



Social Distancing & Social Solidarity

As I'm writing this, the White House Coronavirus Task Force is providing the most sobering analysis of our current situation that we've seen from them so far. They are finally ratcheting up their guidance to make sure that all of us understand what it is going to take to stop this virus from decimating our communities.

For all Americans—including the young and (seemingly) healthy:

- Engage in schooling from home when possible;
- Avoid gathering in groups of more than ten people;
- Avoid discretionary travel; and
- Avoid eating and drinking at bars, restaurants, and public food courts.

Our nation—indeed the world—is experiencing a threat like nothing few of us who are alive today has ever experienced before. It won't be solved quickly and it won't be solved if any of us fail to do our part.

At this point, you've heard and understand that social distancing is a critical key to stopping the spread of the virus. Separating ourselves from one another is essential, albeit contrary to our natural human instincts.

In moments of disaster, tragedy, or pandemic, we want to come together, to support each other, to help however we can. That sense of social solidarity is often what gets us through the hard moments.

The good news is that social solidarity doesn't have to be physical in nature—it simply means that we acknowledge our dependence on one another and act in ways that are in all of our interests.

Now is the time for us to put aside our differences, trust our scientific experts, and do everything we can to become our best collective self.

If you're at all like folks on our team, it feels like we're on an emotional roller coaster—frightened, sad, angry, nostalgic, hopeful, uncertain. Even as we remain confident in our resilience, we can't help feeling untethered from any sort of recognizable reality.

Yet, we are privileged to work with incredible change makers—powerful, hard-working, and determined, servant leaders who never surrender to hope and despair.

Not surprisingly, so many of you are coming up with new and creative ways to continue (and even expand!) your amazing activities. We're discovering inspiration around every corner and in ways we haven't seen in the world in a very long time. It feels like we're truly beginning to

understand just how much we really are in this together.

So this got us thinking about how cool it would be if we could help collect and share the good news—your awesome ideas, your inspiring stories, great quotes, music, and photos. What is helping you get through all of this?

*Here in Washington, DC, for example, a **Virtual Tip Jar** has been set-up to help get cash to favorite bartenders, waiters, and cooks. Museums are creating **virtual tours**; and we saw a terrific list of **101+ Ideas** to help keep your kids busy. A local **DC distillery** is retooling itself to produce hand sanitizer; and yesterday, I asked Alexa to play **Walking on Sunshine** (my happy song) about a dozen times!*

Please, if you will click the button below and send us a super quick note, or just a link, or a story, a video clip, or an idea, we will start sharing them right away!

Spread Inspiration

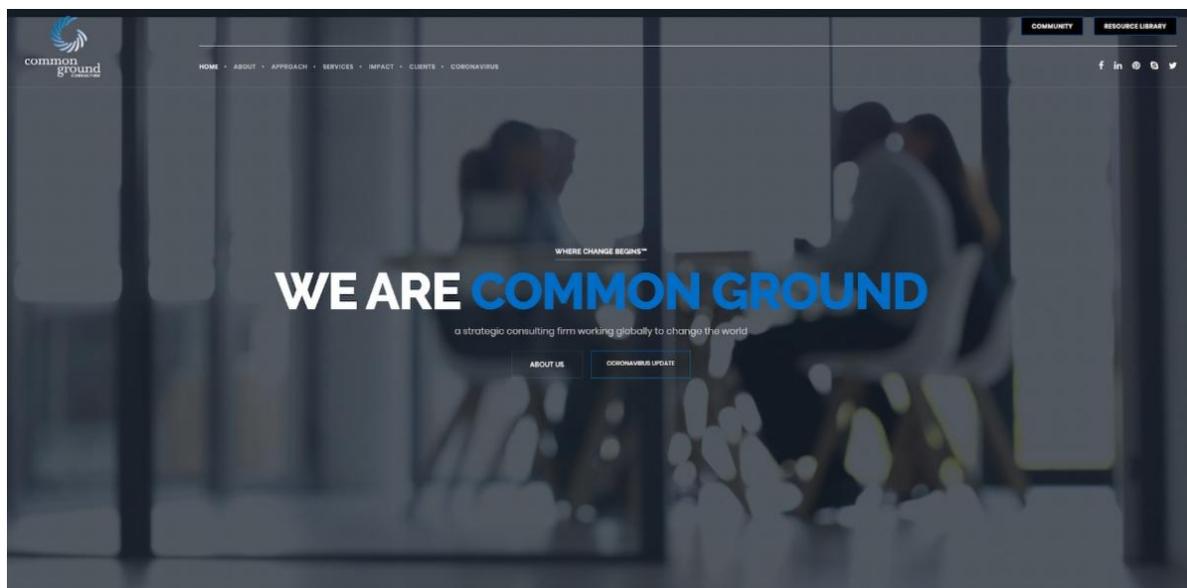
Inspiration, hope, love. These are the catalysts that have always fueled our social change movements. And these are the catalysts that will get us through this pandemic as well.

We will get through this. It won't be easy. It won't happen quickly. But we will get through it.

Hang in there. Stay home. Don't hoard toilet paper.
And for heaven's sake, wash your hands!

The NEW Common Ground Website Is Now LIVE!

We wish the timing could be better, but we are nevertheless really excited to let you know our new website is now live. Please check out the special section detailing our coronavirus-related capacities; as well as our new Resource Library and "Social Prophet" blog!





[Click Here to Download Our 2020 Capabilities Statement](#)

[Do you need to review Craig's resumé? Click here to download the latest version.](#)

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