



Community Coming Together (CCT)

This month's theme: *Community*

Points to Ponder...

I am of the opinion that my life belongs to the community, and as long as I live it is my privilege to do for it whatever I can.

George Bernard Shaw

We were born to unite with our fellow men, and to join in community with the human race.

Cicero

The Christmas Truce

As I was doing some research for this month's newsletter, I came across the following story that to me exemplifies the idea of community. This is a true story, captured in David G. Stratman's book, *We CAN Change the World: The Real Meaning of Everyday Life*.¹ Here is an excerpt:

It was December 25, 1914, only 5 months into World War I. German, British, and French soldiers, already sick and tired of the senseless killing, disobeyed their superiors and fraternized with "the enemy" along two-thirds of the Western Front (a crime punishable by death in times of war). German troops held Christmas trees up out of the trenches with signs, "Merry Christmas."

"You no shoot, we no shoot." Thousands of troops streamed across a no-man's land strewn with rotting corpses. They sang Christmas carols, exchanged photographs of loved ones back home, shared rations, played football, even roasted some pigs. Soldiers embraced men they had been trying to kill a few short hours before. They agreed to warn each other if the top brass forced them to fire their weapons, and to aim high.

The Christmas Truce story goes against most of what we have been taught about people. It gives us a glimpse of the world as we wish it could be and says, "This really happened once." It reminds us of those thoughts we keep hidden away, out of range of the TV and newspaper stories that tell us how trivial and mean human

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Upcoming Events

Dec. 5, 6:30-8:00 pm

CCT Family Movie Night. In partnership with the Medicine Hat Public Library. Come enjoy the movie ELF! Free popcorn! Door prizes! Admission by donation to our Christmas Hamper collection

Dec. 6, 5:00 pm

CPR Holiday Train.

Free entertainment, Food Bank collection. North Railway by old train station

Dec. 11:

Deadline for the Caring Community for Christmas Hampers donations

Important Numbers

Christmas can often be a difficult time of year for people. Here are some community resources that can help:

Addiction and Mental Health Clinic (403-529-3500 or 403-529-3582), Kids Help Phone (for Youth: 1-800-668-6868), Mental Health Help Line (1-877-303-2642)

The Christmas Truce

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life is. It is like hearing that our deepest wishes really are true: the world really could be different.

It seems to me that if, for even a moment, sworn enemies can put down their weapons and relate to each other simply as one human being to another, we should be able to extend ourselves in kindness to our families, neighbors, community, and our world. The origin of the word "community" comes from the Latin *munus*, which means *the gift*, and *communitas*, which means *together* or *among each other*. So community literally means to give among each other!²

During the Christmas season, there are many opportunities to participate in our community, in both recreational and charitable ways (such as donating items to local Christmas hampers, shoveling your neighbor's walks/driveways, donating toys or your time to charities like the Santa Claus fund). Being part of a community is not only a benefit to that community but is also a protective factor for you. All of us have a natural instinct to be part of something bigger than ourselves, to connect with others in a meaningful way. May this Christmas and New Year bring you many opportunities to feel a part of your community!

¹ From www.weboflove.org/christmastruce

² Information collected from www.seek2know.net/word.html and Wikipedia.org

There can be no vulnerability without risk; there can be no community without vulnerability; there can be no peace, and ultimately no life, without community.

M. Scott Peck

**Believe
there is
good in
the world.**

