

# *Seeds of Community:*

## *Planting a New Way of Life*

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At Humanity First Worldwide, we're anticipating a surge in human potential. At the dawn of every new Era, as old outworn ways begin to reveal themselves, opportunities abound for leaps to new levels of possibility. New visions open up, and the magnificence of these visions excites the energy to reach higher, to strive farther, and ultimately to bring into being that which began as a spark in someone's imagination. We believe we are entering such a fertile period.

The vision at Humanity First Worldwide is for a resurgence of community across the globe – in every city, borough, village, neighborhood, and watershed. This resurgence – a 'renaissance' if you will – will be the foundation for a sustainable world order. Sustainability *begins* with community, *thrives* among community, and, as the 21<sup>st</sup> century progresses, will find its full expression *through* community. You could say that the current *unsustainable* global economic system contributed to a *decline* in community, and this decline, in turn, further exacerbated strained social, economic, and ecological conditions. Community is the primordial living arrangement for human beings; community is also the wave of the future.

For that reason, Humanity First Worldwide has been mobilizing the resources – conceptual as well as material – to become a world leader in the design and development of sustainable community models. Our process begins with the "Seeds of Community." This is an organic metaphor purposely meant to align our development model with natural living processes: First you clear away the weeds and prepare the soil; then you plant the potent seed. Once sprouted, you carefully nurture the new seedling with water and nutrients until it can grow into a mature plant bearing fruit. From this fruit will come the seeds for planting new communities.

We are currently working on a number of adaptations to this primary organic development model. There is the Community Education Campus vision, whereby a potent Community Center is established as the focal point for reorganizing a suburban neighborhood into self-reliance. There is the Urban Village model, whereby a mixed-use urban infill of relatively higher density becomes the social, cultural, and economic center for a collection area of 5000 persons. There is also the Ecovillage example, the creation of research, training, and demonstration sites where the general populace can come and see full sustainability in action.