As humanity advances through technology, leadership, and morality, past and future generations have a harder time communicating and empathizing with each other. A study by the Pew Research Center found that 79% of Americans see huge differences in the way younger and older adults view the world. This disparity is largely in part due to the rapid advancement in technology and the changes in what we find acceptable in society. To help combat this problem I have developed the concept of the Unity Club. The Unity Club is a community program that will help create volunteer opportunities, allow different generations to interact with each other through fun activities, and let people express and share their cultures.

COVID-19 pandemic caused many people throughout the world to be in need of assistance. More than 80% of volunteering was in person before the pandemic but afterwards less than 40% of volunteering was done in person. This means that seniors that are at nursing homes or are homeless had a lot less help from volunteers as a direct result of COVID-19. The Unity Club seeks to help improve life for those in need by posting volunteer opportunities that are safe and convenient on a digital dashboard. Volunteering not only helps those in need, but has been proven to help strengthen relationships between those involved.

This allows for younger generations to form relationships with older generations and empathize with each other. The generational gap becomes a lot less of a problem if people can try to see both perspectives. Doing good deeds make both people involved happy and research shows that the happier people are the more likely they are to interact with others. A huge cause of the generational gap is not understanding or stereotyping other generations before truly getting to understand each other. However, through volunteering both sides can build mutual respect and understanding whilst simultaneously avoiding stereotypes.

Activities and events were mostly cancelled or rescheduled due to the pandemic. Now that the world is a lot safer than it was during the pandemic, in person events can be held without a big risk. Through the Unity Club, events that no matter what age you are you can enjoy will be held. These events can range from sports matches, mini carnivals, and picnics. The age demographic for these activities are varied so it can include anyone that wants to participate can.

A statement I stand by is proximity breeds care whilst distance breeds fear. The closer everyone is to each other, the easier it is for people to communicate thoughts, feelings, and stories with each other. Studies show that poor communication is a leading cause for poor relationships and I believe it’s the main cause for the generational gap. Poor communication is more common between generations because we all have a different level of understanding with technology. That’s why I believe we can break communication barriers through activities anyone can enjoy.

Cultures are passed down from generation to generation and can change overtime through cultural diffusion. These changes could contribute to the generational gap due to certain people being more traditional whilst others being more modern. What matters is that the core values of cultures usually remain the same throughout time and can be a common link between generations. Through the Unity Club, cultural festivals that are open for the public to enjoy will be posted on the digital dashboards. These could mean anything from food festivals to traditional celebrations.

The festivals can bring people together no matter what age you are to celebrate and express culture. Not only can it bring generations closer together, but it can also help create learning experiences. Many stories can be shared and friendships can be formed. These events can be celebrated together as a community and can stop the divide between generations we currently have. They also help old cultures be shared throughout the community.

These three ways are how the concept of the Unity Club program can bridge the generational gap.

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