

**Putting the Unity Back in Community
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Webster's Dictionary defines community as a body of people living in the same place under the same laws. In rural small towns such as our own, community is much more than that. It is helping a neighbor in need, gathering to celebrate special occasions, or coming together to achieve a common goal. Area school districts play a vital part in providing opportunities for members of a community to come together. Monthly school board meetings, achievement ceremonies, and sporting events are all ways a school helps to unify a community.

Many may ask how a school district's Community Education program can play a role in unifying a community. Community Education programs can assist a school district in providing a wider range of opportunities for individuals to come together. In its simplest form, it can impact individuals of a community by presenting opportunities to enrich their lives. Enrichment can be achieved through the means of healthy recreational activities, learning a new skill, or finishing one's education. Reed City Community Education currently has programs to fulfill each of these goals.

Recreational activities are provided throughout the year with adult volleyball and softball leagues. Area youth have the opportunity to participate in a summer recreation program that promotes healthy activity by providing daily trips for them to stay active.

Classes such as Introduction to Computers, Beginning Knitting, Crocheting, Genealogy, Oil painting, and Cake Decorating are currently provided through Reed City Community Education. Each of these classes provides a unique opportunity for an individual to learn a new skill or hobby. Another aspect of these classes is that it gives those individuals of our community who have special talents or skills a place to showcase them through teaching others. For someone hoping to finish his/her high school education, GED Testing and high school completion classes can be a solution.

In a time when so many in our state struggle, participating in community events and activities not only allows for personal growth but also enriches the community itself. Programs that are designed to help bring people together, such as those at Reed City Community Education, play a pivotal role in this process and offer something for everyone.