

Building Community

Living Mission toolkits are provided to help you facilitate formation experiences. Use whatever combination of behaviors, discussion questions, activities or talking points that will create a meaningful formation experience for your team.

OBJECTIVES

- Engage the meaning of community beyond a collection of individuals
- Commit to practices that will build community among your team

FORMATION52: Mercy Values on Deck

Mercy Formation cards **Service 7, 8, 10, Excellence 2, 5, 9, Justice 5, 7, 8, Stewardship 7** and **Dignity 1, 3** align with the Mercy Formation: Path to Excellence content.

Pray

Use this or another prayer with your team

Mysterious and loving God who works for the good of all things, inspire and guide us to work together for the good of this ministry that we may more fully participate in your healing work in the world. Amen.

Reflect

Use the talking points below to introduce the concept to your team

- A true community is more than a collection of people. Having something in common, participating in the same hobby, working in the same place does not make a group a community. *In a true community conversation goes beyond niceties and small talk, people risk vulnerability, rejoice and mourn together.* A true community is **inclusive** and **expansive** (no cliques), requires **commitment** (long term vision), and builds **consensus** (rather than mandates).
- Emphasizing community is not about sacrificing the individual, but holding the two in balance. The group respects and cherishes each individual for who they are, made in the image and likeness of God, and the individual is able to see beyond themselves and work for the common good.
- When patients come through our doors, guests attend our meetings, or prospective partners visit, they are not just entering our buildings; they are participating in our community. How we are together impacts their experience and quality of healthcare we provide. When we are vibrant, in right relationships, and focused on our common goal, others will notice and feed off of our positive energy

Share

Use these questions to explore Mercy Culture with your team

1. Beyond those mentioned above, what are the traits and characteristics of a true community?
2. What can you do to deepen a sense of true community in your area?
3. What is keeping your team from being a true community?
4. What gifts do you see in your community? What gifts do you offer?
5. Who is not included in our community; what can we do to reach out to them?

Serve

Use these behaviors to bring Mercy Culture to life with your team

- Use inclusive words like 'we', 'us', and 'together'
- Support continued education and skill development
- Shout up; make sure your leadership team is aware of successes and challenges
- Share what you know without breaching confidentiality
- Reference Catherine McAuley and the Sisters of Mercy as the founders of our community
- Know what is personally important to others; families, hobbies, volunteer work, etc.



MERCY
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Optional Activity - Quotable Quotes

Activity explanation

Share the following quotes on community with your team and ask them to reflect on which is most meaningful to them. Your team may choose to adopt one and post it in a common place. Alternatively, post each quote in around your space for a continual reminder of the importance of community. Feel free to add your own quotes or include others from your team.

1. How good and pleasant it is when God's people live together in unity! *Psalms 133:1*
2. Finally, all of you, be like-minded, be sympathetic, love one another, be compassionate and humble.
1 Peter 3:8
3. The blessing of unity still dwells amongst us and oh, what a blessing. It should make all things else pass into nothing. All laughter and play together, not one cold stiff soul appears. This is the true spirit of Mercy. *Catherine McAuley*
4. Let us rejoice when good is done, no matter by whom it is accomplished. *Catherine McAuley*
5. Many people are good at talking about what they are doing, but in fact do little. Others do a lot but don't talk about it; they are the ones who make a community live. *Jean Vanier*
6. One of the marvelous things about community is that it enables us to welcome and help people in a way we couldn't as individuals. When we pool our strength and share the work and responsibility, we can welcome many people, even those in deep distress. *Jean Vanier*
7. The community stagnates without the impulse of the individual. The impulse dies away without the sympathy of the community. *William James*

The simplest and most practical lesson I know is to resolve to be good today and better tomorrow.
Catherine McAuley