

## Abstract

A community is a small or large social unit (a group of living things) that has something in common, such as norms, religion, values, or identity. Communities often share a sense of place that is situated in a given geographical area (e.g. a country, village, town, or neighborhood) or in virtual space through communication platforms.

“For the past decade community has been slowly disappearing. Are we too busy for community, trying to earn and spending our time on electronic devices? In San Jose, California, our neighborhood coffee shops and independent bookstores have been replaced by franchises and online merchants. Mission City Coffee Roasting, a meeting place for students, artists, and writers and site for weekend folk concerts, is gone now, replaced by another Starbucks, and there is only one independent bookstore left in San Jose. Have we become too busy for community? Are we hiding behind selfies and negative social media? With our days filled with electronic gadgets, longer work hours and commutes, few of us know our neighbors, which can be unhealthy and unsafe. One afternoon the people across the street from me were robbed. Their next door neighbors were home, but no one noticed.”  
- Diane Dreher Ph.D.

It's time to put down the cell phone, scrolling through our social media accounts and get to know the community around us. Through the built environment, communities are able to come together face to face and learn about each other. Our research focused on the interactions of communities in environments such as community centers and religious gathering spaces. The diverse population of Bowling Green, Kentucky gave us the opportunity to apply our findings about community interaction. Our designs took gathering spaces and transformed them into environments suitable for today's community; making the use of technology beneficial instead of destructive.

## Introduction

Designing buildings and spaces which foster the growth and development of communities was the main task of our projects. From community centers to religious institutions, there are many ways in which communities interact. Spaces like; worship auditoriums, student lounges, and other spaces community members can interact with each other and learn about one another

**MAP** Bowling Green, KY  
Greenville, KY

## Results



Worship auditoriums in campus ministry centers, bring about a sense of unity among its members.



A restaurant with a bar will give a place for a busy family to enjoy a meal together, while giving adults a place to hang out.



Student lounges in campus ministry centers encourage face-to-face conversation.

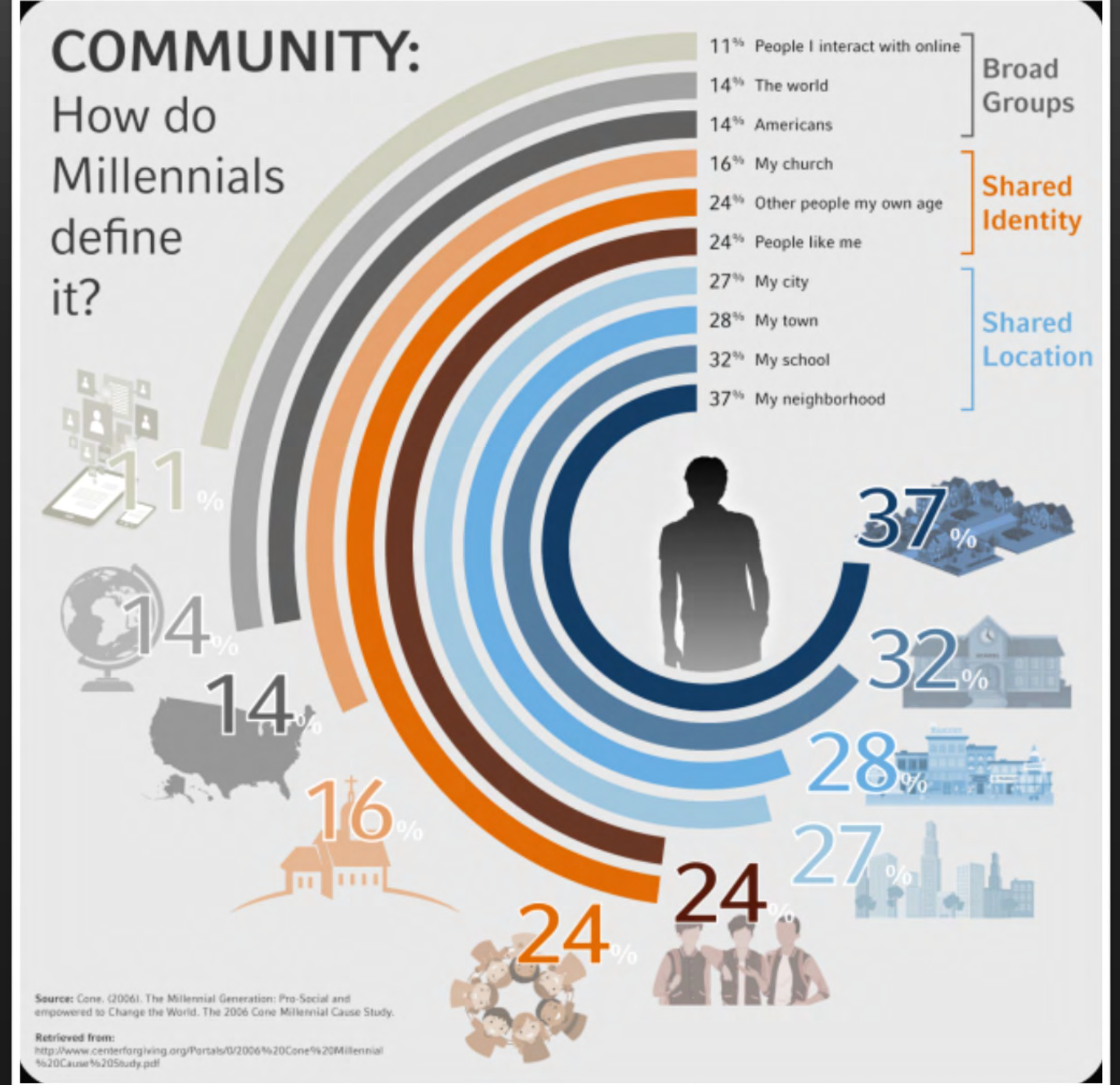


An outdoor lanai allows adults to socialize with one another while relaxing around a warm fire feature.

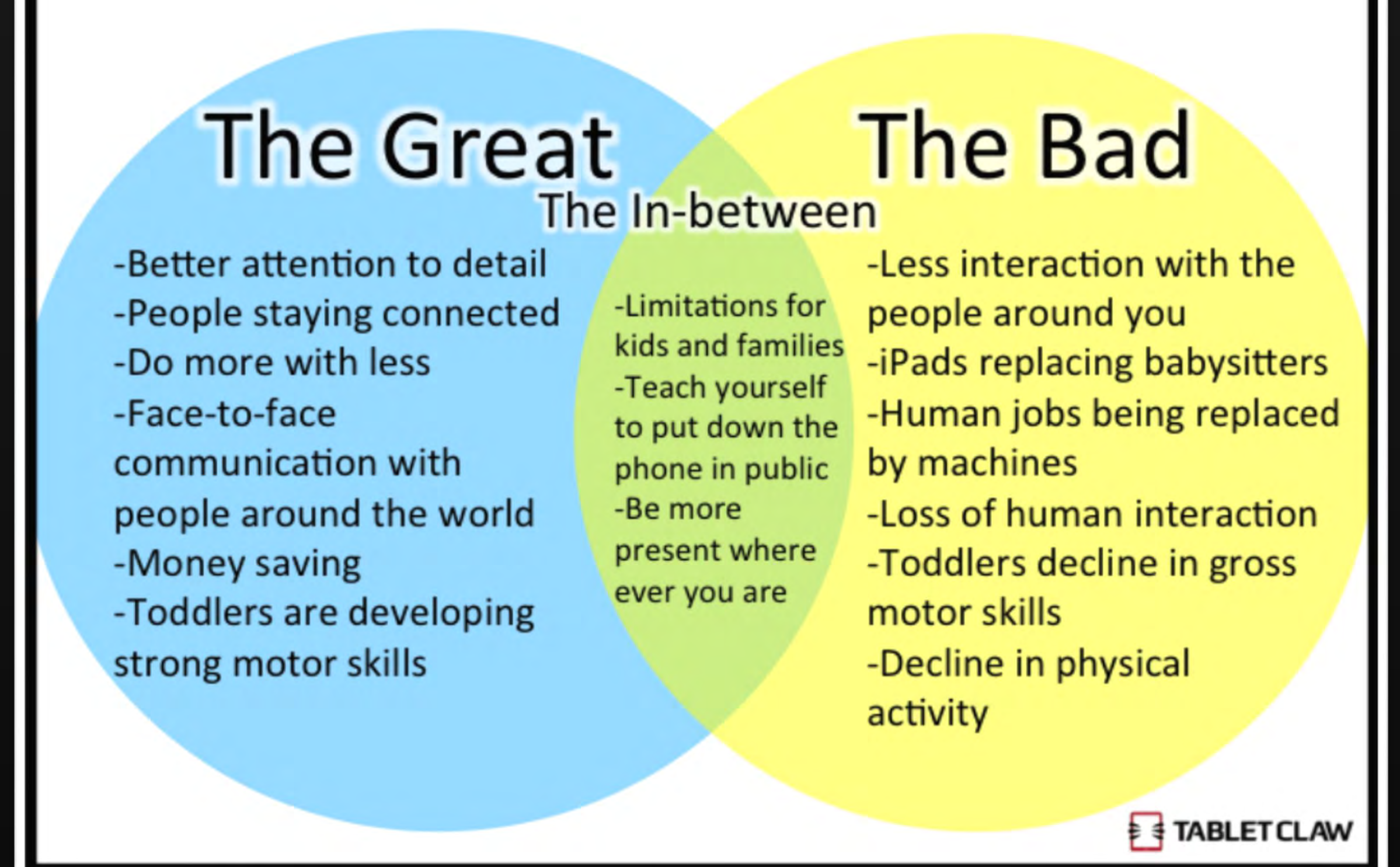
### Benefits of Community Centers:

- Serves as a centralized commonplace
- Promotes extracurricular activity
- Provides a safe place for adolescents
- Unifies a diverse community
- Gives members something to be proud of
- Creates a social environment
- Boosts local commerce
- Hosts community-driven group activities

## Research



### Technology: Modern Day's Evil Necessity



## Conclusion

With facilities like the Campus Ministry Center for Crusade for Christ and the Greenville Community Center, people can come together as one to foster imagination, fellowship, participate in group activities, and enjoy the social experience unlike any other. We hope this presentation gives one a better sense of the word community and how to achieve it through architectural design. Technology plays a huge role in our everyday lives, however, making time in our busy lives for one another is essential in creating a tightly bound relationship between a community and its members. Providing these such community centers will prove beneficial in bringing community together.

