life, taking time every day to be in stillness, provides a peace that is essential to our well-being. We are more present, available and willing to see the mystery of serendipity and coincidence. **We are trusting.**

Step Seven: We came to see that, despite wanting at times to “be right”, we best serve the world by seeking first to understand and then be understood. We humbly put aside our own agenda and listen with our whole heart before responding. **We are present.**

Step Eight: We came to see that, despite at times feeling the burden of the world upon our shoulders, expressing joy and approaching our lives and those in it with the innocent wonder and curiosity of a child is essential to our well-being and the well-being of those around us. **We are joyful.**

Step Nine: We came to see that, despite sometimes feeling frustrated, perhaps even angry and scared at times by our life circumstances, expressing gratitude is essential to our well-being and the well-being of our community. **We are grateful.**

Step Ten: We came to see that, over time if we practiced these guiding principles on a regular basis in all areas of our lives, there is peace. We came to know, see and experience love, compassion, hope, humility, joy and wonder all around us. **We are whole.**

Step Eleven: We came to see that living our lives as outlined in these eleven steps positively impacts our lives and the lives of those around us. We feel a new and joyful responsibility to serve our community in any number of ways. **We are engaged.**

