

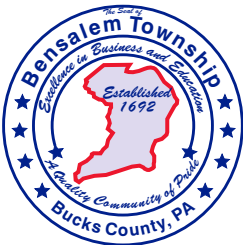
BENSALEM



ESSAY CONTEST WINNERS

“MLK HAD A DREAM”

What Does Building Your Dream With Unity Mean?



www.bensalemb3t.org



**Building A Better Bensalem Together
2025 Unity Week
January 19 to January 24, 2025**

2025 Unity Week Celebrations are as follows:

Sunday, January 19, 2025

Evening:

Love Fellowship Tabernacle
5918 Hulmeville Road, Bensalem, PA

Monday, January 20, 2025

Morning:

Parx East

**Kick Off
Breakfast**

Afternoon:

**St. Gregorios Malankara
Orthodox Church**
4136 Hulmeville Road
Bensalem, PA

Evening:

**Linconia Tabernacle
Christian Center**
2460 Paris Avenue
Feasterville-Treose, PA

Tuesday, January 21, 2025

Morning:

**Bensalem United
Methodist Church**
4300 Hulmeville Road
Bensalem, PA

Evening:

**ShreeNathji
Haveli Temple**
2746 Bristol Pike
Bensalem, PA

Wednesday, January 22, 2025

Afternoon:

**Wat Mongkoltepmunee /
Thai Temple**
3304 Knights Road
Bensalem, PA

Evening:

Faith Unity Islamic Center
Newport Fire Company
5961 Bensalem, Boulevard
Bensalem, PA

Thursday, January 23, 2025

Morning:

**Christian Life
Center Church**
3100 Galloway Road
Bensalem, PA

Afternoon:

**Bensalem AME
Church**
1200 Bridgewater Road
Bensalem, PA

Evening:

**Congregation Tifereth
Israel Synagogue**
2909 Bristol Road
Bensalem, PA

Friday, January 24, 2025

Afternoon:

St. Ephrem RC Church
5400 Hulmeville Road, Bensalem, PA



BOARD MEMBERS:

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Co-Chairman

William McVey
Co-Chair & Treasurer

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Toby Kahn
Diversity Chair

Cynthia McMillan
Membership/Diversity

Cheryl James
Programming

Edwin Nieves
Fundraising

B3T is a volunteer community coalition that plans and organizes, as well as participates in various events, activities and programs throughout the community. Some of those events include *Unity Week*, *Prescription Drug Take Back*, *Holiday Pancake Breakfast*, *Red Ribbon*, internet safety programs for parents and many more.

VISION

Ensuring a quality tomorrow by working together today.



MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of Building a Better Bensalem Together is to unify the community by building partnerships to enhance community relations and providing programs and resources to address community needs.



Aubrey Gabriele

Your dreams inspiring and making unity for others

“Greatness is inspiring others to be their best”- These are the words of author Ken Poirot. A way of influencing others to be great just by following your dreams. To me unity means people getting along and working with others because when we do that there is less conflict in the world and no matter what unity you created, big or small, one day it will spread and spread all the way around the world and someday there will be peace and togetherness everywhere. People living their lives in a peaceful and fellow feeling society is important because it has people working together instead of alone. Also, there would be no wars going on in the world and everyone would be full of joy with how they are living. My dreams for the future are to be a basketball player, and I want to inspire others to fulfill their dreams too and to succeed and achieve their goal for the future so they can do the same as I plan to.

There are many ways you can feel united in a community. For example, setting up a fundraiser for something or instead setting up a lemonade stand or even just hanging around other people and meeting new people. It's that easy to just find a way to hang out with people or try and bring others together. Sometimes though it can be hard to feel united, because for example sometimes when I am playing basketball my neighbor will just come out to play football with me. But if I don't want to, he will throw my basketball across the street or take it to make me play. After being forced to play he says I am bad at football when I don't even play plus I never wanted to play football. The sad part is I think I am pretty decent at football. But when he is done amusing his expectation I ask, “Can we play basketball now?” and he says, “I don't play basketball - No!” and leaves. It's upsetting that maybe something is going on in his life right now but that is why there can be a lack of harmony sometimes and it is unfortunate. Sadly, we cannot change the unlucky things going on in another's life. It would be nice if they didn't take it out on others, but there is nothing you can do about it. Hopefully one day that won't happen and people won't take it out on others.

In the future I really hope we can be more united and just stop all the world wars and get along more and though we don't really realize it, it's something we don't really do. We kind of just see people and are like nope that person is black or that person is trans gender I should not talk to them. Yet you don't know them, it's like that quote “Don't judge a book by its cover”- (by author George Elliot). That is why unfortunately in this generation there is not much unity, but I really hope in the future that will change. One step to help bring unity to the future is actually my dreams for the future. I want to be a basketball player and inspire others that if they work hard they can be successful and inspire others too. Others can hopefully look up to me and maybe they will have dreams to be great like me and to pass it on to others, and that can bring unity in this world.

In conclusion, unity is important because with unity people would get along more and take an act of kindness once in a while. Most of all it's important because we can live in peace and have no conflict or world wars. In hopes that all of us can live in a pleasant society in the future, there are so many things we can do today to make that one step closer to happening. In particular we can set up yard sales, go to a concert, help engage in a fundraiser, and participate in sports/activities. If not something big like that then there are plenty of things that bring others together and make us live in a more united community and they are pretty simple things, and if you really want to just do a bit of unity every day then give someone a compliment or hold the door. No matter what unity you are trying to produce big or small one day it can hopefully be everywhere around the world.



Siannie Holmes

A long time ago in the early 20th century, a powerful Civil Rights leader by the name of Martin Luther King Jr. once said to the people of America, “I say to you today, my friends, that in spite of the difficulties and frustrations of the moment, I still have a dream.”

“Now what did Martin Luther King Jr. mean by this statement?”, some of you might be asking. Well, to me he meant that even in the darkest and most depressing of times people should still always dream. Almost everyone learned about this man and has heard or read his most famous speech “I Have a Dream.” This speech is important because he expresses how we all should be able to live in a country where no one is discriminated against because of who they are and we are all united as one. He clearly says that this was his dream and we should notice how unity

plays an important part of that dream; look at how he gathered people together to achieve this goal and fought for a common cause. I will be talking about what building dreams and goals with unity means in my opinion and also how not just the Bensalem community but the world as a whole can create more acceptance and unity in it.

First and foremost, I would like to discuss a dream I have that will make the world a bit better than the way it is now. I'm not saying that it's super disastrous and chaotic, but, honestly it does seem a bit problematic with the wars and fights that are happening right now. My dream for the future is to be an inspirational leader and set an example for everyone to follow. That example per say would be that we should not be fighting each other and if we work together, we can do so much more than we think. According to Helen Keller, “Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much.” This quote means that when we are alone we can only do so much, but, together we can do so much more. With inspirational leaders, they can lead tons of people to join together for a common cause in any matter such as protest. This is one of the ways unity can be a part of my dream for the world.

Secondly, Unity can play an important part in our schools, our community, and our world. In schools, we see and meet people from different countries, backgrounds, and cultures. Take a good look at your peers or colleagues and notice how they all come in different shapes and sizes. It's the same with our communities because they are full of different people who rely and depend on each other to help out and play their part, especially when some is in desperate need of help. Then the community can hold a special event or fundraiser to help out that person, group of people, or organization so they can grow and have a closer relationship to the community. The world itself is full of unity because...well, all types of people live on this one planet and most of the time, we make it work! Countries can help each other in times of need such as war or an attack to prevent anything bad happening to it. Plus, think about America, it's literally called “the melting pot” because we have a lot of people in our country of many nationalities, and we have so many different communities! We can all practice unity in our lives by respecting others no matter who they are or what they choose to be and being kind and helpful to everyone who needs it. This is why unity is important for our schools, communities, and the world and how we can practice unity in our lives.

Finally, some suggestions to help not just the Bensalem community but the world in general create more acceptance is by having less discrimination against races, religions, genders, etc. Also, more people need to at least respect others' decisions and not use brute force to change their minds. Some steps we can take to accomplish this goal of more unity can be to have more international events where countries can come together and express themselves without having to hear or see any forms of hate. We can all also have more days dedicated to different people and cultures, though, we have some holidays already for some cultures, there are still some cultures who don't have dedicated holidays in America. These are some of the steps we can take to create more acceptance in the Bensalem community and the world as a whole.

In conclusion, these are some examples of dreams that have unity playing a major role in achieving some goals I have for the world and some steps we can take to build dreams off of unity. I appreciate any and everyone listening to or reading about what building dreams with unity means to me.



Caroline Agundu

What Does Building Your Dream with Unity Mean?

My dream is for everyone to unite and stop the hate for people. I believe everyone has a dream to do or become something. Unity is when people are united as one and stand together without bullying. Unity is a huge part of a community. The way you treat others and the way you interact with others is a major component in unity. Building a dream with unity has to do with sharing your personalized dreams with others- supporting everyone's choice of dreams. Another way to build a dream with unity also includes being open to individuals' ideas.

Anyone can have big dreams about unity, that people hope one day will come true. But for any change to happen, we need to make an effort to make these dreams come true. Martin Luther King's "I Have a Dream" speech proves the dream that everyone should be more unified. The "I Have a Dream" speech is an exact example of a big dream anyone can have about unity. Martin Luther King once stated, "I have a dream that one day this nation will rise up and live out the true meaning of its creed." What I perceive from this, is that MLK had a strong dream that one day everyone will understand the meaning of unity. Personal unity can play a big part in accomplishing your goals or dreams in life, by having a said dream and taking those actions that help pursue your dream.

When humans come together and make an effort to make a change, any dream is accomplishable. This means that sharing your ideas with others and accepting constructive feedback, can have a positive effect on your dreams. Collaboration with other individuals will indeed help you overcome challenges you might have on your road to success. However, it is important to make sure that you're respectfully cooperating with your peers while you're interacting. A time I experienced success while collaborating with my peers was when I was in 5th grade, we had to do a presentation about the Gold Rush and it went smoothly. While working we encountered multiple obstacles, but the good thing is we learned from our mistakes and fixed them. So when you unite with others you are taking steps to bring a change to this world. An example of a company that expressed unity to become eminent is Twitter. Twitter's employees constantly worked together until the job was done. A website called "entrepreneur.com" stated, "Employees couldn't stop talking about how they love working with other smart people." This proves the employees feel a sense of belonging, and they expressed a lot of unity on their road to success.

There will be many challenges you face to achieve your dream of unity. Some people may not be supportive of your dream, and you might want to quit. But the good thing is that you know you will make a great impact on the world. It's also good to remember your goal, "What do you want to happen?" When you think about this question in your head, you're pushing yourself to continue with what you're doing. You also might have past experiences that are causing you to pursue your dream so badly. Experiences like bullying. Bullying is a huge part of unity, and the sad truth is that according to msspy.com "160,000 kids avoid going to school due to bullying." So typically people with big dreams about unity do not want others to go through the same things they went through. Unity requires a lot of effort and persistence. Hardships and countless struggles will lead you on your path to fulfilling your goals.

In conclusion, anyone can have big dreams about unity. People need to take those actions, no matter the circumstances to achieve their dream. When building a dream with unity it is obligatory to collaborate properly with others, and also do some self-reflection. Building a dream with unity can have a great impact on communities. When communities are united, everyone feels more welcome. So I strongly recommend you be the change you want to see in the world, by pursuing your dreams. Together we can make this world a wonderfully united place.



Amelia Cherny

“MLK HAD A DREAM”

*What Does Building Your
Dream With Unity Mean?*

UNITY is like a stained glass window. Separated, each shard just looks like a piece of broken glass with sharp edges. But when the pieces are placed together, it forms a beautiful window with a bunch of colors and shapes of glass to form a story. That's what UNITY means to me. Everyone together, forming a story. Not judging people based on appearances, but character.

When I think of UNITY, I am reminded of Ralph Abernathy. He was a close friend and mentor of a man we all know, Martin Luther King JR. Born on March 11, 1926, his father was a son of a slave who supported his family of 12. He became a Baptist minister in 1948. Abernathy was a civil rights activist and became one during the Montgomery bus boycott in 1955. Ralph Abernathy is truly a person that represents UNITY.

The Bensalem Community is a very colorful one, but we can make it even better. I believe that the community should have more murals and color. Art is a way to bring people together. To make a masterpiece you must work with each other. Not only can we make the Bensalem Community a little better, we can also improve our school community as well. As a school, we should have more diverse clubs with all sorts of topics. An easy way to achieve this is to allow students to have their own clubs that they can put together themselves. If approved, the students can reserve a room in the school for the club and can even have teachers supervise, depending on the club. Not only would this teach students organizational skills, it would also teach them how to come together to form their own community.

I have a lot of goals. Some are like getting good grades and making a sports team. Some involve UNITY like learning how to form a community or making friends with all sorts of people. But my main goal is to just have fun and be happy. I want to make many good friends that I can have fun with. I want to belong to a community that I can enjoy and be happy being a part of it.

The Stained Glass Window of UNITY is important. Without it, we wouldn't have all these great inventions today. People worked together to create buildings, bridges, communities, and inventions. Humans wouldn't have been this advanced without working together. In conclusion, UNITY is important. A world without UNITY is a world that nobody should live in.



Summer St. Pierre

What does building a dream with unity mean?

To me, building a dream with unity is like a puzzle. Fitting all the pieces together. There are a bunch of challenges to overcome with friends, family, or even people who you don't know. To overcome those challenges, you need to work together with them to overcome those challenges that you may have. You can learn from those challenges and think about how unity requires recognizing that others have valuable insights too. By open communication, respect and understanding. This is how every great dream starts. It starts with an idea.

To make that dream come true you need unity. Unity means working together as a team and supporting one another, just like a puzzle. When people come together, they can accomplish great things. Imagine you are putting together a puzzle. Each piece must be connected properly. We may have different opinions on how to put the puzzle together. But we need to listen to each other and make decisions that make everyone happy. We need to plan to complete the puzzle. Who has put a puzzle together? Where do we want to start? Who is working on the edges? By working to everyone's strength and working together to put the pieces in the correct place. It becomes a big, beautiful puzzle. This emphasizes the importance of teamwork. Unity implies that everyone is working together. Unity also teaches us lessons about respect and understanding.

Building a Dream with unity requires hard work, with the support of others and working together we turn our dreams into reality. The importance of teamwork is working to everyone's abilities to make something new and great. It shows us that when we work together, we can create something better than we thought. Just like pieces of a puzzle fit together to form a beautiful picture, teamwork makes the dreamwork. What great things can you think of and accomplish while working together?

Let's dream big and together we can do anything!



Manan Patel

What Does Building Your Dream With Unity Mean?

What is "Unity"? Anytime I overhear the word "Unity," I perceive it as coming together as a whole, considering involvement, for a common cause. Helen Keller once addressed in her speech, "Alone we can do very little, yet Together we can do so much." Her motivation has moved many, developing unions which are groups of people with similar interests and purposes, influencing outcomes in our works to this day. Unity plays a crucial role in our communities, joining not only people, generally, as it incorporates ideas, cooperation, and collaboration to attain a similar mission. What does building our dreams with unity signify? When I ponder about this, I feel such that the meaning of establishing our dreams with unity is to come and work together as a team, driving momentum, building onto one's confidence, and sequentially accomplishing missions. For example, birds fly together to receive momentum, which then by examining its surrounding mates, it gains confidence which supports its initial stage.

No dream can be achieved by oneself; others are always needed for support. Cooperation and collaboration are key factors when it comes to building dreams as it opens up learning opportunities which one cannot achieve themselves. A few examples can involve building hospitals, schools, and non-profit organizations such as orphanages and old-age houses. These goals require sufficient amounts of aid from others, resulting in unity bond support. For example, Martin Luther King Jr. had a dream that his four little kids will live in a nation where they will not be judged by their color or race. This influenced and then implied to many other people which then did the same, resulting in forming a union to prevent the discrimination of race and skin color judgements. All of these people had a similar purpose, which allowed for voice in the political government, as he oriented the people first. Another activist includes Mahatma Gandhi, who was an Indian lawyer, anticolonial activist, and political ethicist, who advocated for Indian independence and discrimination. He only yearned for non-violence both philosophically and politically to settle tranquility between the Hindus and Muslims. Similar to Martin Luther King Jr., Gandhi had developed an association of similar motives to avert rule over independence and perturb towards harmony in India. Similar to Gandhi and MLK, I have a dream as well, requiring unity in order to accomplish.

I aspire to open a public hospital, which offers people inexpensive surgeries and treatments. This dream is a unity-based concept requiring diversity and a talent pool to come together, making this dream successful. To establish a clinic, I would require a group of people who specialize in different majors. The medical field, such as surgeons and nurses would be vital as well as architects and IT as they would be a critical aspect, creating blueprints and constructing the center. If I were to do this alone, truly little would be completed, as I cannot accomplish as much as the many people needed, myself. Even though I understand developing a hospital would be challenging, I will use unity as a benefit, pursuing my dream with support from many others who specialize in medicine, IT, and architecture for true growth and achievement.

Unity is vital when it comes to pursuing our dreams, as it plays a critical role in gaining and maintaining assistance in our daily lives. It provokes support, resulting in greater efficiency together. Many famous figures including Mahatma Gandhi and Martin Luther King Jr. have developed unions which have allied with them for an identical cause. My dream, establishing my own hospital, will also require unity as it will necessitate the amount of support Gandhi and MLK have had. "Unity can achieve more than oneself could ever" - Manan Patel.



Liliansa Cacchio

“One Vision, Many Voices”

Dr. Martin Luther King once said, "Faith is taking the first step even when you don't see the whole staircase." To have a dream, one must have faith. To have a dream, one must be willing to walk into the unknown. At St. Ephrem we practice our faith every day. We come together as a school to pray for peace and unity in the world. The first step of my staircase is the town where I live, Bensalem. Bensalem is a place where the dream of unity is one vision with many voices.

One of the first voices I heard on the first day of school was one of Bensalem's firefighters welcoming us back to school. The firefighters and police officers do so much to bring the dream of unity in our community to life. They come to our school to help us with our monthly fire drills. We have an officer that directs traffic when my mom drops me off in the morning. Another officer visits us during the day to make sure our school stays safe. The police and firefighters in our town are some of the many voices that unite us all.

Our Bensalem community also has many events that unite us all. When I was a Girl Scout, I walked in the Memorial Day Parade. I also attended the Fall Festival and loved watching the fireworks with so many neighbors. When I was younger, I went to our fire station to learn fire safety. I also went with my family to listen to a concert, and it was very fun! I also walked in the Relay for Life to raise money for cancer research. Without our tightknit community none of this would be possible.

A dream of unity needs good leaders, and Bensalem has the best. A few years ago, my family and I met with the mayor, and we asked him to light Bensalem gold for pediatric cancer awareness, and he did. It was even in the newspaper! I am a leader in my school. I was picked to be a student ambassador and to be a role model for the younger students. I look up to the leaders of Bensalem and dream to be like them someday.

Unity is a vision with many voices. It takes lots of people coming together to create it. The Bensalem community is welcoming to all people and allows everyone to have a voice. Sometimes we all might not get along, but we all have the same common goal. To unite and build up Bensalem.



Skyla Hilliard

Achieving Dreams Through Education

Can dreams truly be achieved without any unity? I surely do not think so. Dreams are aspirations, ambitions, or ideals particular to you that you would seek to achieve; at one point in your life you have had a dream, and you may still have one. Unity is the state of working in peace and being joined together. Having unity and dreams can show our humanity by coming together to, in Martin Luther King Jr.'s words, "Be the peace you wish to see in our world." Our journey of achieving our dream starts at school because we have experienced unity there every day since the age of 5. We can achieve our dreams through unity in many ways, as demonstrated by the following points I will make.

Teachers are a vital aspect of our school and help students achieve their dreams, such as mind-jogging activities that make you wonder what your dreams are, and they encourage you to follow those dreams. Not only that, they also help you set achievable goals by working with you to find goals that you are happy with and guide you to learn how you can work with each other to achieve them. A personal example of me achieving my goals with my teacher's support is when my band teacher helped me practice every day and guided me in the right direction when I needed help with my instrument. I ended up doing very well in my concert. The unity between the students and the teachers creates a healthy school environment that fosters growth and achievement.

Schools as a collective group – students, teachers, administrators, and parents– all contribute to creating a unified environment in which dreams are nurtured. School culture and events are a wonderful support system that helps to generate a sense of unity that motivates students to follow their dreams; such as clubs and after-school activities, help you to wonder, "What is an activity I enjoy doing?" and once you find that one thing you love to do, you may want to pursue a career with that, or aspire to get better at it. At my school, Robert K. Shafer, we have school-wide events that promote unity and shared goals such as our Sharktoberfest and end-of-the-year block party. In addition to the activities, at these events, you can get together with your friends and do activities you enjoy.

Unity in schools helps students overcome any challenges they may face, whether that be academically, socially, or personally, while also making sure we have an inclusive environment. Unity is essential to standing up to challenges such as bullying. When we come together to let people know that bullying is not okay, it tells those bullies their actions will not be tolerated, leading us to learn and achieve unity in schools that can build into a larger scale dream. For example, Martin Luther King Jr. had a dream for us all to be equal -despite our diversity in skin, background, or gender. When he said in his "I Have a Dream" speech, "I have a dream that one day this nation will rise up and live out the true meaning of its creed: We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal" and he peacefully fought for that right by using his voice to speak out about the discrimination happening in our nation, his speech powerfully illustrated his vision for a better future. Unity in diversity ensures that all students regardless of their past have an opportunity to achieve their dreams.

Building dreams in a school setting is made possible by our teachers, peers, and people who contribute to making school awesome and can even go further than our school setting! Schools are much more than a place to get an education- they are places where we come together and help students discover their dreams and work towards achieving them. I urge all students and educators to continue encouraging unity within schools. Let's commit to nourishing unity in our schools so that all dreams have the chance to thrive.



Nicki Bibeck

Building my Dream With Unity

Over 60 years ago, a powerful man by the name of Martin Luther King Jr. gave his famous speech, "I Have a Dream". His actions created a sense of unity to people all over the globe, and that impact still remains even 60 years later. Just like that man who lived almost a century before my time, I have a dream. That dream is a world full of love, respect, and unity. To be united means to be joined as a whole, to be joined as one. This could mean one person, one town, or one world. I want to aim big, I want to aim for our world to be united as one. To build this dream of unity, it would take everyone, it would take the entire world to achieve it.

I imagine this unified world, bright and sunny, with me walking home with a smile on my face. I want to come home without the thought of not being able to come home. I want to walk home, not hearing families yelling at each other and fighting. I would want to be able to walk down my street seeing no homeless people because someone helped them. I want to walk into an empty orphanage because someone helped them. I want to be able to see a single mother's child overjoyed because they finally have a father, and that is because someone helped them. If only we could help, give up some time in our daily lives, I believe that we could achieve these dreams. But even though every day, people help other people, it is clearly not enough, because these problems still happen. I want to be able to walk into a hospital, empty of people who were there because of other people's actions. These actions, such as violence, abuse, or attempt of murder, create a world that is separated, not united. I want to be able to live life with any problems that we can fix, fixed.

At school, we are one big community. Not a united one, but if we work towards it, we could be. In the one large community that all of us take part in, there are smaller communities, like clubs and sports teams. This is a small number of kids compared to the entire mass of the school. But these kids are united. They are not multiple players but they are one big team. I think this is because they're around these people every single day. But yet, when I walk out of my house, these people, who I walk by every single day, we are not united like that small sports team. It may be because they had more time together, but I want to have a community that is just like that. United. I want to be able to walk down the street knowing we are one big, united community. Community even has the word "unity" in it, but I don't feel as much unity as that small sports team has. That's a community.

A dream I have is to stay united, stay as a whole, no matter what. As the leaves fall, or the snow sprinkles, I will walk through it, hoping that my community will walk through it with me. That's a strong community that I want to take part in. I just want somewhere to exist where everyone can feel like they belong and that, through whatever, snow, rain, hurricane, someone will be able to walk home with them, the same way I want to be able to walk home without a worry.

I want to walk home without thinking about violence, fighting, kidnapping, war, drugs, orphans, homelessness, single parents, global warming, murder, ocean infestation, and other problems that keep me awake at night, wishing I could fix them and knowing that by myself, I couldn't. But with an entire world, united and joined as a whole, I would be able to sleep at night. That is my dream. That is what building my dream with unity means to me. Martin Luther King Jr had a dream. This is mine..



Manav Oommen

What Does Building Your Dream With Unity Mean to You?

On August 28, 1963, Martin Luther King Jr. gave his "I Have A Dream" speech which was a national declaration to the whole nation. However, from that time until now, people have forgotten the famous past dreams of historical figures. However, in this time period we must set standards for what we will accomplish in this life that we are living in right now, as inspiration for those who are now gone. I dream of a society which will pull through to today's conflicts with the development of looking ahead to the future where we will unify as one. What building my dream with unity means to me includes communication between others, the ability to be dependent on reliable people, and the ultimate collaboration between human beings that will make our dreams possible. Additionally, with my dream, I foresee us to come together in

unity to strengthen each other for the further steps that will allow us to reach our sense of well-being as well as united connection as a group, community, and international society.

Firstly, building my dream with unity means to have interaction with others. However, these interactions are not just the casual "hellos", "good mornings", or "goodbyes" we say to passing individuals who enter and leave our everyday lives. My dream of unity with the communication with others includes to physically come together, share our differences, and celebrate each other for being our unique selves. With being a communicator, that doesn't mean we should just section ourselves off with others who are similar to us, but to connect with other individuals who are different from us altogether. It doesn't matter what your race, gender, hobbies, or career is, it is your own choice to find someone new to talk to. At my church's youth group, my pastor gives us ten minutes to connect with someone else. During these ten minutes, we find someone we haven't met before and share our differences with them. At first I believed that no one would want to be my friend because I was different from them, but to my surprise, I found out that people thought that what I liked, did, or how I acted was "unique", showing their appreciation for my uniqueness in a positive way. Stating this, we must come together despite our differences and raise each other up from an interconnected society of proud-to-be-different individuals, even if that means taking risks to even achieve this.

By unifying together as a society, we must also have the courage to be dependent on those around us. In this current society many students and even a handful of adults will not trust what anyone tells them, will do for them, or even straight up help them. These people believe that the promises their friends or other people make will be broken, thus not having honest trust with those individuals altogether. This leaves those people with no friends or people beside them for help, but only the self-dependency, which can isolate them from their community. When we come together in unity, we must ensure that no one feels insecure or afraid to be a part of this group because they believe the people that seem as dear friends, might let them down. This being said, even if we do have the courage to trust close individuals with our fears, wishes, emotions, etc, we must also demonstrate to others that we are representatives of a unified community that can be trusted with any problems big or small. Thus, the people who have been isolated for so long might actually have hope that there are people in their society that they can trust, allowing them to connect with others to find a community to be a part of.

When unifying together as a society and being able to trust one another, we also need to work with one another as well. From the construction of cities to the simple sharing of ideas, we must all work together for these things to occur. For example, if you are working with people in a group to construct an item that will benefit a society, working together is the best chance to succeed as everyone is contributing with sharing ideas, supplying materials, and having a well-thought plan to begin with. On the contrary, if we do not collaborate with one another, we will simply fall apart and won't be able to accomplish the main product we were desiring to construct. Unity means to come together and to help one another thrive, not performing an action by yourself to then struggle afterwards without the necessity of others. To me, building a dream with unity means to collaborate with one another to come together as a strong force, for we can get through anything, but by ourselves, we have little capability of accomplishing anything.

To summarize, interacting with others, being dependent on one another, and collaborating with one another are all part of what building a dream with unity means to me. In order for us to achieve the great and large things we all desire to obtain, we need to face the potential obstacles/challenges together. If we do something alone, we will stumble and fall, but if we go as a group, we will push through whatever we face. However, the only way we are capable of staying together as a group is if we first interact with others and learn to trust each other. Ultimately, we need to build relationships with one another to unify together as a social network with our communication, collaboration, and communal teamwork to build a totally unified nation.



Beatriz Patino Torres

Martin Luther King Jr. once said "I had a dream". Well, all of us have dreams no matter if they're big or small. My dreams; they are big. My dreams help with the unity of people in this small, but huge world.

Let's start up with my dream of everyone being equal. Everyone says we are all equal. Lies because you may have not noticed that people that don't look like the stereotype society puts on the table "you're out of place". Most people when discrimination happens they look the other way. If you have never been discriminated against you are lucky, but let me tell you how it feels. Imagine yourself being bullied really badly for something you have no control over. It hurts like the sharpest words you can imagine pierce your skin. They walk away like nothing happens, but you have scars that remind you of that every single day and you can't get away from that feeling. This is barely a percentage that it actually feels like. My dream for us to have unity and get rid of this awful thing that people suffer with is to show everyone that we all live in the same place, a floating rock in space. It is such a hard thing to remind people, but adults especially that we are all human. It doesn't matter if you're from China or India, Mexico or America, Canada or Iceland. We are all human. You may not realize the harm you cause when you say a backhand comment or ask a pretty racist comment. I have experienced this first hand since I was the age of 5 or 6 in 2016 to now as a 14 year old in 2024. People say we have changed as a country and are more inclusive. How come as a young latina woman that is still part American I can't speak Spanish on the streets without having a comment of "This is America and we speak English here.". This is the truth, but it doesn't have to be for long; we can create a better world where we can express each other and our cultures. We have suffered with this in the past, but the young men and women of this country are the future. We need to teach all these future generations that we need to stand for the people that can't and we need to stand with people that may not look like us or talk like us. We need to be the future of this country. When we change the world to become a place where everyone is celebrated by who they are and not where they are from. This is unity to me. The unity of the future and the unity that Martin Luther King jr. died fighting for. This is what I want the world to be like. This is the future that is so close to our grasp. This is the future of my generation.



Emma Elkins

What Does Building My Dream with Unity Mean to Me?

Unity is a word that brings to mind terms like community, sharing, and coming together. Though, these aren't just mere words. However, what does this fully mean? Everyday, we communicate with others to get our ideas, opinions, wants or needs across. Everyday, we are surrounded by people in our community whether they be neighbors, family, friends, or strangers. Everyday, we see different opportunities for unity all around us. Building my dream means to take these opportunities to inspire others to want to unite people too. The best way to describe my dream is cause and effect. I imagine something like a person going into a store and holding the door for another customer. Then that customer feels influenced and contributes to a food bank. Then someone else witnesses this and then wants to donate to a blood drive, and another bystander feels encouraged to give money to an animal shelter, and so on. Yet, whether we take these opportunities is up to us, but nonetheless, having unity is necessary in everyone's life even if we don't realize it.

People all over the world are brought together to help one another. It could be assisting in aiding others in natural destruction, or donating to a charity. For example, not long ago, Hurricane Helene devastated parts of North Carolina, leaving many people without homes or food. Then, shortly after, Hurricane Milton made landfall in Florida. Such tragic events brought people together who wanted to help these hurricane victims through their hard times.

Another example is Saint Jude Children's Research Hospital. The researchers and doctors there work together to find lifesaving treatments for children diagnosed with cancer across the country. All of the treatments for these children are free, so families can focus on each other, not the money. This is all possible because people come together to donate money to help continue and nurture this research and help make it go further, so that someday we will find a definite cure for cancer.

In spite of these inspirational acts, doing something this impactful isn't necessary to unite with others. There are so many small ways we are united that you may not even realize. When someone drops something and you pick it up for them, you are united with them. When you go to Sunday Mass to celebrate Jesus, you are united with the other people who share the same desire for Jesus to be in their lives. When you let someone go in front of you in a line, you are united with them. This is the same when someone does this for you. Overall, regardless if you are united to someone else for a year, or a few seconds, you are brought together. You are no longer strangers, but are now bound in a small way by unity.

So, after figuring out these different examples, how will this help my dream to become a reality? I know I have a big future ahead of me, where I want to unite others through as many ways possible along my journey. I am blessed to be able to use my gifts to live my life as God intended, and to inspire others to have the same ambition as me. I have many career choices that I am deeply considering, and I recognize that each and every one of them will unite me with others. This doesn't mean I won't make mistakes, because I definitely will, but I desire for my good deeds to outweigh my flaws. Which leads me to want to do my absolute best in helping the people around me to want to help others too. In whatever way I bring the people I meet together, my end goal is to be united with God in Heaven.

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