

## *A Reflection on the Common Good*

A story is told of an old farmer whose corn crop consistently won first prize at the state fair. Bright yellow, juicy and sweet, the corn became a legend. After a decade-long streak of winning, a reporter interviewed the farmer about his strategy. The humble man surprised everyone by admitting his method was to share his best seed corn with his neighbors. “How can you afford to share your best seed corn with the same people you compete against every year?” the reporter asked. The farmer replied, “Don’t you know? The wind picks up pollen from the ripening corn and swirls it from field to field. If my neighbors grow inferior corn, cross-pollination will steadily degrade the quality of my fields. If I am to grow good corn, I must help my neighbors grow good corn.”



Today's individualist culture struggles with the notion of the common good, which requires sacrifice from those who have a surplus in order to ensure that those who are vulnerable are able to gain what they need to fully flourish. What is good, must be common to all.

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AS COMMUNITY BENEFIT  
LEADERS, WE WORK  
FOR THE COMMON GOOD.

PLEASE CONSIDER THE  
FOLLOWING QUESTIONS:

How does the health and well-being of individuals impact the rest of the community?

How do we represent the needs of vulnerable people when we are in conversation with our colleagues?

How do we encourage the sharing of our organization's resources with community organizations?