

Seeking Community - Finding Belonging in Chaotic Times Survey Results

Question 5: What does "belonging to community" mean to you?

safety, relationships, caring for all aspects of community together
Feeling part of, being perceived by others to be part of the community on the particular scale under
I think I belong to a community of people that share my profession, but I don't necessarily have a strong belonging in my geographic community....ON second thought, I guess I do in my neighbourhood. We know some neighbours and it feels good to know they care if you're away, they offer to feed your dog, etc.
It means you contribute to your network and the network provides benefits to you
part of a great whole
It is a state of full engagement with others in a lasting, meaningful, wholistic 'world village'.
This is the sense of being a member of a given community and as a member you are valued and respected for what you bring and contribute to the community.
security. if you are a muslim then fear / insecurity.
feel to be an integral part of a group of people
You feel comfortable in your surroundings.
it means being connected within the community, to be an active participant of the community
It means feeling wanted and feeling comfortable within a particular group of people who you care about and who care for you.
feeling accepted and supported
being myself with others
Being heard and welcomed
someone knows who you are because you belong to that community..what can you contribute to your community so that people know who you are and what you stand for...welcome arms
-having my ideas understood and being a part of a group who want the same things for the community
a sense of place
I don't belong to a community unless I put in some elbow grease for it. Anything you work for becomes part of who you are.
being apart of a group of people and being able to contribute in a meaningful way
sharing similar beliefs, respect for one another, showing pride in what we have
family
Being a contributing member of a given group of people,
same as the top answer everyone should belong
self and others recognize being part of a defined association of people
not much.... I live in a community, I belong to groups, I suppose I could say I belong in a community if I am referring to a group as community
being responsible to that group -- being able to respond to situations affecting it
Knowing I matter to member of my 'community' - both my personal networks, professional networks and the larger community in which I live.
connected to my neighbours, being an important piece to making it all work better
"feel" that attachment both to physical place AND the feeling of connectedness
Belonging to community contributes to feeling secure and feeling 'at home' in your surroundings. This could take place at work or home or at play
I fit in. I feel welcomed regardless of my personality flaws. We celebrate together and grieve together.
contributing as part of the group
Being able to be me, do my thing, contribute and share with others dreams
Being part of a community that recognizes the same values and belief I do
Recognition that we matter and can contribute
having connections to the community
that I get to live at home

knowing that you are a member of a community, that you have a place in it where you contribute and also gain and build your own resources through belonging in it
Seeing yourself as part of the community
If I belong to a community I have a responsibility to enhance, build and contribute to the community. I will benefit, my family will benefit and others will benefit from my contributions.
To be part of an engaged
A clear sense of my space, contribution and positive influence within a group
participation, residence
a sense of interconnectedness and content
An appreciation of others where a feeling of trust and familiarity is reciprocated.
Having a collective that values me and I value
Feeling part of a community. Identifying with it.
feeling of family - of ohana
comfort
investing myself in my community; seeing something that's valuable and wanting to be included
membership
Feeling that I am a part of the environment where I live and work.
Feeling like you belong to that group that you want to be part of
Contributing and supporting local businesses, participating in activities, volunteering and shared spiritual
being part of a larger entity and having a stake in its success
feeling you are living in a place where you are supported
feeling or being part of a network of connections among a group of people
same as above, the sense of identity, inclusion, respect, and solidarity
feeling like you're part of something with like minded people
participating and talking with my neighbours
For me it implies a feeling and less a membership Where one feels a part of something bigger than themselves
Where one feels accepted
feeling at peace, feeling at home, trust
Comfort in the place we live.
I draw a total blank - my first response was "nothing" ..I guess being an accepted and valued part of a specific group
I am not alone. I share concerns, ideals, hopes and a vision with others who share this place. I first think of Victoria when you ask me this, but I also feel a sense of belonging to community when I think of my colleagues and friends across the country who share my interest in poverty-reduction work
being a contributor to the outcomes, work of a group and having a sense that my contributions make a difference and that I am an important member
To belong to a community
acceptance embrace being there
being accepted as a member, recognized as a member and valued as a member - more than existence
living in harmony with others
being a part of, contributing to, benefiting from
feeling connected to and valued by an identified group of people.
Involvement
A sense of purpose and responsibility.
i think there is also some degree of acceptance. you may move to a new place or wish to be part of a community, but you can only belong if you are welcome.
support
Although one can belong to a community while remaining passive or unengaged, a sustainable or living community exists only when most members are actively engaged and contributing to the collective benefit.
being part of a group of people who share something, like an identity, a place, economic means (like money, acceptance by others

again, fitting in, having a role to play, giving back and receiving
being cared about and caring outside of my immediate circle of family and friends
a sense of involvement and meaningful interaction with friends and neighbors and receiving the benefits of service and volunteerism
contributing to the community, pride in
being part of a group
sense of both contributing to the collective betterment and growing because of it
it means that the community owns a part of me and vice versa. there is a reciprocal sense of care and responsibility that is inherent in the relationship.
feel it is ok to ask for help, or to accept it
It means to participate and contribute and have this valued.
Being part of a functional, geographical or other group. Having interactions with people and/or a place.
feeling accepted and responsible to a group of people
A feeling of or a desire to participate in the "exchange". To "touch" through the mutual sharing and/or organizing of resources, the advantage of which favors the pursuit of wellness
Means I am part of my community
feeling a part of a community of interest
having connections to something bigger that is a safe or 'warm' place
feeling like I am part of the broader community, have a role to play in it & feel supported
having a sense of attachment to a group with common interests/purpose or to a geographic place
Feeling you are part of a whole mix
That you have a place in that community. Positive.
I have a place in the community that is recognized by community members
being included or part of a group that you have something in common with.
having a role in a community that may be geographic or may be functional / professional / interest based
Both geographically in a place and spiritually in shared values and perspectives
Very important part of my identity- culture and values
Feeling a part of your community whether it be based on location, race, spirituality, age etc....doesn't matter
being part of a greater whole, fitting in, security, contributing to something valuable
involved, feeling a sense of home, again safe, connectedness
partaking in community events, getting to know others and contributing
feel a part of my community - respected, valued, and giving back meaningfully
a feeling that I am linked into and part of a milieu of relationships that will help me or hinder my mission.
being a contributing member, it is not a passive exercise, belonging involves some personal investment
- support - love - vibrancy - creativity - sum bigger than the parts
feeling an essential part of a group of people with whom I share a special interest
feeling welcome in a group of people; feeling respected for who I am
as above with whatever community (neighborhood, interest, work, practice etc.) is of importance
Belonging to a community involves responsibility, experience, connectedness, growth, shared experience and emotion. It is the context for our learning and growth beyond our primary family group where we meet life's challenges with the knowledge that we are supported as we take risks. It can also be the place where our values can be shaped or life experiences processed for learning and understanding.
that I am part of process, that I have influence because I am important to the community, that I am part of a group that wants me and values me even if I don't want to contribute all the time
being a member of that community
The group in which you belong and in which you can expect long-term commitment.
to fit with a group of people and all the differences people bring are dynamic and offer authenticity
See question 4.
Feeling part of something bigger than myself, a sense of responsibility.
being accepted into a group of people who are close knit; not being an outsider; having a place where you are comfortable with the people
contributing to and receiving from a group that feels like home

Acceptance.
being recognized when I am among other members
Being part of a group where you are accepted, warts and all.
where can I contribute to doing something that matters with others - knowing community has skills and knowledge to get things accomplished
being part of something larger than myself....the collective is more important than the individual, and the collective momentum, support and love provides the individual with the opportunity to find meaning in his/her life and to fulfill his/her destiny
having a sense of identification/feeling of being at home
Adherence to a set of behaviours, values and beliefs that permit acceptance by a group.
ditto
means there is reciprocal sharing and understanding amongst a group of people
The feeling that we are part of a group, greater than our family of origin.
feeling like you are part of a larger grouping of people with the common interests/goals, who you identify with attached to your community....that may set up someone's prejudices for how much money you make or what you might do for a living
Working with others to make our shared parts of life work together
I feel part of a specific area (where I live), or a group with like interests or some other form of ties.
Everybody fits in
It means that a group of persons in communion with each other support and encourage each other with prejudice or judgement.
that I am part of a people and a place, that I contribute and the community would be smaller without me
a place where you feel at home, cared for, that you matter
Belonging to community means having a place in the community, being welcome and comfortable in your space
Sharing in the rewards and contributing to one another's well-being
being a part of a group bound around a common interest
being a part of a group or place
A place or group of people that feels warm, welcoming and "at home" where I don't have to try hard to enjoy myself or be myself or give of myself freely
part of community/ supported/
Knowing the people and resources in an area - feeling supported
part of the community
There is a group of people to whom I offer time and allegiance, and who offer that back to me.
To be connected with people and to be aware of
It is more about the heart than an address. To be connected to others/accepted
being truly engaged by receiving from others and giving of oneself to other members of a community, where you feel that you and your loved ones can have their needs met (physical, spiritual, emotional, ..)
being involved with functions, social gatherings and volunteering, being responsible not just for your own happiness but caring about others, being respectful of others
a group asset, a sense of connection, at home
same thing
knowing others, interested in the wellbeing of the community, working for the good of the group
A commitment to a group of people; a responsibility to support and contribute to; a sense of ownership
involvement in a greater something
That it is my community that supports me and will support me, accept me.
that I know my neighbours and that I meet familiar people as I go about my day
an emotional connection that a group of people share that may lead them to feel a sense of pride / ownership
One has people in the community who will/do support and care for him/her
- one feels needed by those around them. - one feels accepted and needed by those around them,
personal sense of being part of a community
being surrounded by people who like me

fitting in, taking pride in belonging a place to contribute
belonging to a larger group, sense of meaning, sense of importance, sense of power in larger numbers
As above in a particular circle of people
- having a sense of inclusion in your geographic community - having friends and neighbours
well-being
means being an important and valued part of a community (group of people and a place)
extension of family, a place that I "fit"
being included in an extended family
mindful of several circles to which we belong
interconnection of individuals
having a place or a group of people that you can feel safe with or feel connected to.
Having people care about you
feeling right about one's membership in a group, and feeling welcomed and recognized by the group
one of the community
A group of people who include me - professionally, personally, practically.
active participation in community activities
feeling comfortable and happy in and with my community
To be actively engaged in giving and receiving to a group to which I have actively formed attachments and it to
part of, accepted and included as a person/ member within community
acceptance within common ground
team, family, friendship, circle of life
part of the community that I belong
Belonging to community means that you are part of that community a place where you feel cared for and comfortable
See 4.
Identifying with, owning, co-creating and being responsible for.
feeling involvement and responsibility for what occurs with in a web of relationships
participating
Being in a place or group of people where you feel completely safe and comfortable.
involved in community
being free to be myself, working as a team to accomplish things that are of common benefit. understanding each other
sense of place and caring to a specific area
the same as #4
Belonging to community means to me intentionally being part of a larger group. Sometimes one is surprised by the community that develops around you and this has happened to me, but most of my sense of belonging to community has occurred because of my intentional pursuit of community through joining a volunteer group, a spiritual community, a sports group, etc.
also a feeling
participating in community events
people who know your children, stop and talk to you, where there are activities that invites all people in the community.
I'm an important part of "something"
Means that you give and take in the place you live or work.
finding the things that we have in common and sharing those experiences to create community
being part of a whole, strength in numbers
Participation in shared social activity
It's an extension of what we normally think of as "intimacy" but without the "romance"! There must be a strong will to face conflict, difference, and ethical concern in order to belong to any community. It requires patience, listening and talking in different degrees at different times; and hope. It means that no-one is left out, stigmatized, and most especially not scapegoated.

having a place where I am known and accepted
Sharing the benefits and the responsibility for what happens locally
being an active participant, wanting to help others in the community wanting to make the community a better place for everyone, playing a part in the community
sharing same values or same purpose with a group of people, contributing to the group in many different ways
being part of a group of people who share similar values and goals
Connection to place/group
knowing those around me are approachable and will be friendly back to me - they will talk to me in elevators or say hi on the street - even if we are not personally acquainted
a part of a larger group
part of a larger social network which has meaning , purpose, worth
i feel a part of it, i participate in the community's daily life
community has a vested interest in the individual community member
it can be positive, in that one is a clear part of a group, or it can be negative in that a group has ownership over you. it can swing either way, and sometimes both at the same time
feeling like you are part of that group of people because of a common interest/goal
A group that would mutually identify that I am one of them
Having past and ongoing connections with a set of people with whom I share something.
An active member who supports and has support from other members.
easier to contribute when you belong; pushes you to contribute, to join, to notice others, to give of yourself
acknowledged by self and or others as to "place" in the scheme of things
physical and emotional connections to a place/s and the people in it/them
one links of all kinds to one's community
feeling a sense of connection with others
being a part of the whole
listening, participating, acceptance of what each has to give, resilience, flexibility, courage, curiosity, asking questions, humour, not taking self too seriously, forgiveness, accepting challenge and loss, sharing experience
fellowship
being connected to that whom, what I know
contributing to shared living
"Belonging to community" implies both something "automatic" and a "choice" -- I think there are types of belonging which just "are", and types that are more conscious choices (self-identified). However, it cannot be divorced from my emotional state; if I am feeling "down," I might not feel I belong very well, even though other people may perceive no difference, or relate to me with no difference (a.k.a. the difference can be in my own head/heart/body/spirit) and affect my sense of belonging to community. It can generate further energy, others can react to my sense of not quite belonging, when I'm in that emotional state.
Accepting responsibility for maintaining the relationships that bind the group together
It's being a member of that Community.
being part of a social order
being a valued part of a group of some sort
A place where I am accepted for who I am
A relationship of reciprocity, mutual respect and affection
having a group of peers (various levels of closeness) where one can 'show up' authentically (See above), with people who share similar values
a park? a natural playspace?
Feeling like a valued member of your community, whatever the community may be
having a sense of interconnectedness with like-minded others
feeling part of the neighborhood, group of people it provides a sense of security
Being a part of the community.
Belonging to community means that I, as an individual, hold some personal invested interest and am included in community planning and development.

Feel a part of a particular community
being part of community exchange, participation and contribution
feeling and experiencing being part of a community
being a part of the place where I live or a group I choose to become part of
place or with people where i feel good, people accept me for who i am, often working together towards a common goal
part of a group
A place where I am recognized and accepted for who I am.
acceptance within a group/ similar circumstances
responsibility to and for people and place
That I have the opportunity to have a voice, that I have opportunity to participate, that others feel included like youth
common cause, work for common good, friendship, supportive
It would mean being a part of a group either geographically or through a common interest or cause.
that I feel that I have a place where I am known and that I know what matters to others
Belonging to a community means to me that you have a stake, collectively, in the community and its future.
a support system
supportive
Belonging with, usually, several others that form the human or non-human community
being a part of common goal, theme, direction
ownership experienced by all members
feeling invested and being part of a group of people (per definition of community in Q1)
not othering others
fulfillment of primal need to be a part of something bigger than oneself to ensure security, stability, status at a primitive level, it means striving together for higher ideals at a more global level
Being part of a group with shared purpose and mutual support
feeling like I am part of the community, that I am accepted, that people know me
to be included in a network based on a common set of beliefs or geography.
accepted by, and contributing to a group
see above
willingness (need and or want) to meaningfully engage in activities with another
first impression is negative as in ownership by the community. belonging in community is better, having a sense of security within a larger supportive group
the same as 4.
Belonging to community is a form of attachment, just as a child attaches to a parent, a person attaches to community -- local or national
part of a community being valued and respected acceptance
active participant
feeling connected to others
That I am bigger than myself and I need others around me to have a full life
A sense that you have a stake in the greater good by acting in concert with a group of like-minded people.
Knowing people who will engage with you in relation to shared interests.
To be known within the community that has defined itself. I may belong to many different communities.
I fit into the community and feel right about my connection to it
share same values
- feeling welcomed in a community, feeling a part of a community, being a contributor to a community
To have a purpose, connection to particular goals, values belief system specific to the defined community
being involved and accepted membership
all in it together
being an important part of that community where I am valued, respected, accepted, and acknowledged
I am called upon to give or to take
have a niche get what you need and provide something to others

shared identity Commitment to group
being a part of the community
It gives a slight negative feeling. I don't like the 'to', as though the community owns me; 'with' would be better.
"Belonging to community" means living out or acting upon the purpose and pride that your involvement and interaction has within the community that you are a part of.
volunteering to assist others
living within any given area -
feeling that your community and community leaders value and use the opinions and ideas of citizens to achieve common goals
feeling a sense of pride and inclusion in your neighbourhood, whatever its physical boundaries
being part of a group of caring people
having a say
If that recognition of me and that beyond "how are ya" is in a community, I am happy. If I find common ground, I am engaged.
- an integral part of the community to give and receive
feeling a sense of belonging something bigger than myself
this means that I have a place in a specific community, where I am recognized.
Inclusion in whatever area one wishes where there is interaction with other beings.
Being recognized and having your voice heard as part of a group.
Included in the social, economic, and political life of the community. Also, accountable to.
we have the same beliefs, we are connected in some way, and I have a sense of being part of something outside myself or my family.
being part of a greater group of people with similar background/location/needs/interests
having a "created family" of people who share something in common; the group of people who watch out for you and vice versa; a collective of people who share similar mores, values or vision
comfortable in this place called community with family, friends, physically safe; friendly
feeling part of an interconnected group
to be a part of a group, to be a resource shared by the common group
the sense of being part of something larger than oneself
being a part of a community
- recognized within the community by other members - both giving and receiving benefits
being part of a group who share common concerns and values
Interesting... I can belong to a community but not necessarily be part of its activities such as I live in such and such community.
sustained and sustainable connection with people in a geographic, work or social sector
balance of life
being a member of the community, known and accepted by others, playing a role
being part of a group of people
Again, not a turn of phrase I use much. If a community includes me, I belong to it, I guess. Although I don't like the idea that "belonging" implies ownership. The community doesn't own me, nor me it.
being a part of a member
identifying with a group sharing interests with a group working with group members
commonality of geography, shared interest in improving the community or mitigating risks and dangers to the community, working with others toward shared goals, awareness of diversity
I understand what my responsibilities and benefits are from being part of that group
Being part of a common purpose with a group of others
being known, at least by just a few people, on sight, and engaging in activities of living (any kind)
something I and other members of my community have ownership of
membership, responsibility to others, their responsibility to me and to others.
that it is a community where we celebrate similarities but respect differences
interconnectedness with others, mutual reciprocity, responsibilities and benefits
knowing what's going on

Belonging to community means that you and the other members of that community recognize or acknowledge your membership in that community.
feeling that I am part of something larger
knowing what matters to others
being accepted by a particular group
Locating my sense of self within a larger context; mutual responsibility and response-ability
It means that you have a group of neighbours you can rely on to support you when you need help and you are able to offer them the same support when they are in need.
belonging is actively engaging in aspects of the community that enhance you and the community in which you choose to live.
Being accepted and supported (same as just "belonging")
My spot in the universe to be safe and accepted.
fulfillment through friends
Belonging to community is sense of affiliation and caring with other people or places.
Taking part in activities along with others.
being a part of like minded people
Individuals being recognized as part of something bigger than themselves.
Affiliation with a geographic location or group of individuals with a common interest.
Describes attachment to a community
being part of my community day to day
Fitting in
Contributing to community, being accepted in the community, having a place with others.
a valued member of, citizenship
home
- being included/part of a larger group of people
Being an active part of a group of people I share space, emotion and thought with
having a "place" in the community
belonging to community means the experience of connectedness with those individuals and organizations with whom I interact most regularly
Being part of an intentional group of like-minded people and thereby deriving the benefit of strength in unity.
Contributing member
more than just family, sense of place, safety, greater than the sum of its parts, camaraderie, working together, joint vision and goals, quality of life
That I
Being part of something larger than yourself
connection to the people I live with, or work or recreate with
being a part of the group that is defined as that particular community
having a group of people that accept you and want to be associated with you
be part of a group of people who represents me
Being an active member of my community, being willing and able to participate in civic life.
It is informal, but where I am conscious of a community that I am part of.
feeling at home with like-minded others
feeling part of a group with shared values and goals
Not being excluded nor undervalued
part of something that I relate to
a group of people in an area feel that the assets (on many levels) are in some way tied to them, both as benefits and responsibilities.
Allies.....communal....on a personal note it makes you feel comfortable and able to be yourself.
I'm part of problems and solutions because I'm own and care about my community and I want to live in a healthy and progressive place.
volunteering, partaking in actions/activities to make the community a better & safer place
You participated in the give and take interactions in the community.

- can identify my connections to others
being part of a community
See above. There is a unity of purpose and/or at least a commonality of interest.
To be an identifiable member of a community, by the community.
being committed to doing something for the public good, having voice and using voice
richness of interaction in the place I have my home and the groups I integrate with
that you are part of an organization or group of individuals in a certain area
That there are people I can turn to when I need help.
being involved in my community, enjoying my community
being a part of a group of people that share space
Belonging to a community means that I share some values with my fellow citizens and I have a sense of pride in my belonging to this group
Both good and bad: you can be associated with something negative a community might be known for (maurading fans destroying property in public riots) or you can benefit from a sense of common purpose as a minority group (identity and feeling of strength in numbers)
same, but with a group
neighbors that get along
acceptance and inclusion into those parts of society that are important to one
participating in community, engaging in community activities, services, events etc. social inclusion, familiarity, trust
taking part in the simple and complex activities
being a volunteer or a paid worker in a group of people where my contribution is valued
Not much but more geographical than anything else. Living in a particular place.
strong connections between individuals and groups that can be utilized to further community agendas
involved and engaged feeling of control or input into decision making
Feeling a sense that you are a valid member of a group that shares something in common.
a part of the larger group,
being part of something bigger than yourself being accepted part of a bigger whole
home
Be counted as a contributor anda recieptient of support and services
Identifying with a given group of people or ideas.
feeling a part of something larger than I
Being a member, a part of it. Sharing joys and sorrows
Feeling that you are part of a bigger collective and that that collective represents you
A member with a common interest in the "community's" purpose.
Feeling 'at home'
member of a group
Sense of membership, with resulting obligations and privileges/benefits. Place of acceptance, welcome and feeling valued
Belonging to a community means equal access to the resources/assets of the community
comfort, resource sharing, can see the part you play in a bigger picture
Belong to community means a decision and dedication to give all of oneself to the whole living system, and thus create an environment that also allows oneself to live at the highest of one's potential to love all.
Active participation, acceptance
included in decision-making on what happens in my community that impacts on relationships
Having place within a group or place.
home
Not being alone, being part of a larger entity
having friends and acquaintances, having folks that I can ask for help, being concerned about the well-being of others in the same locale (varies by definition)
Taking an active role in the function of that group.

Contributing to community; believing/seeing that other respect the community (e.g., respect bylaws such as littering, noise, crime)
A sense of connection
Being a recognized part of a larger group
Experiencing the factor of home inside of a collective of people.
being connected to others based on something all members share, one of many in a web of relations beyond the self - it does NOT mean being absorbed by, controlled by or lost in the whole - it's more of a dialectical relationship where 'self' influences and is influenced by others
Means being a part of a community-Church, School, Work and Neigborhood
being missed if you aren't present
sense of value in the community
Interacting with those in my immedaite vacinity, without putting on an act!
being a part of the community - to know and be known
I have a role to play, i'm valued for my gifts, I'm located in a particular place with particular peopl
fitting in with one's surroundings, whether school, work or home
strength and safety in numbers
To be a part of and also to provide something to.
-having relationships with community members -being an active participants in that community -feeling as though I am similar to them in some way (ie. politically, socially, economically etc.)