

“The Time is Now for Our Beloved Community”

Collaboratively Written by

Lillia Gregg-Schlitt and Campbell Steggles, Lamberton Middle School, 6th Grade

The Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. once said, “The time is now for our beloved community.” These words inspired us to share with others and to help people feel included. In the spirit of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., we two decided to share our ideas in one essay. We hope that our words and our project will help bring our community together. We are going to describe the importance of welcoming and including people in the community, celebrating change and differences, and most importantly, reminding others to be kind and love one another in the “spirit of sisterhood and brotherhood” (King Center).

In order for people to feel welcomed into a community, the community actually has to welcome them. One sunny afternoon, my friend and I saw one of our peers sitting on the ground by himself. We both eventually decided to go over and talk to him, as well as welcome him to have lunch with us. Then, after we left, several others went to talk with him and to make him feel better. All they needed was to see the first gesture to remind them to welcome others and be kind to people.

Martin Luther King Jr. said, “We may have all come on different ships, but we are on the same boat now.” The Reverend King encourages us to be open to change and to celebrate differences, welcoming all. We are always open to the chance that we might meet new people who could be different in some ways from us. They may have different families, like two parents of the same gender. Maybe their families speak a different native language. Perhaps they eat completely different food than we do. These differences are a cause for celebration.

The main reason for this essay is not to win a contest, but to bring our community closer together. We don’t want anyone in our community, or anywhere else for that matter, to feel invisible. These paragraphs, which we have written, are about welcoming people in our community, being open to change, celebrating differences, and lastly, reminding others to be kind and love one another. To remind others to be kind and to remind each other we are not alone, we are placing small rocks with nice quotes on them around our community. Now, we are doing what Martin Luther King Jr. once said, “If I cannot do great things, I can do small things in a great way.”