

Youth Essay 1st Place

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Sensible Seeds for the Future

Lao Tzu states, "To see things in the seed, that is genius." I believe the idea of needing to know what you're planting should always be reflected before you accidentally plant a weed. Of course, there are multiple examples of beneficial additions to our small chunk of the world, but you need to know what you can do with this seed, and be careful not to put it to waste. Is it a flower, for everyone to gawk at its pretty petals, or an herb for healing things gone wrong?

One instance of good seeds is creating more opportunities for more people. A more distinct model is the Goodwill opening in Sedro Woolley, which will provide jobs and more accessible resources to people who need them, so the store itself has more employees, the employees have a job, and the people can buy things from the store.

Another scenario might be food banks, which give out food and other materials to people in need. The "Neighbors in Need" food bank in Skagit Valley says they have spent over two million dollars in the last year on food for families all around the county. Their website's information site says, "As a non-profit organization, we work closely with our food providers and with community outreach to provide our outstanding services. Because of the generous support we receive from our community, we are able to supply Skagit Valley's families with the help it needs." So, in a nutshell, citizens in Skagit Valley donate things to the food bank so they can be properly distributed among others. This is good for people so they can be able to share their extra belongings, which wouldn't have been as easy if this charity hadn't made themselves an available opportunity, so the people who founded the Neighbors in Need organization planted a very professional and ethical seed for sharing from now all the way back to 1972 when the bank started.

Other kinds of seeds bring people together, kind of like sharing a good meal after a long day of work. Whether it be going to a camp with your friends or whining about taking pictures at a new tulip field, these things bring you closer to others mentally and emotionally. A more

specific example could be the Skagit County Fair, where people from this country come together to showcase and explore, everyone having a good time in the warm sun and food. Bringing people together is an excellent use of seeds, so, basically, anything from building wonder in children with seahorses to making them stand in a sunny field for two hours could be a seed you want to plant with the people you love. Someone might say these kinds of seeds are a waste of time and money, but from a slightly different point of view you can tell that it's important, especially for young minds, to have these positive memories of their lives, to have those good old days they can revisit in the future, or to have some kind of tradition to use again in the future, creating structure.

To illustrate some seeds for the evolving future of us as a people, we could look at "The Bread Lab", a small community of people dedicated to learning more and making a common food, bread, more affordable and healthy. Stephen Jones, director of the bread lab, tells us, "We create and breed different wheat, barley and rye varieties that are better for the soil and farming, way better tasting, and best of all, healthier for you. Then we share that knowledge with the rest of the world." Jones and his group of researchers are actively working towards a better version of bread which can help us grow in the mind, environment, and food supply quality.

The Mount Vernon Library is also a moral community project. They recently have been discussing adding commons to their library, which are open to many and multiple different uses. An excerpt from the city of Mount Vernon website explains, "As an equitable anchor institution of any modern city and region, the Library is well-positioned to extend its role as a critical community connector; offering a place for seniors to gather, an early learning hub, access to digital literacy, new business incubation, employee training..." The gist of it is that these new library commons can be used to bolster health in the social areas of the surrounding people's lives, which is worth the fifty-three million dollars the project needs to me.

As is evident from my plotted points, there are so many ways you can cultivate these seeds to make something wonderful, you just need to be careful which seeds you plant and take good care of them, make sure they're for good causes like people's welfare, giving them good memories, building communities, or advances for the future - A good harvest is for sharing with others.