



I am loved.

You and I have a need to belong. Every human being has an innate need to be connected to others in order to be healthy and happy. Children, from birth and through their teen years, are developing their sense of belonging – within their family, their school, group of friends, neighbourhood, and community.

Lakota anthropologist Ella Deloria described the core value of belonging in these simple words: "Be related, somehow, to everyone you know." Treating others as kin establishes powerful social bonds that draw people into relationships of respect. Theologian Marty noted that throughout history the tribe, not the nuclear family, always ensured the survival of the culture. Even if parents died or were not responsible, the tribe was always there to nourish the next generation. This is where we get the saying, "it takes a community to raise a child."

