

COMMUNITIES' Impact



We hear regularly about how COMMUNITIES has helped transform people's lives. Year after year, for 50 years now, the magazine has inspired readers to seek out cooperative alternatives or a community to join, or to start a project, a group, or even a new community together with others. Articles have given many of us essential guidance on implementing design strategies and techniques related to physical sustenance, infrastructure, and the land. Practical wisdom shared in our pages has helped individuals and groups course-correct in the areas of communication, decision-making, and cultivating healthy relationships. Contributors' stories have provided a mirror for readers' own challenges and struggles, often aiding the process of healing and leading to renewed energy and inspiration to move forward after difficult experiences. Authors themselves tell us they have reached new understandings through writing, allowing them to become more productive and creative after sharing their experiences in this format.

In addition to the many individuals who are conscious of COMMUNITIES' impact in their lives, many more have felt its effects without even knowing. Every person touched by a project which owes some of its existence or success to COMMUNITIES benefits from it. The magazine has endured for 50 years because it fills a unique, essential niche in the movement to encourage more humane, sensible, harmonious, and regenerative human societies, inhabiting a world in which our species has a chance of surviving.

COMMUNITIES is a way of "remembering who we are" as human beings and as members of the earth community and acting to put that awareness into practice, despite many countervailing forces and discouraging trends on the world stage. Those of us who've lived in community know that there are always alternatives, always a variety of paths to take, always a chance of renewal after things seem to fall apart. We are not powerless, especially when we join with others. We *can* find a better way, in our own lives, in our societies, as a species. The experiences, insights, practices, and knowledge authors share in our pages offer guidance for remaking our ways of living with good chances of success, for helping dreams become reality, and for helping us find ways out of individual or collective jams in ways we didn't even dream were possible.

We who create and publish COMMUNITIES often wonder how its benefits can reach more people. We also wonder how, year to year, we can generate the financial support for the project that will allow it to have the impact it could have—or even simply keep core staff being paid the entire year without going through periods of being laid off in order to balance the budget and keep the magazine afloat.

We've been fortunate to receive substantial donations from several individuals and groups, as well as smaller donations from subscribers, many of whom choose to subscribe at "supporter" or "sustainer" levels that reflect more accurately a subscription price that could support our current circulation and production expenses. Thank you!

In order to meet more of our potential, however, while also ensuring that financial worries don't negatively impact the magazine or its shepherds, we are now seeking new forms of support, allowing us to manifest one of more of these visions:

VISION #1: Five benefactors provide funding for 500 new subscriptions to groups and institutions where the print edition of COMMUNITIES can make the most collective impact (see next page).

VISION #2: One major benefactor (or a team of several) makes the digital COMMUNITIES free to the world (see third page).

We would love to manifest both visions! Please be in touch with us directly if you too are inspired by these and would be interested in helping in any way. (See details on those pages.)

Thank you again for joining us in COMMUNITIES! 🌱

Chris Roth (editor@gen-us.net) has edited COMMUNITIES for nearly 15 years.

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WEBSITE: gen-us.net/communities.

VISION #1:

Five Benefactors Could Provide COMMUNITIES Print Subscriptions to 500 High-Impact Hubs

Communities hopes to find **five** benefactors who each support the magazine at the level of **\$5,000 per year** to assure that its finances remain healthy and also to achieve the following boost to its ability to fulfill its mission:

Each benefactor who contributes \$5,000 per year may choose to support **100*** complimentary annual print + digital subscriptions to either:

1. INTENTIONAL COMMUNITIES—you choose and/or we choose 100 intentional communities to receive complimentary subscriptions to COMMUNITIES. We've seen the impact that the magazine can have in individual communities countless times, yet most communities do not actually subscribe. A benefactor could change that.

2. PUBLIC LIBRARIES—you choose and/or we choose 100 public libraries to receive complimentary subscriptions to COMMUNITIES. As with issues received by communities, those that go to libraries can reach many readers, multiplying the opportunities for making a difference in people's lives.

3. COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES—you choose and/or we choose 100 college/university libraries to receive complimentary subscriptions to COMMUNITIES. Copies in the libraries of colleges and universities can reach readers at a particularly formative time in their lives, increasing the chances of ripple effects in the years that follow.

4. EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS AND GROUPS—you choose and/or we choose 100 educational programs, departments, or groups to receive complimentary subscriptions to COMMUNITIES. Certain groups of students are already primed to be interested in our themes. Students of environmental studies, group process, political

empowerment, cultural evolution, psychology, and even storytelling, journalism, and more may find the magazine particularly relevant. What educational programs do you know that could benefit from a COMMUNITIES subscription?

5. NONPROFIT GROUPS—you choose and/or we choose 100 nonprofit groups to receive complimentary subscriptions to COMMUNITIES. Intentional communities and nonprofits have much in common, and in fact some groups have both identities; moreover, the goals of many nonprofits align with the themes and aspirations explored in the magazine.

BULK ISSUES—as an alternative or supplement to a set of subscriptions, a benefactor may choose to have one or several boxes of each new issue (44 copies per box) sent to any US address(es), for distribution at events, suitable locations, to friends, associates, or whoever could benefit from them.

If you are interested in supporting any, several, or all of these projects to enhance COMMUNITIES' reach and its viability in fulfilling its mission—or if you know anyone who may be inspired and able to support these visions—please contact us (at editor@gen-us.net, 541-335-1566, or c/o 330 Morgan St., Oberlin OH 44074). **Benefactors' sponsored projects can be tailored, mixed-and-matched, and scaled according to interests and capacities.**

However you support and contribute to COMMUNITIES currently, thank you. Every level and every form of support and involvement, nonmonetary as well as monetary, is appreciated! Thank you for being part of this community. And we hope you share our desire for it to not only endure, but expand.

**These numbers would apply to US-based subscribers; because of postage costs, numbers would need to be adjusted for international addresses.*





VISION #2:

One Major Benefactor (or a Team of Several) Could Make COMMUNITIES Free to the World

Finding one major benefactor (or a team of them) able and willing to donate a total of **\$30,000 per year** would make it possible to make **all back and current issues of COMMUNITIES available for free viewing and download to everyone in the world with an internet connection**—in just a few clicks, directly from our site. Digital subscriptions via SimpleCirc (including reminder emails each time a new issue is available) would also become free to everyone who wanted one. This would expand our potential readership beyond the several thousand who currently have easy instant access to COMMUNITIES to the billions of people who would have that under this arrangement. Our reach would expand dramatically, far beyond how that amount of money compares to our current yearly budget.

Could you help make this vision a reality? And/or do you know others who might be able to? Can you help us find them? We are convinced this vision is a viable possibility. We know how much money is out there waiting to find good use (although most of it is not held by those currently living in the ways depicted in COMMUNITIES).

All benefits would flow to these new readers—while staff would also be assured stability in their current very modest compensation levels, and satisfaction in knowing that the potential effects of their efforts in creating the magazine were being magnified hundreds-fold, thousands-fold, or even millions-fold. In an age when \$30,000 is often spent without thinking on a private nonessential luxury, we know that it could equally eas-

ily be spent on a project that would bring essential resources for cooperative change within easy reach of the two-thirds (and growing) of the world's population that currently has internet access.

We believe the skills, tools, and insights shared in COMMUNITIES deserve to be shared with everyone, and that those with means to make this happen would have greater impact by supporting this project than by almost any other way that money could be spent. A \$30,000 donation per year would assure that we have a sustainable annual budget without the need to charge for digital subscriptions at all, and would make us less reliant on print subscriptions and extra donations to exist. We would still offer print subscriptions, and print subscribers would still cover those costs. That option would continue to be available to new readers (who might discover us through reading us digitally for free online) as well. But COMMUNITIES could travel far beyond the print readers, and independent of income from them. The generosity of a benefactor or benefactor team at this level would be able to flow outwards to everyone who can benefit from it.

If you want to contribute to this project in any way—if you are potentially *the* benefactor who can make it happen, if you'd like to be part of a group of them, or if you have connections to people who would be happy to make it possible—please let us know. You can email Chris at editor@gen-us.net, or text or call 541-335-1566, or write COMMUNITIES, c/o 330 Morgan St., Oberlin, OH 44074. **We hope to hear from you!**