

in some way so that when there are tragedies, when a family has a problem, maybe somebody is in jail, or somebody has no job or whatever — that there's someone who can kind of help a bit until things get cleared up. People always think by "healthy communities" that I mean that everybody has a job, and that I am talking about utopia, but I am not. I think a healthy community is one where people are just not out for themselves, and they are not just working on their own individual pursuits, but where they understand their relationship and responsibility to other people.

Interviewer:

How do we learn to do this — to help individuals understand their relationships and responsibilities to other people? What role do non-profit organizations and local governments have to play in increasing this kind of understanding?

Wilma:

I think we have to help educate people about their roles. Right now folks in rural America don't necessarily see why we should care about what's going on in cities, or what's going on in Africa, or what's going on in Bosnia. If you look at community in the broader sense or global sense, what happens to people there should be important to us, to everybody. Part of the process of people learning how to do that is just understanding how truly interdependent we are everywhere. I don't think folks understand that at this point.

We've lived in a world where the individual accumulation of power and wealth and personal success has been emphasized from the time you are a child, from birth to death. We have to change that thinking, so that we understand that it's most important that we all help one another. My own self, I think that Native Americans have things that they can teach society about how to live in a community. But I tell you I have to believe that the most precious thing that we have is a sense of community and a sense of tribe. That, more than anything, is really really important. Of all the things we have today, that sense of