



Sense of Community Survey 2026 Volunteer Results



Camano Center
*Building Community Through Service, Connection,
and Belonging*



A strong sense of community doesn't happen by chance—it grows when people feel welcomed, valued, connected, and able to make a meaningful difference.

Why We Conducted This Survey

Community is at the heart of everything we do.

Volunteers don't just support our mission—they help create the community that makes our mission possible.



Why This Matters



Belonging

Research shows volunteers who feel connected are more likely to stay engaged.



Understanding

SCI-2 helps us understand how volunteers experience belonging, connection, and community.

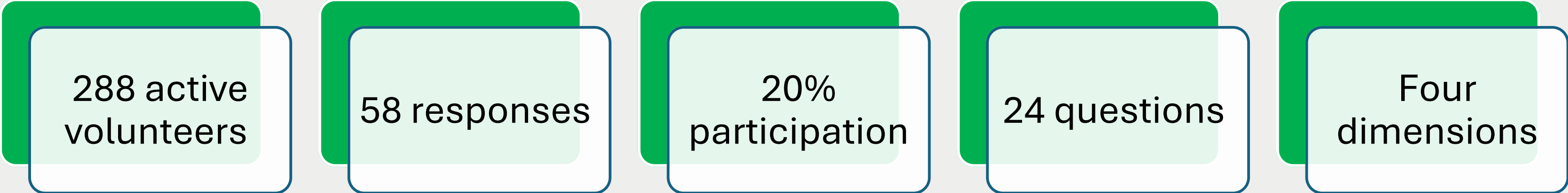


Growing Together

Results will help strengthen volunteer engagement while contributing anonymously to ongoing SCI-2 research.

Together, these insights will help guide future volunteer engagement at Camano Center.

About the Survey



288 active
volunteers

58 responses

20%
participation

24 questions

Four
dimensions

Survey conducted and responses collected spring 2026

Understanding the Sense of Community Index (SCI-2)

The Sense of Community Index-2 (SCI-2) is a nationally recognized research tool used to measure how people experience belonging within a community.

Rather than measuring satisfaction alone, the SCI-2 explores the relationships, connections, and shared experiences that help people feel they truly belong.

At Camano Center, that means understanding whether volunteers feel welcomed, appreciated, connected, and able to make a meaningful difference.

The SCI-2 measures four key dimensions that together create a strong sense of community.

The Four Dimensions

Reinforcement of Needs

Does this community meet my needs?

People feel their time, talents, and involvement are valued and that being part of the community is personally meaningful.

Membership

Do I feel like I belong?

People feel accepted, welcomed, respected, and that they are truly part of the community.

***For this report, “Membership” describes a sense of belonging within the volunteer community and is separate from Camano Center membership.*

Influence

Do I have a voice?

People believe they can contribute ideas, make a difference, and positively influence the community while also being influenced by others.

Shared Emotional Connection

Do we share meaningful experiences?

People develop trust, friendships, and lasting relationships through shared experiences, traditions, and working toward common goals.

Together, these four dimensions help us understand not only what our volunteers do, but how they experience being part of the Camano Center community.

What We Learned

Overall, respondents reported a positive sense of community at Camano Center, with strengths in shared emotional connection and influence, and opportunities to continue strengthening volunteers' sense of belonging.



Overall Results

Dimension	Result	Interpretation
Reinforcement of Needs	11	Positive
Membership	7	Opportunity to Strengthen Belonging
Influence	14	Strong
Shared Emotional Connection	13	Strong



Reinforcement of Needs

Does My Service Matter?



Overall Result:

● 11

Why It Matters

Volunteers are more likely to remain engaged when they:

- Feel their time and talents make a meaningful difference.
- Know their contributions are valued.
- See how their service supports the mission.
- Experience personal fulfillment through helping others.

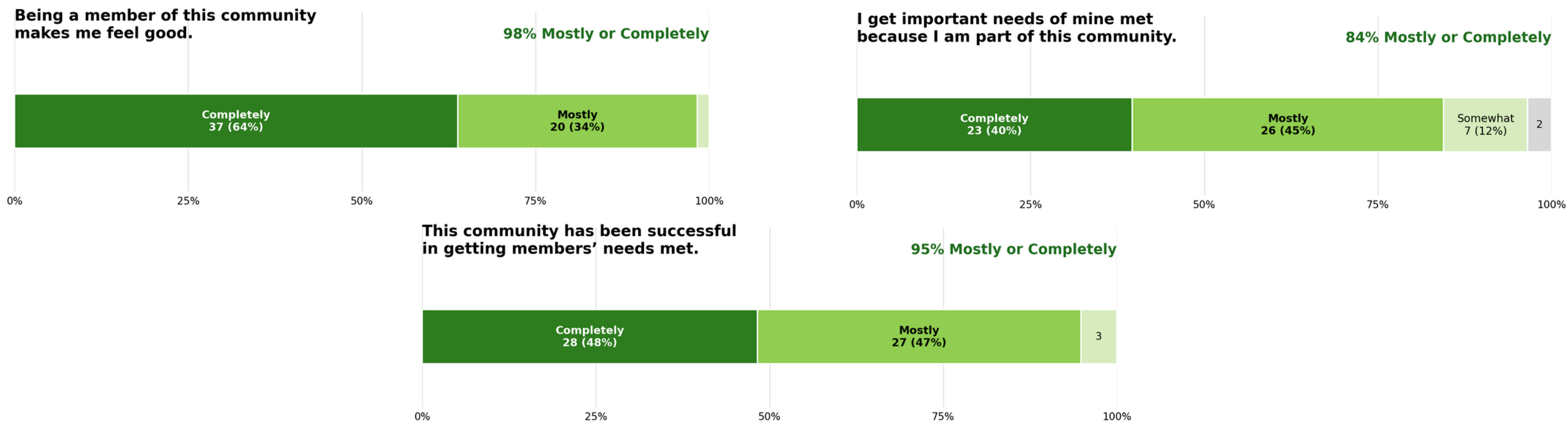
Why We Measure It

Research suggests that volunteers who find meaning and purpose in their service are more likely to remain engaged and develop lasting connections with the organization.

Reinforcement of Needs

Finding Meaning Through Service

Volunteers are most likely to remain engaged when their service feels meaningful, aligns with their values, and contributes to something larger than themselves. The following responses explore whether volunteering at Camano Center provides that sense of purpose.



KEY INSIGHT

Across all three statements, 84%–98% selected “Mostly” or “Completely,” showing that volunteers find their service meaningful, rewarding, and responsive to important needs.

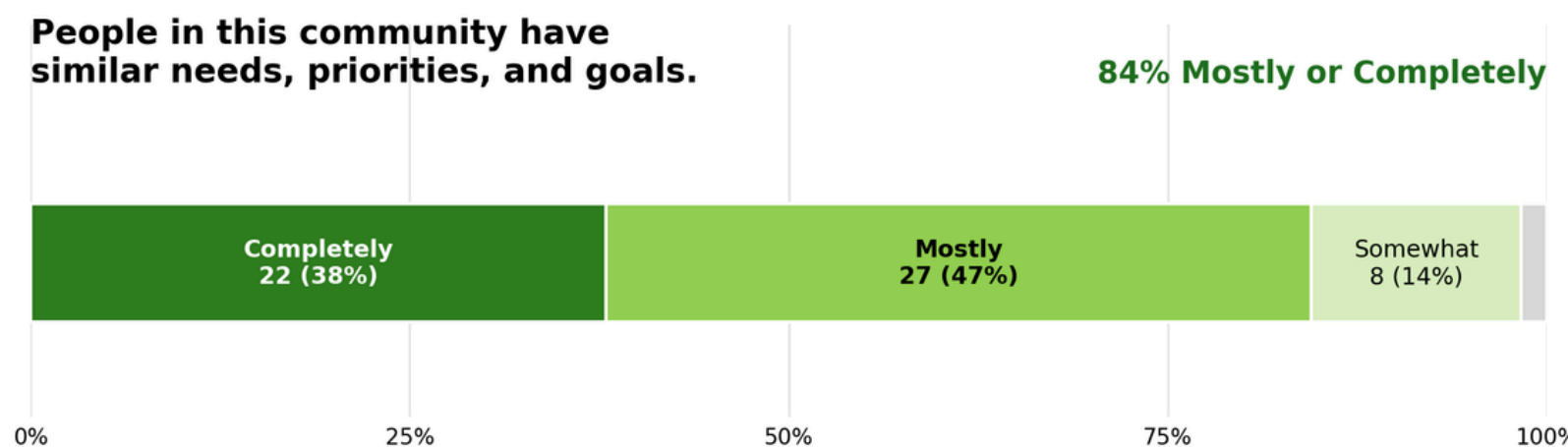
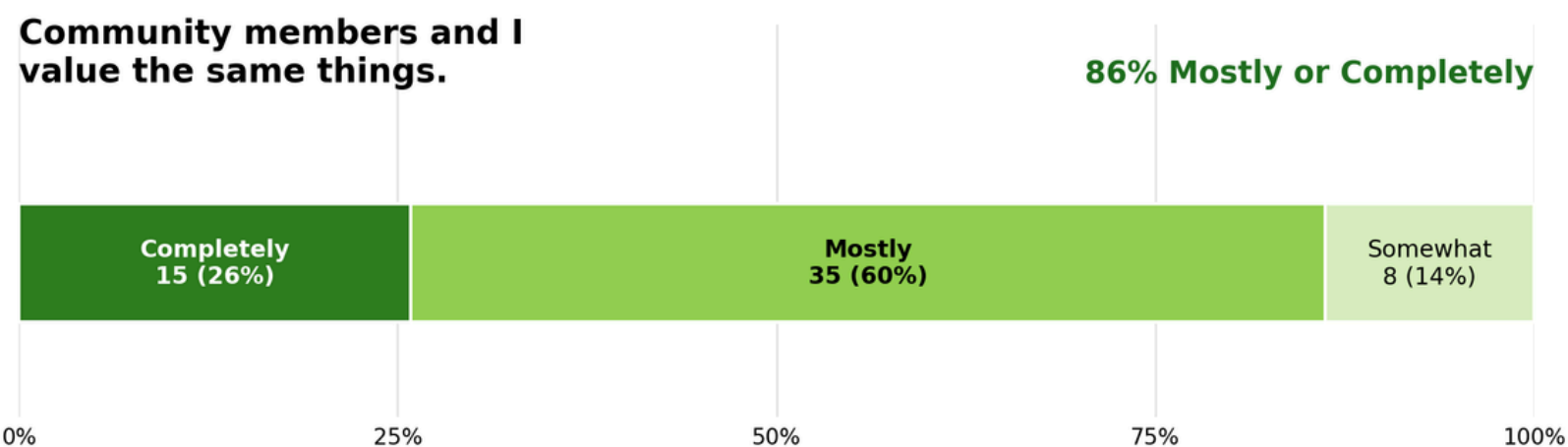
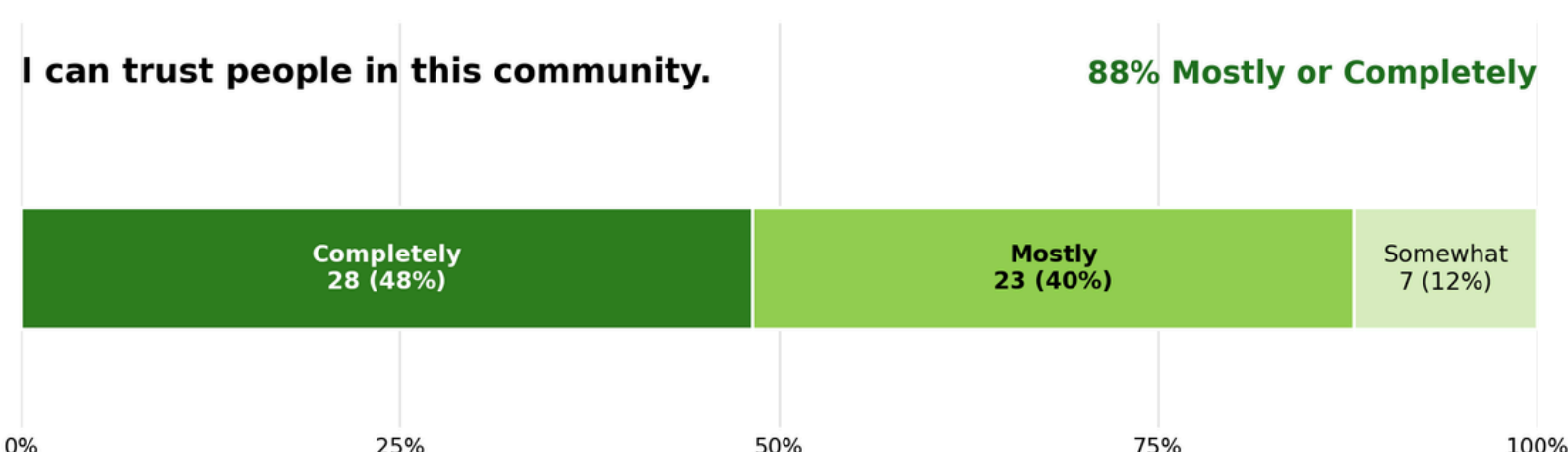
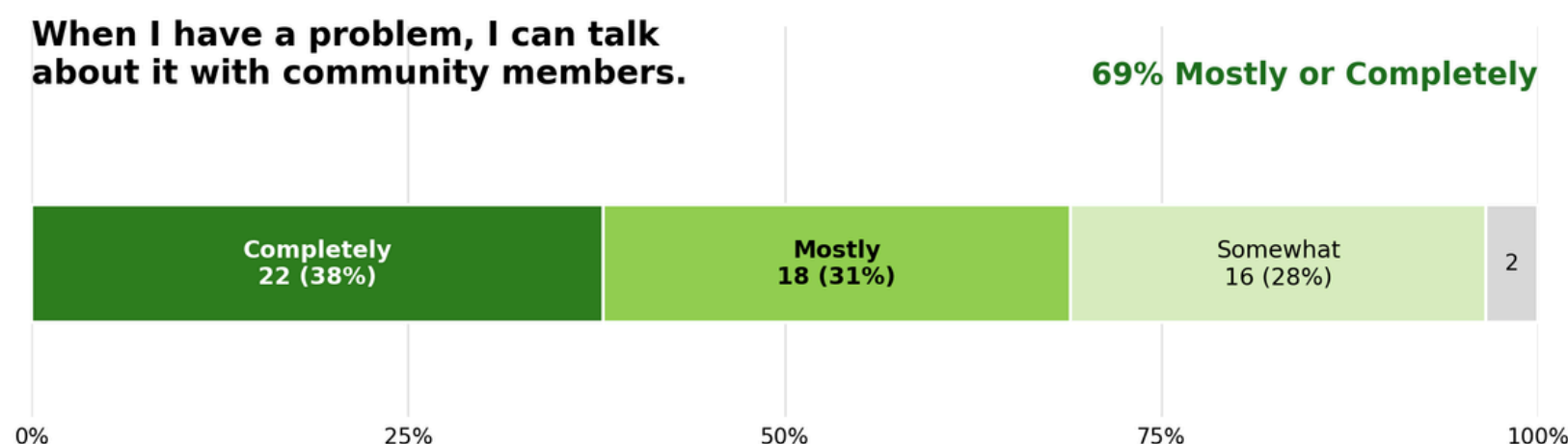
WHY IT MATTERS

When volunteers find personal meaning in their service, they are more likely to remain engaged, build lasting relationships, and continue supporting the organization's mission.

Reinforcement of Needs

Support Through Community

A strong community not only provides meaningful opportunities to serve but also offers encouragement, trust, and support when it is needed.



KEY INSIGHT

Trust and shared values were strong, while comfort discussing problems was lower. This points to an opportunity to deepen personal connections and peer support among volunteers.

WHY IT MATTERS

Communities grow stronger when members trust one another and feel comfortable asking for support. Building these connections can strengthen both volunteer satisfaction and long-term engagement.

Membership *Do I Belong?*



Overall Result:

● 7

Why It Matters

Membership reflects the feeling of belonging. When volunteers feel welcomed, accepted, and included, they are more likely to develop lasting relationships and become long-term members of the Camano Center community.

Volunteers are more likely to remain engaged when they:

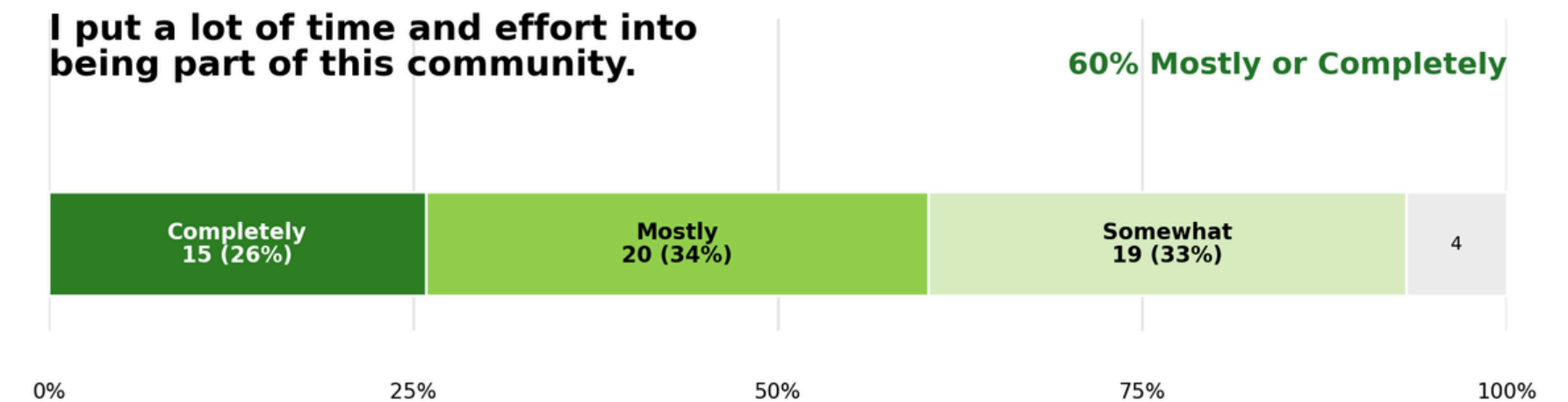
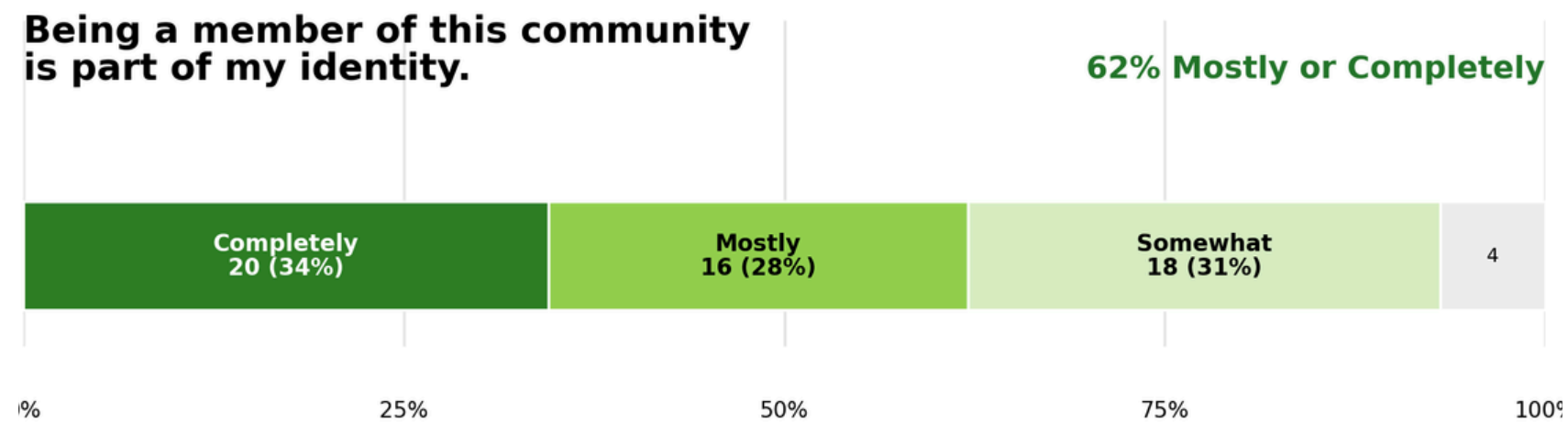
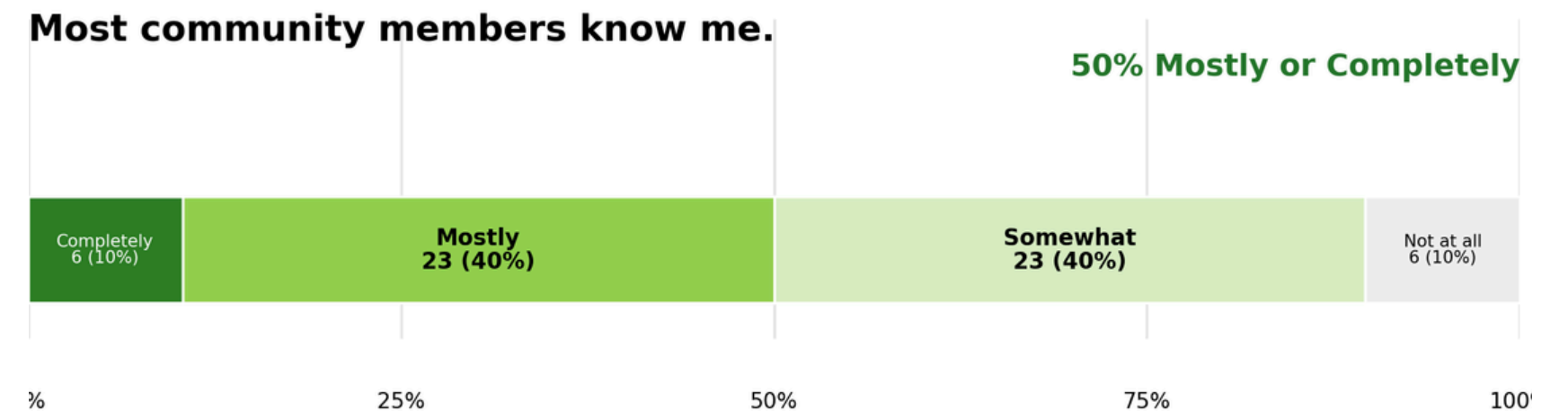
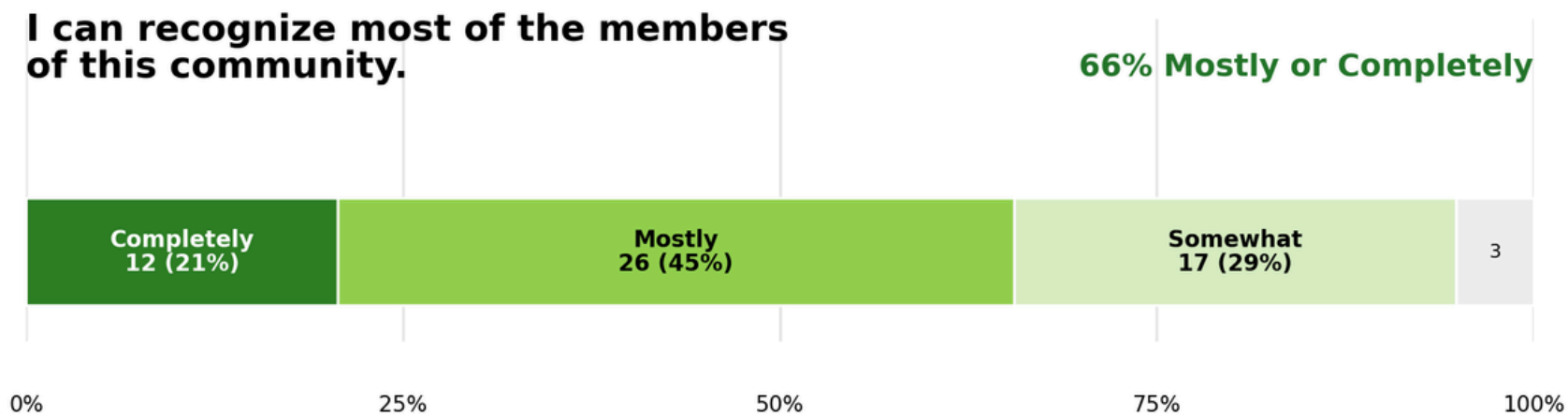
- Feel welcomed from the beginning.
- Know they are accepted and valued.
- Develop friendships and meaningful relationships.
- Feel like they truly belong.

Why We Measure It

A strong sense of belonging is one of the most important predictors of long-term volunteer engagement. Understanding how volunteers experience membership helps us identify opportunities to create an even more welcoming and connected community.

Membership *Being Known and Connected*

Belonging grows when volunteers feel known, recognize one another, identify with the community, and invest in it.



KEY INSIGHT

Results were mixed across these signs of belonging, with 50%–66% selecting “Mostly” or “Completely.” Volunteers were more likely to recognize other members than to feel broadly known themselves, highlighting an opportunity to strengthen introductions and peer connection.

WHY IT MATTERS

Volunteers who feel known, recognized, and personally connected are more likely to develop a lasting sense of belonging and remain engaged over time.

Influence *Does My Voice Matter?*



Overall Result:

● 14

Why It Matters

Influence reflects whether volunteers feel their opinions, ideas, and contributions matter. Communities grow stronger when volunteers know they can make a difference and help shape the organization.

Volunteers are more likely to remain engaged when they:

- Feel their ideas are heard.
- Know they can make meaningful contributions.
- Believe their opinions are respected.
- See that their involvement makes a difference.

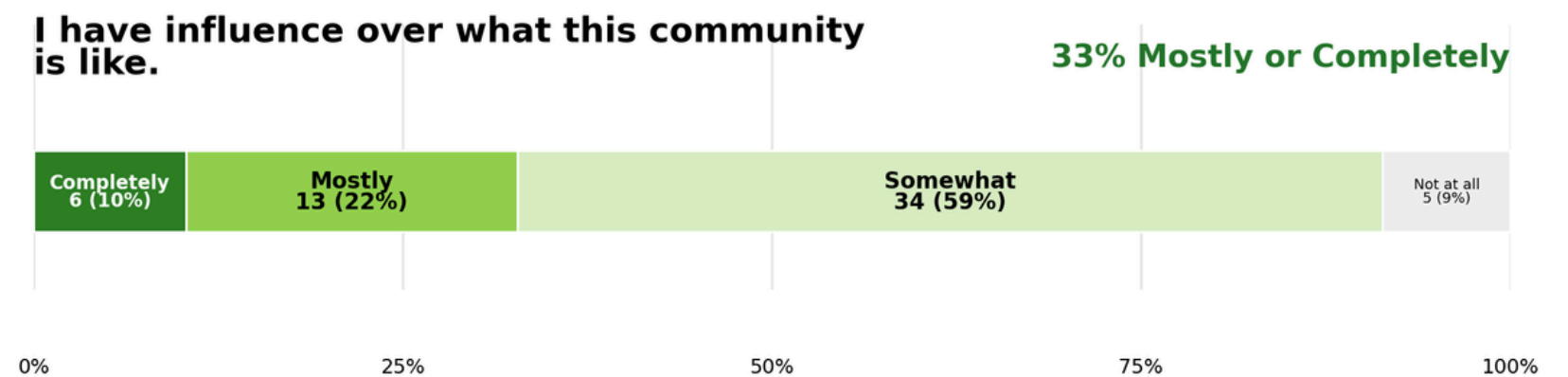
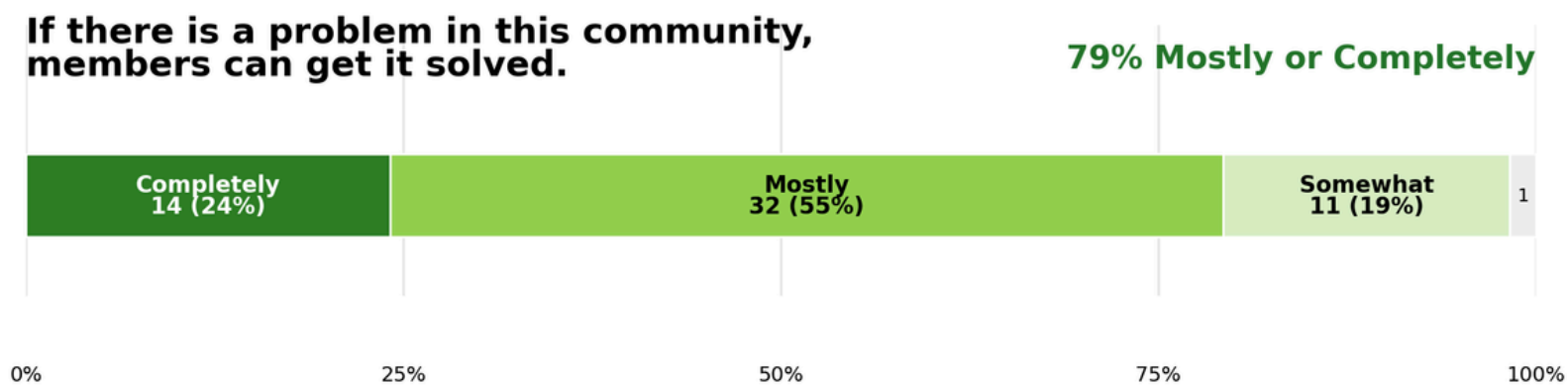
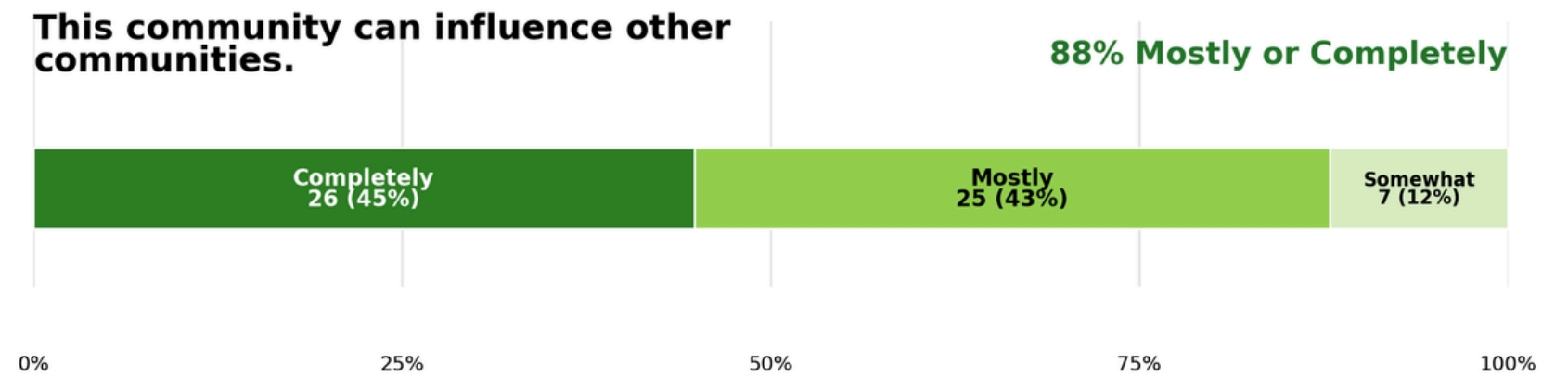
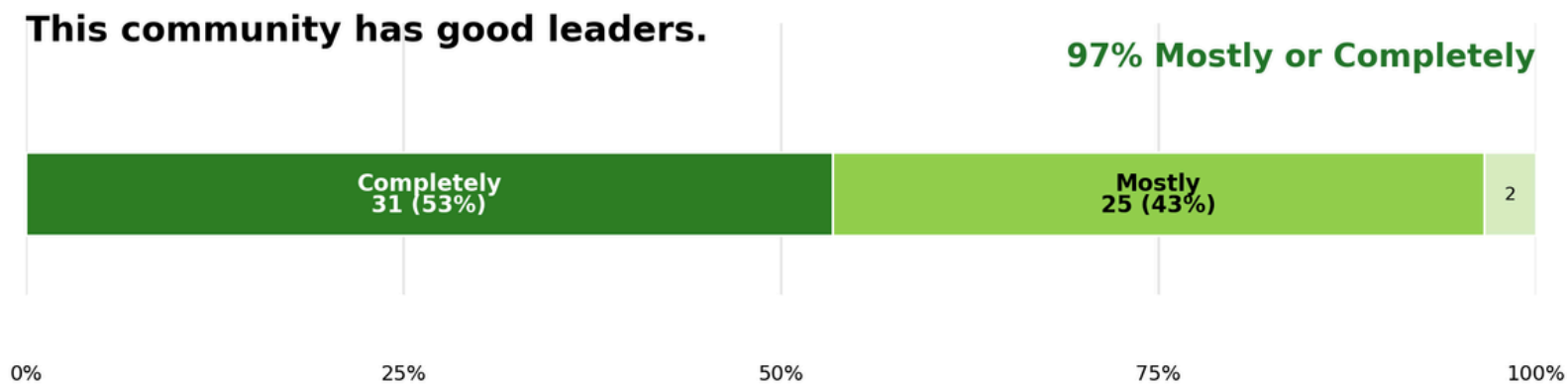
Why We Measure It

When volunteers feel they have a voice, they develop a stronger sense of ownership, commitment, and connection to the organization.

Influence

Collective Strength and Individual Voice

Influence reflects confidence in the community's leadership and problem-solving, as well as whether volunteers feel they can personally help shape it.



KEY INSIGHT

Confidence in leadership and collective action was strong, with 79%–97% selecting “Mostly” or “Completely.” Personal influence was much lower at 33%, showing a need to make volunteer input and its impact more visible.

WHY IT MATTERS

Volunteers develop greater ownership and commitment when they see that their ideas are heard and can help shape the community.

Shared Emotional Connection *Do I Feel Connected Here?*



Overall Result:

● 13

Why It Matters

Shared Emotional Connection reflects the friendships, memories, traditions, and experiences that bring people together over time. These shared moments help transform a group of volunteers into a true community.

Volunteers are more likely to remain engaged when they:

- Build meaningful relationships.
- Share positive experiences with others.
- Feel connected through common purpose.
- Create lasting memories together.

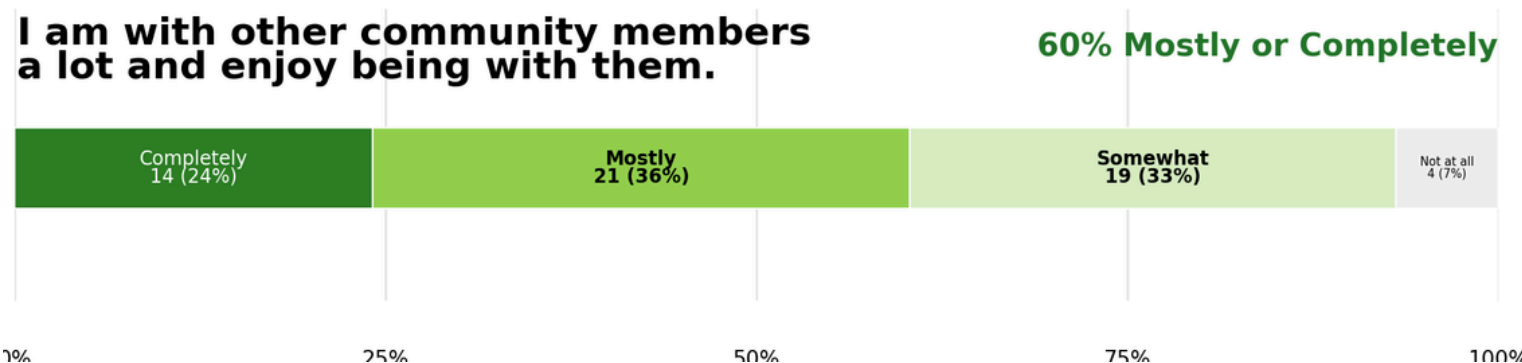
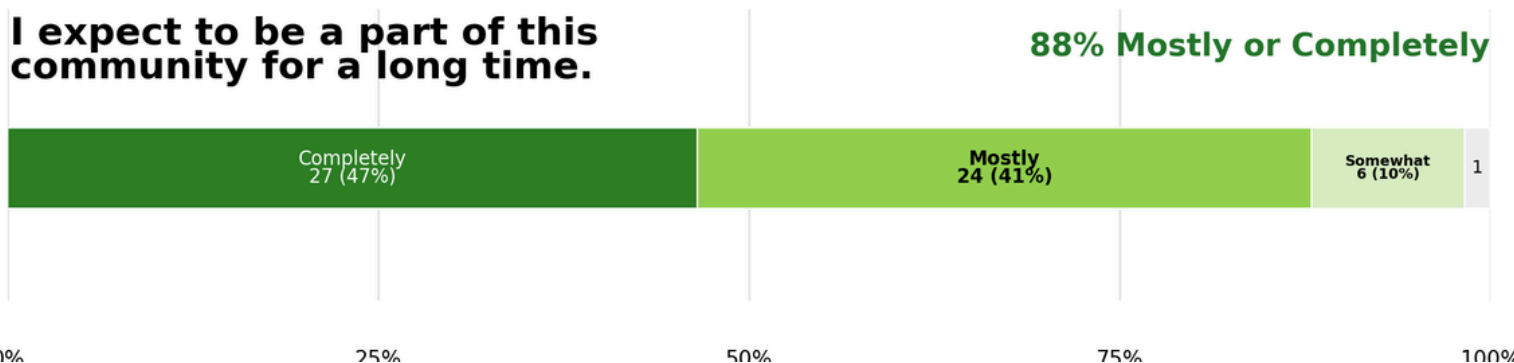
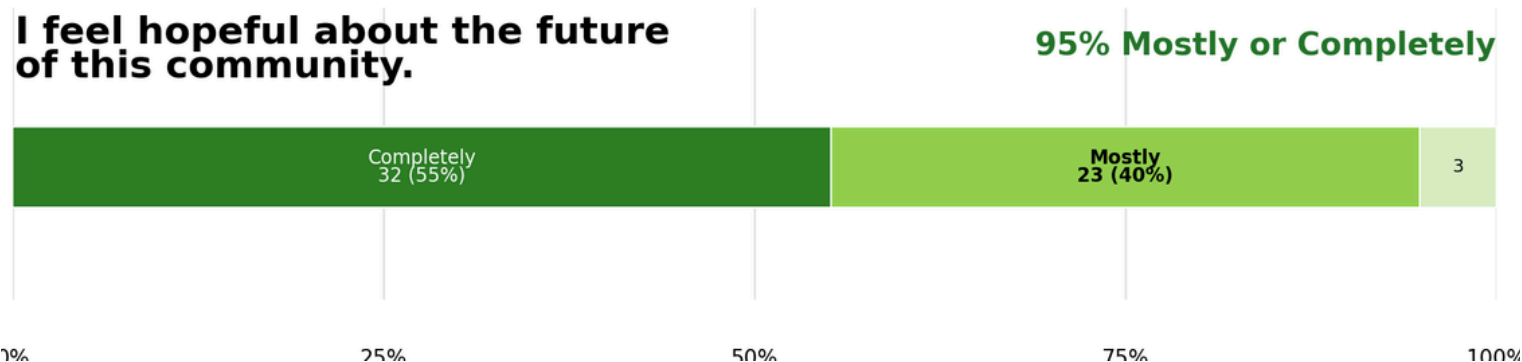
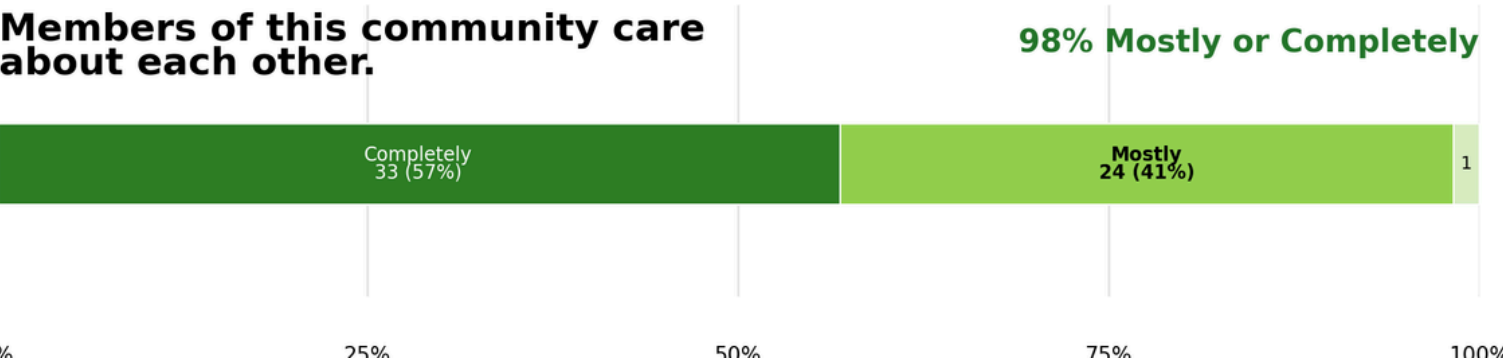
Why We Measure It

Shared experiences and meaningful relationships build trust, deepen belonging, and support long-term volunteer engagement. Measuring this dimension helps us understand the strength of those connections.

Shared Emotional Connection

Care, Connection, and Hope

Shared emotional connection grows through caring relationships, time together, and confidence in a shared future.



KEY INSIGHT

Volunteers expressed strong care, optimism, and long-term commitment, with 88%–98% selecting “Mostly” or “Completely.” Regular interaction was lower at 60%, highlighting an opportunity to create more informal ways for volunteers to connect.

WHY IT MATTERS

Frequent, positive interaction turns shared purpose into lasting relationships, memories, and a stronger sense of belonging.

Shared Emotional Connection

Commitment and Shared Experience

Emotional connection deepens when belonging feels personally important and volunteers build a shared history through meaningful experiences.

It is very important to me to be a part of this community.

81% Mostly or Completely



Members of this community have shared important events together, such as holidays, celebrations, or disasters.

76% Mostly or Completely



KEY INSIGHT

Being part of the community was important to 81% of respondents, while 76% recognized shared important events. This reflects strong commitment and shared history, with opportunities to create more traditions together.

WHY IT MATTERS

Shared traditions and memorable experiences deepen relationships, strengthen community identity, and give volunteers more reasons to stay connected over time.

Where We Can Grow Together



The survey showed many strengths, including meaningful service, trust, care for one another, and confidence in Camano Center's future. It also highlighted opportunities to help volunteers feel more personally known, connected, and able to see how their voice makes a difference.

Areas of focus:

- Create more opportunities for volunteers to meet and connect.
- Strengthen introductions within and between volunteer teams.
- Make volunteer feedback and follow-up more visible.
- Continue showing how each role supports the larger mission.
- Offer informal opportunities to build belonging across programs.

Thank You to Our Volunteers



Your time, talents, compassion, and commitment make Camano Center's work possible. Thank you to everyone who completed the survey and shared their experience. Your feedback will help us celebrate what is working, strengthen connections, and continue building a volunteer community where people feel welcomed, valued, and able to make a meaningful difference.



Together, we are building more than programs and services—we are building community.