

Purpose of the Project

The purpose of our project is to show how in order to transform your community to make it better, people need to focus on the people they are helping. Each community's founders envisioned their own community and saw people who were happy and living in harmony. Transforming your community into a home involves continuing your ancestors' vision to help the people of your community.

We want to show this by demonstrating someone walking through an empty land, not envisioning the tall buildings and brick roads, but the people living in peace.

Relationship to areas of Family and Consumer Sciences

A core concept of family and consumer sciences is community vitality. "Communities foster a sense of belonging and support [the] well-being of individuals and families" (Baugher et al., 2000, p. 30). People in the family and consumer sciences field work to make communities stronger, since they are a vital part of society. In our video, we show why people should work to transform their community. They need to work to strengthen that sense of belonging people have in their community.

Relevant Research

While researching how communities are formed and how they operate, we came to the realization that communities aren't built up on objects or size, rather they are built up on the connections and relationships between the people. Being kind to others is what helps transform a community.

According to Frances Moore Lappe, author of *You Have the Power: Choosing Courage in a Culture of Fear and Democracy's Edge*, community means nurturing human connection. What connects us aren't the streets, rather it's the relationships and comfort we give each other.

Background Information

Community is what makes people feel connected to others. It's a sense of family that you choose to be with. When we strive to make our community better, we need to do it with that connection in mind. We transform our communities by strengthening those connections. We visit with seniors to make them feel welcome and important and we clean up streets to help people travel through town. We do good things with the people of our community in mind.

Awareness Goals

We want our video to send a message to others that they transform their community by strengthening connections with others, just as their ancestors did when they founded their community. We want them to focus less on the "what" and more on the "why".

We hope this video is viewed by at least fifty people. We want people to see the video so then they can realize why it is good to strengthen their community.