

Kyle T. Gray

The heart of every city, town, or boro is its people. When people work together, the hard work shows not only on main street but also on the side roads. If citizens focus on helping their neighbors and on building respect the community wins. If the community wins, the residents are winners.

The area where the blueprint begins is with the senior citizens. These people have lived in the area for sixty or more years. They experience the good and bad times. Many now live alone; they need help with yard and house work. Volunteers from youth groups can give their time helping to fix these homes and yards. They will bring pride back to the elderly. Volunteers who drive can take the senior citizens shopping or to church. The elderly need to feel that they are important members of the community. Imagine how many stories and facts they can tell! It would be good if they talk to children of all ages so these children would know how good their town is.

The next section of the blueprint is the family. It doesn't matter if the family is two or ten people. Each person must get involved in the community. In the spring building fronts can be painted. In the summer flowers can be planted. In the fall leaves and dead plants need raked and collected. In the winter walks need shoveled and salted. No matter what the season litter must be picked up. It is very hard to get groups organized. There are many organizations who could make schedules so the community members young and old would know what needs done. There are offices, businesses, and civic organizations who could donate supplies and plants. With the churches, schools, college, and hospital working as a family, the community gets much done. If the town works together, they (the people) are proud of what is done. Also, everyone would begin to know everyone.

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Although the work is never done, the people need fun town events. The community has Rain Day, the Fair, and the Christmas parade; other community activities are needed. Events are needed for both spring and fall. A suggestion for spring is an end of school day fair. This day would include elementary, high school, and college students. A suggestion for fall is a week end yard sale, football games (college, high school, and midgets), church activities, and a town hay ride.

If the community involves its people, the people will take care of their community. A community that looks good and involves its members makes people proud and friendly. This idea will help to attract new families and new businesses. People are the blueprint for a caring successful community. If the people don't care, take pride, and get involved, there won't be friendly people or a friendly town. The blueprint for a great town is get the residents involved. They are the town, and a town is as good as its citizens.