

# United We Stand

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The COVID 19 pandemic has changed the lives of millions across the world. This major event has presented a unique opportunity for communities to come together. As in many times of misfortune, people showed that they could not only come together by supporting and instill hope into each other. Whether it be creating the vaccine or helping out a neighbor, we all had played a role in retaining and returning life to the way it was before.

For at-risk individuals, this last year has been especially harrowing. To combat this, we have taken measures such as wearing a mask, social distancing, avoiding gatherings, and other precautions were taken. Precautions were essential to controlling the spread during the earlier months of the outbreak. These measures were meant to keep not only ourselves but the people around us safe as well.

Others have taken on more hands-on approaches; directly volunteering or donating to help provide some relief to those being affected more. During the first few months after the outbreak, many people continued to support local businesses by ordering from local restaurants. This may seem inconsequential, but this support from loyal customers allowed smaller businesses to stay afloat during an unpredictable time. Many were required to self-isolate, meaning they could not do their shopping themselves. Neighbors have helped each other by

buying groceries or shopping during the waves of self-quarantining. No matter the way of contributing, people recognized others in need of help and took action.

With the vaccine floating around in distribution, this time of hardship may soon be coming to an end, but the innate urge to help others will not be so soon to go. It will always be a part of us, as it represents the humanity we all share.