



BE PROUD ©

(Value #8: Celebrating Community)



Description

Sometimes it feels good to be by yourself – like when you’re reading a good book or listening to music, or day-dreaming.

But sometimes you’re not just alone – you’re lonely. Maybe you’re the new kid in town. Maybe you’re shy. Maybe your family speaks Chinese at home, and everyone else on the block speaks English.

That’s when it’s important to feel like part of a **community** – a group of people who have something in common. Whether or not you realize it, you belong to one.

A community can be:

- Your school
- Your religious tradition
- Your ethnic group (Latino, Native, Jewish, Hmong, Polish, Somali)
- Your neighborhood

...and many more!

Most communities celebrate who they are at special times, with food and songs, and sometimes with rituals, prayers, costumes, or other traditions. Some examples:

- Hmong New Year
- Purim, in the Jewish community
- Pow-wows
- A basketball game at your neighborhood high school

These things make us proud of who we are as a group.



Cesar Chavez Service Clubs

Building Youth Leadership through Service

Example from Cesar's Life

Building the Union was a long, hard struggle. Cesar knew it would be important to have plenty of community celebrations. For one thing, celebrating with meals and singing and dancing was fun, and that made the work easier. But just as important, celebrating community made people feel proud of who they were. And they were reminded that no one was alone. They were all in it together.

In California, where the UFW started, most farmworkers are of Mexican heritage. Some people looked down on them, because they spoke Spanish and had darker skin. Cesar told the workers to be proud of who they were. They celebrated their culture by having community meals, with traditional foods like tamales. They sang songs in Spanish, like De Colores, the Union's anthem. They celebrated Mass, because religion was an important part of their culture.

Examples for Your Life

What communities do you belong to?

If you practice a religion – Islamic, Hindu, Jewish, Christian, or some other faith – you belong to a religious community.

If your relatives immigrated to this country recently, you'll know what ethnic community you belong to. If you don't know, ask your parents. Many people who live in the U. S. come from several ethnic backgrounds.

Activities (These will help you discover communities and how they celebrate.)

- Spend a half-hour with a parent or grandparent asking questions about your ethnic heritage. If you have a relative who was born in another country, ask him or her to share childhood memories.
- Read a book about a part of your ethnic heritage.
- Get a parent to help you find a community festival from another tradition. If you're not Black, go to a Kwanzaa celebration. If you're not Mexican-American, go to a Cinco de Mayo parade.
- Rent or borrow a DVD about life in another culture.
- Get a family member to teach you to make a special food from your culture.



The Ten Values of Cesar Chavez

1. **Teach Someone** (Service to Others)
2. **Sacrifice for Others** (Sacrifice)
3. **Help Someone** (Help the Most Needy)
4. **Si Se Puede** (Determination)
5. **No Violence** (Nonviolence)
6. **We're All Different** (Accepting of All People)
7. **Respect Others** (Respect for Life)
8. **Be Proud** (Celebrating Community)
9. **Knowledge Is Power** (Knowledge)
10. **Be Creative** (Innovation)



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BE PROUD PLEDGE

“I promise myself that I will begin to think in terms of community. If I have a clear sense of my community, I’ll be active in its celebrations. If I don’t know what communities I belong to, I’ll talk to relatives and learn my origins. If that doesn’t work, I’ll learn about the communities of others. Many communities are very welcoming and embracing of “outsiders. By practicing this pledge, I will become very proud of who I am and of others.”

Sign here after saying pledge: X. _____

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Box 131156, Cesar Chavez Station, San Diego, CA 92170 • (619) 233-1331 • ChavezClubs.org