



On Friendship and Community

By Darla K., Resident

While planting this morning with my fellow community members, my thoughts went to the joy of community and the positive feelings of sharing. Of course, that is typical of me, with a tribal ancestral background. The sense that I get, living at The Fields, is that there are people here that have so much to share and gladly give and take, both important parts of human interaction. Everyone that I have encountered here is friendly, cooperative, and helpful, including staff. We seem to be evolving into some sort of family, which is the basis of community.

In my work-a-day world, before retirement, I always sought out the environment of togetherness and “teamwork.” Alas, although these values were touted, and even shouted, I never really found this to be the case. Probably because the end goal of teamwork was the “bottom line” which is a different dynamic. Now, I understand that the concepts of teamwork, sharing and caring are the bases for a higher level of being. One of the ideas that came to me, from some forgotten sage, is that our real work in life starts after retirement, when we have time to work on ourselves, have time for inward focus, and discover what really matters in our individual and collective lives. I have found that community is the closest I have come to identifying what matters. From our community planting, meals, outings, movies, and get-togethers, and sharing of books, it seems we are building a sacred place and that I am very fortunate that the Creator has brought me to this place.