GROWING UP WITH NANOG
THE GIFTS OF
THE NANOG COMMUNITY

JEZZIBELL GILMORE
NANOG 80
IF YOU WANT TO BE A TRUE PROFESSIONAL, YOU WILL DO SOMETHING OUTSIDE YOURSELF. SOMETHING TO REPAIR TEARS IN YOUR COMMUNITY. SOMETHING TO MAKE LIFE A LITTLE BETTER FOR PEOPLE LESS FORTUNATE THAN YOU. THAT'S WHAT I THINK A MEANINGFUL LIFE IS – LIVING NOT FOR ONESELF, BUT FOR ONE'S COMMUNITY.

JUSTICE RUTH BADER GINSBURG

Be a better version of oneself
The word *community* dates back to the late 14th century. It stems from the Old French word *comunite* (meaning commonness, everybody) and the Latin word *communitatem* (meaning union, common ownership, fellowship).
THE INTERNET IS A SYSTEM THAT RELIES ON KINDNESS AND TRUST, WHICH ALSO MAKES IT VERY DELICATE AND VULNERABLE

“The internet has no business plan - never did - no CEO, no single firm responsible for building it. Instead it's folks getting together to do something for fun, rather than because they were told to or because they were expecting to make money from it.”

“In rare but striking instances, a lie told by a single entity within this honeycomb can lead to real trouble.”

“A team of volunteers - unpaid, unauthorized and largely unknown to most people - rolled into action and restored the service within hours. It’s like when the Bat signal goes up and Batman answers the call, random acts of kindness of these unsung heroes quietly keep the net in working order.”

Professor Jonathan Zittrain told BBC News about NANOG, after the 2008 Pakistan/YouTube incident.

A POWERFUL COMMUNITY OF MISFITS
MY FIRST IMPRESSION OF NANOG
• People who like to argue
• People who tell it like it is
• People who have done it, or doing it RIGHT NOW - not hypothetical
• REAL
• Conscientious
• People who say things I wish I were smart enough, quick enough, or courageous enough to say
• HELP EACH OTHER without expectations
• Cared about more than just themselves
BE THE COMMUNITY

• Follow the discussion
• Don’t be afraid to ask questions
• Be open-minded
• Share your ideas
• Step out of your comfort zone
• Volunteer
• Evolve for better
DISCOVERY OF YOURSELF AND OUR COMMUNITY

Acceptance of myself and others

• The heart of compassion is really acceptance

• The better we are at accepting ourselves and others, the more compassionate we become

• A calling, a belief in something bigger than just our own opinion

• An act of kindness creates great returns

• Gain perspective
GIVE AND TAKE

Volunteering for NANOG (committees, board, etc.) helped me more than I helped NANOG

• Learned how to listen deeply and closely
• Learned to understand all perspectives
• Learned to stand up for what I cared about
• Learned to push my boundaries
• And most of all, learned that giving always gives back more
WHAT MAKES NANOG SPECIAL

Working together, for the Internet of tomorrow.

A community built on openness, authenticity, and collaboration.

Accepting and be accepted.

Being in a community awakens you to your own sense of humanity and creates a deeper understanding of what it means to be a person. Life is others. We need others to better understand ourselves.
Compassion is a relationship between equals. Only when we know our own darkness, we can be present with the darkness of others.

“Rivers do not drink their own water; trees do not eat their own fruit; the sun does not shine on itself and flowers do not spread their fragrance for themselves. Living for others is a rule of nature. We are all born to help each other. No matter how difficult it is...Life is good when you are happy; but much better when others are happy because of you.

Pope Francis”