Many words can be used to describe Jim and Eileen’s marriage, but one they would never use is boring. Jim may articulate their ideals more concisely than Eileen, but Jim proclaims Eileen to be the most brilliant community organizer. Jim comes across an idea for social change, Eileen reads about it, and together they strive to re-imagine their community. Their constant support for one another has created a strong bond between these two activists—Eileen supports Jim’s informal career choice and Jim depends upon Eileen’s research.

“Choose the people who believe in the type of thing you believe in and set up relationships with them. They’re the ones who are going to determine how you live your life. You’re going to need other peoples’ support. You don’t change people’s minds by preaching and arguing…it doesn’t work…what does work is living your life and that will influence theirs.”

“We’ve lived without a lot of consumables, and have lived a very good life. Probably better than most people in this culture. And I think that has demonstrated to people that it’s possible.”

—Jim Schenk