

The Kinder Community Pledge

During these challenging times, we can find comfort in knowing that courageous progress has been initiated during times of great division. Right now, we have an opportunity to become an even better community.

We offer this pledge as a way to join our neighbors in a personal commitment to actively promote positive connections between community members.

In times of discord or anxiety, may this pledge motivate us to remember our common desire for safety, justice, and mutual respect, and our ability to show strength and wisdom when challenged.

"I PLEDGE TO SHOW RESPECT, COMPASSION AND COURAGE IN MY COMMUNITY."

RESPECT: Each person is of equal importance to all others and each of our lives would be better if our community welcomed and protected all of our neighbors.

I will strive to:

- Recognize my own worth and treat all others as equals, with civility, courtesy and respect
- Remember that my neighbors are not my enemies, and that all members of my community are my neighbors
- Speak to people as though their lives matter
- Overcome the differences that seem to separate us and instead learn from each other
- Discourage jokes or remarks that assault another's dignity
- Assume good intentions whenever possible
- Offer another way of looking at things when I want to promote a change of mind, remembering that each of my neighbors carries his or her own complicated story and life experience
- Be aware of what I'm communicating, verbally and non-verbally. (For example, my facial expression can show indifference, judgment, or acceptance.)

COMPASSION: Compassion is necessary for our very survival, and compassion for self leads to greater kindness and compassion to others. With this in mind, I will strive to:

- Notice that there is more decency than negative intent in our community
- Thank people when they do something kind or compassionate
- Reach out beyond the familiarity of my own comfort zone for someone else's benefit
- Show more kindness and compassion more often
- Reduce injustice in the world by taking action in my own community

COURAGE: Courage may be needed to notice suffering, show support, and take action. I will do my best to:

- Be public about my commitment to this pledge
- Support other community organizations with their efforts to heal divisions
- Take positive action that empowers someone whenever I feel an injustice is taking place
- Help when I see someone in harm's way - be it verbal or physical abuse, neglect or other dangerous conditions. For example, I can:
 - Think ahead about how I might respond in the moment if I observe abuse or pending danger
 - Alert authorities if I witness an injustice
 - Offer a hand and stay with the victim of abuse until help arrives, if safe to do so
 - Speak up so that injustice will not go unchallenged

In conclusion: We are a varied community, but with one common purpose - to live our best lives. Your experience may not be my experience, but I can stand with you by pledging to do my best to **make Marquette** (or other area in which I live) **not only a "Cool City," but a "Kind Community."**

**For online signing & more info. on how you might follow through with this pledge,
go to www.AKindCommunity.org.**