

## United As One

About 8 billion people. In the world. About 300 million people. In the United States. About 7 million people. In Arizona. About 4.6 million people. In Maricopa County. About 281,000 people. In Chandler. All these people form one community. Yet the personalities of these people are what create the unique features of their communities.

As human beings, we inherit individual looks, personalities, likes, dislikes, and so much more. We embrace our individualism as the concept makes us stand out and differ from one another. But our individualism can be pieced together within each other sewn together into a patchwork blanket— whole, unique, and *imperfect*.

The concept of me, mine, my, and I resolves into us, ours, our, and we. We are in it together, as one unit, and even the sharpest steel scissors of conflict cannot maim our blanket. In fact, the threat of conflict is what makes us support one another and have the backs of each other.

Asian-Americans. African-Americans. Filipino-Americans. Hispanic-Americans. Latino-Americans. Native-Americans. The list goes on. All different, yet share the same word after the hyphen: American. We may all look different and have different values and traditions, but our uniqueness enhances and strengthens our community. What would happen if we were all the same? What would happen if we looked the same, and had the same values and traditions? Our differences diversify and strengthen our community as people with different backgrounds begin to bond over time. We find out that although we have distinct ideals and customs, we have many things in common. Our common traits are what bring us together as a community to face whatever is needed to be faced as one whole unique group of people.

The imperfection in all of us makes us unique, and when it's sewn into a blanket, it can turn into an unexplainable beauty only able to be witnessed. Not one of us is perfect, but we can perfect each other's imperfections. We can pick up loose threads from others in our community and join them with ours to make a continuous, functioning blanket. The blanket may not be a normal aesthetically pleasing look due to the many variations of design, but it'll be functional and beautiful in its own way. A function that cannot be truly appreciated unless it's taken away.

Mahatma Gandhi, a revered leader famous for his views of nonviolence, once said, "The golden way is to be friends with the world and to regard the whole human family as one." As individuals, we should build relationships with each other and work together with our distinctive traits in order to have a strong community. As a community, we can turn unpleasant into pleasant all due to our qualities of being a complete unit, distinctive, and *having flaws*. As a community, state, nation, and world, it truly is one for all and all for one.