

A current issue in my town is the lack of community. Because the town gets a limited amount of taxes from its residents, they use most of it to fund the roads and the school. This leaves no money for events to bring the people in our town together which I think is extremely important to improve moral and happiness. A particular subset of residents who would benefit from this greatly, are the senior citizens. They don't go out a lot and a town event would bring them joy and meaning. That is why I propose creating a non-profit organization in the town where events for residents could be put on weekly. Collecting money would mean asking the community to donate to the organization. Using this money events can be planned such as seasonal get-togethers with raffles, senior-citizen center events, and celebratory occasions of student's successes. A social media page for the organization would be created to show the community getting together to attract more people to participate in them. In order to save on money and benefit the people, a weekly event that can be created is having different elementary school classes visit the local senior center to play games together with the senior citizens. It is a win-win situation as the kids get someone to play with and the elderly get someone to talk to and entertain them. This would also promote volunteerism in the kids as they would be able to experience its effects and hopefully want to continue helping their community when they are older. The monthly events would consist of a movie-night in the community center where families can come together to share an experience while snacks are sold on the side to make some extra cash for the organization. The raffles would also hopefully attract more people as they would like the chance to win a fun prize such as a tablet. Most of the organizations money would go to renting the space to hold these events and to provide food for people. Overall this is a good idea as it will bring the people together and also look good for the town, showing that they are a close-knit community.

This is a portfolio picture that is hanging on the wall of actors at the Russian Theater I go to. Even before high school started I went to this volunteer-based Russian theater where Russian literature and language were taught. I began acting in 8th grade where we put on Russian folklore stories on stage for an audience. All of the text that I had to memorize and act out was in Russian and I was able to do this with others who are like me, those who live in America and speak Russian. It was so inspiring to me to be a part of this for years, little kids who want to connect with the Russian culture would come and watch their favorite Russian stories come to life. Being a character on stage for them and interacting with them was the best part. Russian families would come to our theatrical plays and this would connect the Russian community together and show little kids how important and fun the culture and language is. I continued acting and in high school of my sophomore year I was able to join the adult acting group where we performed plays from Chekhov for the adult audience. The day of the events, Russian people from the greater Boston area would get together and get to enjoy our performances, creating an even tighter-knit community. Being able to perform also gave me the ability to get better at presenting and articulate my ideas as well as befriend those who speak Russian in my area which connected me to my culture. Throughout my years at this theater I was able to rise to the top and participate in the adult-level plays where people would pay money to see my acting. Persevering through the stage fright over the years and working on my confidence and articulation definitely helped me and the end result most definitely shows my learning in action.

