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The Importance of Community & Service

Like many of us, pursuing a career in the government was initially out of a sense of duty, a desire for public service, with some adventure and foreign travel thrown in.

Along the way, we came to identify with a "family" -- the idea of a close-knit community. Little did we realize, the concept of community would just keep expanding with each move, each new assignment, each new relationship, until we probably do not even recall all those connections, those "communities." In the past few months, though, I have been reminded of those connections and how important they are.

In this challenging period for the U.S., it's time to look again at our definitions of service and community and take individual action instead of waiting for someone else, or some entity, to do something. It doesn't have to be a high



profile project or a long term commitment -- small individual actions can have significant impact. Maybe it's some dog-walking for the homebound, fetching groceries for older at-risk neighbors, or assisting local businesses reeling from the disruptions. For me, it's raiding my stash of sewing supplies and making masks for an assisted living facility and a local hospital.

So, how are you inspired to be part of a solution? Please act upon and share your ideas with others on community and service during this national health crisis.¹

¹ By the way, if you are interested in making masks, you can find any number of patterns and instructions on the internet. I use patterns from...

Made Every Day <https://www.madeeveryday.com/fabric-face-mask-free-pattern/> and Craft Passion <https://www.craftpassion.com/face-mask-sewing-pattern/>.