

# Introduction

Like the majority of attempts to start an intentional community (it's estimated that 90 percent fail), many personal searches for intentional community fizzle out due to lack of adequate information, guidance, or exposure to fellow travelers' stories.

In both cases, ignorance of the wide array of options possible, and of the breadth of resources and support available through the Fellowship for Intentional Community and allied groups, undoubtedly contributes to the "failure" rate.

This volume on "Finding a Community" and the previous volume in this series, on "Starting a Community," address the need for one-stop collections of stories to help founders and seekers. They are meant to complement the *Communities Directory* (available in print and online: [ic.org/directory](http://ic.org/directory)), *COMMUNITIES* magazine, a quarterly publication focused on Life in Cooperative Culture, and educational resources available through Community Bookstore ([ic.org/bookstore](http://ic.org/bookstore)).

These books should broaden anyone's outlook on what is possible and how to pursue their dreams of community. Within each section we hear from a range of voices spanning a great diversity of perspectives and experiences. In this volume, we start with stories about the wide range of intentional community types that one might choose to explore—from income-sharing groups, gift-economy communities, service-oriented groups, and activist communities to groups sharing privately-owned land, cohousing projects, senior-oriented communities, shared living within households, and neighborhood-wide initiatives. We then hear about tips and resources for seeking and visiting communities, followed by an extensive collection of personal stories and reflections resulting from authors' community explorations, offered in order of original publication date.

Most articles are drawn from the past decade of *COMMUNITIES* magazine, with one excerpted from the *Communities Directory* and a few from older issues of *COMMUNITIES* that were also excerpted in *Best of COMMUNITIES*, Volume II. Every issue of *COMMUNITIES* contains further treatments of these same themes, so we hope that you'll not only learn from these past stories, but also keep up with new ones by subscribing to the magazine ([ic.org/subscribe](http://ic.org/subscribe)).

Thanks for making use of these resources, and good luck on your community journey!

Chris Roth  
Editor, *COMMUNITIES*  
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# FINDING A COMMUNITY

(Wisdom of Communities, Volume 2)

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