

Bowling Alone: The Collapse and Revival of American Community

by Robert D. Putnam

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Summary:

Bowling Alone: The Collapse and Revival of American Community by Robert D. Putnam is a book that examines the decline of social capital in the United States. Putnam argues that the decline of social capital is a major factor in the decline of American civic life. He defines social capital as the connections among individuals—social networks and the norms of reciprocity and trustworthiness that arise from them. Putnam argues that social capital is essential for the functioning of democracy and civil society. He argues that the decline of social capital is due to a variety of factors, including the rise of television, the growth of the suburbs, and the decline of civic organizations.

Putnam examines the decline of social capital in the United States by looking at a variety of indicators, such as the decline in membership in civic organizations, the decline in voting, and the decline in participation in community activities. He argues that the decline of social capital has had a negative effect on American civic life, leading to a decrease in trust, an increase in crime, and a decrease in economic growth. He also argues that the decline of social capital has had a negative effect on the quality of democracy in the United States.

Putnam argues that the decline of social capital can be reversed by increasing the level of civic engagement in the United States. He argues that this can be done by increasing the level of participation in civic organizations, increasing the level of voting, and increasing the level of participation in community activities. He also argues that the government can play a role in reversing the decline of social capital by providing incentives for civic engagement and by providing resources for civic organizations.

Bowling Alone: The Collapse and Revival of American Community is an important book that examines the decline of social capital in the United States and its effects on American civic life. Putnam argues that the decline of social capital can be reversed by increasing the level of civic engagement in the United States. He provides a number of suggestions for how this can be done, and his book is an important contribution to the debate about the decline of social capital in the United States.

Main ideas:

#1. Social capital is an important factor in the health of a community, and it has been declining in the United States since the 1960s. Idea Summary: Robert D. Putnam's book Bowling Alone examines the decline of social capital in the United States since the 1960s, and how this has had a negative impact on the health of American communities.

In his book Bowling Alone: The Collapse and Revival of American Community, Robert D. Putnam examines the decline of social capital in the United States since the 1960s. Putnam argues that this decline has had a negative impact on the health of American communities. He explains that social capital is an important factor in the health of a community, and that it is made up of the relationships, networks, and norms of reciprocity that exist between individuals and groups. Putnam argues that the decline of social capital has been caused by a number of factors, including the rise of television, the growth of the suburbs, and the decline of civic organizations. He also argues that the decline of social capital has had a number of negative consequences, including a decrease in trust, a decrease in civic engagement, and an increase in social isolation. Putnam concludes that in order to revive American communities, it is necessary to rebuild social capital by encouraging civic engagement, strengthening social networks, and fostering a sense of trust and reciprocity.

#2. *Technology has had a major impact on the decline of social capital, as it has made it easier for people to stay connected without having to physically interact. Idea Summary: Putnam argues that technology has had a major role in the decline of social capital, as it has made it easier for people to stay connected without having to physically interact with one another.*

Putnam argues that technology has had a major role in the decline of social capital, as it has made it easier for people to stay connected without having to physically interact with one another. Technology has enabled people to communicate with each other from a distance, without having to meet in person. This has led to a decrease in face-to-face interactions, which are essential for building strong social networks and relationships. Furthermore, technology has made it easier for people to access information and entertainment, which has led to a decrease in the amount of time people spend engaging in activities that require physical interaction, such as attending community events or participating in civic organizations. As a result, people are less likely to form meaningful relationships with their neighbors and community members, leading to a decrease in social capital.

Putnam argues that this decline in social capital has had a negative impact on society, as it has led to a decrease in civic engagement and participation. People are less likely to vote, volunteer, or participate in community activities, which can lead to a decrease in public trust and a lack of collective action. Furthermore, the lack of social capital can lead to a decrease in economic growth, as it can lead to a decrease in the number of businesses and jobs in a community. Finally, the lack of social capital can lead to a decrease in social cohesion, as people are less likely to trust and rely on one another.

#3. *The decline of social capital has had a negative impact on the health of American communities, as it has led to a decrease in civic engagement and trust. Idea Summary: Putnam argues that the decline of social capital has had a negative impact on the health of American communities, as it has led to a decrease in civic engagement and trust.*

Putnam argues that the decline of social capital has had a negative impact on the health of American communities. Social capital is defined as the collective value of all social networks and the norms of reciprocity and trustworthiness that arise from them. Putnam argues that the decline of social capital has led to a decrease in civic engagement and trust. This has had a negative effect on the health of American communities, as it has led to a decrease in social cohesion, a decrease in the quality of public services, and a decrease in the ability of citizens to solve collective problems. Putnam argues that the decline of social capital has also had a negative impact on the economy, as it has led to a decrease in economic growth and productivity. Finally, Putnam argues that the decline of social capital has had a negative impact on the political system, as it has led to a decrease in political participation and a decrease in the quality of public policy.

Putnam argues that the decline of social capital can be attributed to a number of factors, including the rise of television, the decline of traditional social institutions such as churches and unions, and the increasing mobility of the population. He argues that these factors have led to a decrease in the amount of time people spend engaging in social activities, such as attending meetings, participating in civic organizations, and engaging in political activities. Putnam argues that this decrease in social capital has had a negative impact on the health of American communities, as it has led to a decrease in civic engagement and trust.

Putnam argues that the decline of social capital can be reversed through a number of measures, including increasing the amount of time people spend engaging in social activities, strengthening the bonds between individuals and their communities, and encouraging civic engagement. He argues that these measures can help to restore the health of American communities by increasing social cohesion, improving the quality of public services, and increasing the ability of citizens to solve collective problems.

#4. *The decline of social capital has been exacerbated by the rise of individualism and consumerism in the United States. Idea Summary: Putnam argues that the decline of social capital has been exacerbated by the rise*

of individualism and consumerism in the United States, which has led to a decrease in civic engagement and trust.

In his book *Bowling Alone: The Collapse and Revival of American Community*, Robert D. Putnam argues that the decline of social capital has been exacerbated by the rise of individualism and consumerism in the United States. Putnam argues that this has led to a decrease in civic engagement and trust, as people become more focused on their own individual interests and desires. He argues that this has led to a decrease in the number of people who are involved in civic activities, such as voting, attending public meetings, and joining civic organizations. Putnam also argues that this has led to a decrease in the amount of trust that people have in their government and in each other, as people become more focused on their own individual interests and desires. Putnam argues that this has had a negative effect on the overall health of the nation, as it has led to a decrease in the amount of social capital that is available to be used for the benefit of the nation.

Putnam argues that the decline of social capital has had a number of negative effects on the nation, including a decrease in the amount of trust that people have in their government and in each other, a decrease in the amount of civic engagement, and a decrease in the amount of social capital that is available to be used for the benefit of the nation. Putnam argues that this has had a negative effect on the overall health of the nation, as it has led to a decrease in the amount of social capital that is available to be used for the benefit of the nation. Putnam argues that this has had a negative effect on the overall health of the nation, as it has led to a decrease in the amount of trust that people have in their government and in each other, a decrease in the amount of civic engagement, and a decrease in the amount of social capital that is available to be used for the benefit of the nation.

#5. The decline of social capital has had a negative impact on the economy, as it has led to a decrease in economic growth and productivity. Idea Summary: Putnam argues that the decline of social capital has had a negative impact on the economy, as it has led to a decrease in economic growth and productivity.

Putnam argues that the decline of social capital has had a detrimental effect on the economy. Social capital is defined as the collective value of all social networks and the norms of reciprocity and trustworthiness that arise from them. Putnam argues that the decline of social capital has led to a decrease in economic growth and productivity. He argues that the decline of social capital has led to a decrease in trust and cooperation between individuals, which has resulted in a decrease in economic activity. Putnam also argues that the decline of social capital has led to a decrease in civic engagement, which has further weakened economic growth. He argues that the decline of social capital has led to a decrease in investment in public goods, such as infrastructure, which has further weakened economic growth. Finally, Putnam argues that the decline of social capital has led to a decrease in the quality of public services, which has further weakened economic growth.

#6. The decline of social capital has had a negative impact on the political system, as it has led to a decrease in voter turnout and political participation. Idea Summary: Putnam argues that the decline of social capital has had a negative impact on the political system, as it has led to a decrease in voter turnout and political participation.

Putnam argues that the decline of social capital has had a negative impact on the political system. Social capital is defined as the collective value of all social networks and the norms of reciprocity and trustworthiness that arise from them. Putnam argues that the decline of social capital has led to a decrease in voter turnout and political participation. He argues that this is due to the fact that people are less likely to be involved in their communities, and thus less likely to be informed about political issues and to participate in the political process. Putnam also argues that the decline of social capital has led to a decrease in civic engagement, which has further weakened the political system. He argues that this has led to a decrease in public trust in government, which has further weakened the political system. Finally, Putnam argues that the decline of social capital has led to a decrease in public discourse, which has further weakened the political system.

Putnam argues that the decline of social capital has had a number of negative consequences for the political system. He

argues that it has led to a decrease in voter turnout and political participation, which has weakened the political system. He also argues that it has led to a decrease in civic engagement, which has further weakened the political system. Finally, Putnam argues that the decline of social capital has led to a decrease in public discourse, which has further weakened the political system. Putnam argues that these negative consequences of the decline of social capital have had a significant impact on the political system, and that they must be addressed in order to strengthen the political system.

#7. *The decline of social capital has had a negative impact on education, as it has led to a decrease in academic achievement and school engagement. Idea Summary: Putnam argues that the decline of social capital has had a negative impact on education, as it has led to a decrease in academic achievement and school engagement.*

Putnam argues that the decline of social capital has had a negative impact on education. Social capital is defined as the collective value of all social networks and the norms of reciprocity and trustworthiness that arise from them. Putnam argues that the decline of social capital has led to a decrease in academic achievement and school engagement. He argues that the lack of social capital has led to a decrease in the quality of education, as students are less likely to be engaged in their studies and less likely to achieve their academic goals. Putnam also argues that the decline of social capital has led to a decrease in the quality of teaching, as teachers are less likely to be motivated to teach and less likely to be effective in their teaching. Finally, Putnam argues that the decline of social capital has led to a decrease in the quality of school facilities, as schools are less likely to be well-maintained and less likely to provide a safe and supportive learning environment.

#8. *The decline of social capital has had a negative impact on public health, as it has led to an increase in health problems such as obesity and depression. Idea Summary: Putnam argues that the decline of social capital has had a negative impact on public health, as it has led to an increase in health problems such as obesity and depression.*

Robert D. Putnam argues that the decline of social capital has had a negative impact on public health. Putnam defines social capital as the "connections among individuals" social networks and the norms of reciprocity and trustworthiness that arise from them." He argues that the decline of social capital has led to an increase in health problems such as obesity and depression. Putnam suggests that the lack of social capital has caused people to become more isolated, leading to a decrease in physical activity and an increase in unhealthy behaviors. He also argues that the lack of social capital has caused people to become more stressed, leading to an increase in mental health issues such as depression. Putnam believes that the decline of social capital has had a significant impact on public health, and that it is important to address this issue in order to improve public health.

#9. *The decline of social capital has had a negative impact on the environment, as it has led to a decrease in environmental stewardship and sustainability. Idea Summary: Putnam argues that the decline of social capital has had a negative impact on the environment, as it has led to a decrease in environmental stewardship and sustainability.*

Putnam argues that the decline of social capital has had a negative impact on the environment. Social capital is defined as the collective value of all social networks and the norms of reciprocity and trustworthiness that arise from them. Putnam argues that the decline of social capital has led to a decrease in environmental stewardship and sustainability. He argues that when people are connected to each other through social networks, they are more likely to take collective action to protect the environment. When social capital is low, people are less likely to take collective action, leading to a decrease in environmental stewardship and sustainability.

Putnam argues that the decline of social capital has had a direct impact on the environment. He argues that when people are disconnected from each other, they are less likely to take collective action to protect the environment. This leads to a decrease in environmental stewardship and sustainability. Putnam argues that the decline of social capital has also had an indirect impact on the environment. He argues that when people are disconnected from each other,

they are less likely to be aware of environmental issues and less likely to take individual action to protect the environment.

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#10. *The decline of social capital has had a negative impact on the quality of life in the United States, as it has led to a decrease in happiness and life satisfaction. Idea Summary: Putnam argues that the decline of social capital has had a negative impact on the quality of life in the United States, as it has led to a decrease in happiness and life satisfaction.*

Putnam argues that the decline of social capital has had a negative impact on the quality of life in the United States. Social capital is defined as the collective value of all social networks and the norms of reciprocity and trustworthiness that arise from them. Putnam argues that the decline of social capital has led to a decrease in happiness and life satisfaction. He argues that this decline is due to a number of factors, including the rise of television, the decline of civic engagement, and the rise of individualism. Putnam argues that these factors have led to a decrease in the quality of life in the United States, as people are less likely to trust each other and are less likely to engage in civic activities. He argues that this decline in social capital has had a negative impact on the quality of life in the United States, as it has led to a decrease in happiness and life satisfaction.

Putnam argues that the decline of social capital has had a number of negative consequences for the United States. He argues that it has led to a decrease in trust and cooperation, which has led to a decrease in economic productivity and a decrease in the quality of public services. He also argues that it has led to a decrease in civic engagement, which has led to a decrease in political participation and a decrease in the quality of democracy. Finally, he argues that it has led to a decrease in social cohesion, which has led to a decrease in social capital and a decrease in the quality of life in the United States.

#11. *The decline of social capital can be reversed through the development of new forms of social capital, such as virtual communities and online networks. Idea Summary: Putnam argues that the decline of social capital can be reversed through the development of new forms of social capital, such as virtual communities and online networks.*

Putnam argues that the decline of social capital in the United States can be reversed through the development of new forms of social capital. He suggests that virtual communities and online networks can be used to create new forms of social capital that can help to rebuild the sense of community that has been lost in recent decades. Putnam argues that these new forms of social capital can help to bridge the gap between people of different backgrounds and create a sense of shared identity and purpose. He also suggests that these new forms of social capital can help to create a more vibrant and engaged civil society, which can help to foster a more inclusive and equitable society.

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#12. *The decline of social capital can be reversed through the development of new forms of civic engagement, such as volunteering and community service. Idea Summary: Putnam argues that the decline of social capital can be reversed through the development of new forms of civic engagement, such as*

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Putnam argues that the decline of social capital in the United States can be reversed through the development of new forms of civic engagement. He suggests that volunteering and community service can be effective ways to rebuild social capital. Putnam argues that these activities can help to create a sense of community and foster relationships between individuals and groups. He also suggests that these activities can help to create a sense of shared purpose and responsibility, which can lead to increased trust and cooperation. Putnam argues that these activities can also help to create a sense of belonging and identity, which can lead to increased civic engagement and participation. Finally, Putnam argues that these activities can help to create a sense of shared values and norms, which can lead to increased social cohesion and solidarity.

#13. The decline of social capital can be reversed through the development of new forms of political participation, such as voting and advocacy. Idea Summary: Putnam argues that the decline of social capital can be reversed through the development of new forms of political participation, such as voting and advocacy.

Putnam argues that the decline of social capital in the United States can be reversed through the development of new forms of political participation. He suggests that voting and advocacy are two of the most important forms of political participation that can help to restore social capital. Putnam argues that voting is an important way to express ones opinion and to influence the political process. He also argues that advocacy is an important way to bring attention to issues and to mobilize people to take action. Putnam believes that these forms of political participation can help to create a sense of community and to restore social capital.

Putnam argues that the decline of social capital is a result of a lack of civic engagement. He believes that by encouraging people to become more involved in the political process, it can help to restore social capital. He suggests that by voting and advocating for issues, people can become more engaged in their communities and can help to create a sense of shared responsibility. Putnam believes that this can help to create a sense of community and to restore social capital.

Putnam argues that the decline of social capital can be reversed through the development of new forms of political participation. He believes that by encouraging people to become more involved in the political process, it can help to restore social capital. He suggests that by voting and advocating for issues, people can become more engaged in their communities and can help to create a sense of shared responsibility. Putnam believes that this can help to create a sense of community and to restore social capital.

#14. The decline of social capital can be reversed through the development of new forms of economic activity, such as entrepreneurship and investment. Idea Summary: Putnam argues that the decline of social capital can be reversed through the development of new forms of economic activity, such as entrepreneurship and investment.

Putnam argues that the decline of social capital can be reversed through the development of new forms of economic activity. He suggests that entrepreneurship and investment can be used to create new opportunities for people to interact and build relationships. This could lead to an increase in social capital, as people are more likely to engage in activities that benefit the community when they have a vested interest in the outcome. Additionally, investment in local businesses can help to create jobs and stimulate economic growth, which can also help to reverse the decline of social capital. Finally, Putnam suggests that governments can play a role in reversing the decline of social capital by providing incentives for people to invest in their communities and by creating policies that encourage people to interact with each other.

Putnam argues that the decline of social capital is a serious problem that needs to be addressed. He believes that the development of new forms of economic activity, such as entrepreneurship and investment, can help to reverse the decline. By creating new opportunities for people to interact and build relationships, as well as stimulating economic growth, these activities can help to create a more vibrant and connected community. Additionally, governments can play

a role in reversing the decline of social capital by providing incentives for people to invest in their communities and by creating policies that encourage people to interact with each other.

#15. *The decline of social capital can be reversed through the development of new forms of education, such as lifelong learning and mentorship. Idea Summary: Putnam argues that the decline of social capital can be reversed through the development of new forms of education, such as lifelong learning and mentorship.*

Putnam argues that the decline of social capital can be reversed through the development of new forms of education. He suggests that lifelong learning and mentorship can help to rebuild the social capital that has been lost in recent years. Lifelong learning is a form of education that encourages people to continue learning throughout their lives, even after they have completed their formal education. Mentorship is a form of education that involves an experienced person providing guidance and support to a less experienced person. Putnam argues that these forms of education can help to rebuild the social capital that has been lost in recent years by providing people with the skills and knowledge they need to engage in meaningful relationships with others. He also suggests that these forms of education can help to create a sense of community and belonging, which can help to reverse the decline of social capital.

#16. *The decline of social capital can be reversed through the development of new forms of public health, such as preventive care and health promotion. Idea Summary: Putnam argues that the decline of social capital can be reversed through the development of new forms of public health, such as preventive care and health promotion.*

Putnam argues that the decline of social capital can be reversed through the development of new forms of public health. He suggests that preventive care and health promotion can be used to strengthen social capital. Preventive care involves taking steps to prevent illness and injury before they occur, while health promotion focuses on improving the overall health of individuals and communities. By providing access to preventive care and health promotion, individuals and communities can become more connected and engaged with each other, leading to an increase in social capital. Additionally, preventive care and health promotion can help to reduce the burden of illness and injury on individuals and communities, which can lead to improved quality of life and economic stability.

Putnam also argues that the development of new forms of public health can help to reduce the costs associated with health care. By providing access to preventive care and health promotion, individuals and communities can reduce the need for costly medical treatments and hospitalizations. This can lead to a reduction in health care costs, which can help to improve the overall economic stability of individuals and communities. Additionally, preventive care and health promotion can help to reduce the burden of illness and injury on individuals and communities, which can lead to improved quality of life.

Overall, Putnam argues that the decline of social capital can be reversed through the development of new forms of public health, such as preventive care and health promotion. By providing access to these services, individuals and communities can become more connected and engaged with each other, leading to an increase in social capital. Additionally, preventive care and health promotion can help to reduce the burden of illness and injury on individuals and communities, which can lead to improved quality of life and economic stability.

#17. *The decline of social capital can be reversed through the development of new forms of environmental stewardship, such as green initiatives and sustainable development. Idea Summary: Putnam argues that the decline of social capital can be reversed through the development of new forms of environmental stewardship, such as green initiatives and sustainable development.*

Putnam argues that the decline of social capital can be reversed through the development of new forms of environmental stewardship. He suggests that green initiatives and sustainable development can help to rebuild social capital by encouraging people to work together to protect the environment. This could involve initiatives such as creating community gardens, organizing clean-up days, or encouraging people to use public transportation. By engaging in these activities, people can build relationships with their neighbors and become more invested in their community. Additionally,

these initiatives can help to reduce pollution and conserve resources, which can benefit the environment and the community as a whole.

Putnam also argues that these initiatives can help to create a sense of shared responsibility and collective action. By working together to protect the environment, people can develop a sense of solidarity and a shared commitment to the common good. This can help to foster a sense of trust and cooperation between individuals and groups, which can lead to a stronger sense of community and a greater sense of social capital.

Ultimately, Putnam believes that green initiatives and sustainable development can help to reverse the decline of social capital and create a more vibrant and connected community. By engaging in these activities, people can build relationships with their neighbors, create a sense of shared responsibility, and work together to protect the environment. This can help to create a stronger sense of community and a greater sense of social capital, which can benefit the environment and the community as a whole.

#18. *The decline of social capital can be reversed through the development of new forms of leisure activities, such as sports and hobbies. Idea Summary: Putnam argues that the decline of social capital can be reversed through the development of new forms of leisure activities, such as sports and hobbies.*

Putnam argues that the decline of social capital in the United States can be reversed through the development of new forms of leisure activities. He suggests that activities such as sports and hobbies can help to rebuild the sense of community and trust that has been lost in recent decades. Putnam argues that these activities can help to create a sense of shared identity and purpose, which can help to foster a sense of belonging and connection among individuals. He also suggests that these activities can help to create a sense of shared responsibility and commitment to the community, which can help to rebuild the social capital that has been lost. Putnam argues that these activities can help to create a sense of shared identity and purpose, which can help to foster a sense of belonging and connection among individuals.

Putnam argues that these activities can also help to create a sense of shared responsibility and commitment to the community, which can help to rebuild the social capital that has been lost. He suggests that these activities can help to create a sense of shared identity and purpose, which can help to foster a sense of belonging and connection among individuals. He also suggests that these activities can help to create a sense of shared responsibility and commitment to the community, which can help to rebuild the social capital that has been lost. Putnam argues that these activities can also help to create a sense of shared responsibility and commitment to the community, which can help to rebuild the social capital that has been lost.

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#19. *The decline of social capital can be reversed through the development of new forms of communication, such as social media and online forums. Idea Summary: Putnam argues that the decline of social capital can be reversed through the development of new forms of communication, such as social media and online forums.*

Putnam argues that the decline of social capital can be reversed through the development of new forms of communication. He suggests that social media and online forums can be used to create new forms of social interaction and connection. These new forms of communication can help to rebuild the trust and cooperation that have been lost in recent years. Putnam argues that these new forms of communication can help to create a sense of community and

belonging, which can help to restore the social capital that has been lost. He also suggests that these new forms of communication can help to create a more open and inclusive society, which can help to reduce the sense of alienation and disconnection that has been growing in recent years.

Putnam argues that these new forms of communication can also help to create a more vibrant and engaged public sphere. He suggests that these new forms of communication can help to create a more informed and engaged public, which can help to create a more vibrant and engaged public sphere. This can help to create a more informed and engaged citizenry, which can help to create a more vibrant and engaged democracy. Putnam argues that these new forms of communication can also help to create a more equitable and just society, which can help to reduce the inequality and injustice that have been growing in recent years.

Putnam argues that these new forms of communication can also help to create a more sustainable and resilient society. He suggests that these new forms of communication can help to create a more connected and resilient society, which can help to create a more sustainable and resilient society. This can help to create a more resilient and sustainable society, which can help to create a more equitable and just society. Putnam argues that these new forms of communication can also help to create a more vibrant and engaged public sphere, which can help to create a more vibrant and engaged democracy.

#20. *The decline of social capital can be reversed through the development of new forms of social support, such as mentorship and peer support. Idea Summary: Putnam argues that the decline of social capital can be reversed through the development of new forms of social support, such as mentorship and peer support.*

Putnam argues that the decline of social capital can be reversed through the development of new forms of social support. He suggests that mentorship and peer support can be effective tools in rebuilding social capital. Mentorship programs can provide guidance and support to individuals, while peer support can help to create a sense of community and belonging. Additionally, Putnam suggests that these forms of social support can help to foster a sense of trust and reciprocity, which are essential components of social capital. He argues that by creating these new forms of social support, we can help to rebuild the social capital that has been lost in recent years.

Putnam also suggests that these new forms of social support can help to create a sense of shared purpose and responsibility. He argues that by creating a sense of shared purpose, individuals can be motivated to work together to achieve common goals. Additionally, he suggests that by creating a sense of responsibility, individuals can be encouraged to take part in activities that benefit the community as a whole. By creating these new forms of social support, Putnam argues that we can help to reverse the decline of social capital.