Keep a diary of *ordinary activities* during your day.

Help identify the *common ground* among us.

Create a *historical record* of our everyday lives.

*Everyday Life in Middletown* is a place-making and community-building effort in which citizens of Muncie, Indiana record their everyday lives via written, video, and audio diaries and questionnaires. It is a collaborative, public, creative project that aims to help remedy social isolation and to develop new ways of thinking about and making community.
What is your everyday life like? You may answer that question differently depending on your history and background, what part of town you live in, where you work, or how old you are. Maybe your family has been here for generations. Maybe you moved here in the past few years. In any case, we want to hear from you.

OUR PROJECT

Everyday Life in Middletown is gathering the many voices of Muncie to create a true representation of life here and now, a representation free of labels, stereotypes, and false oppositions. Over time, we will create a rich historical archive to show our progress, our challenges, and the heart of our people – in their own words and images.

The project is not a one-day snapshot. It’s about daily activities we might not think about or record: where we eat, go to church, and meet our friends; how we travel to work and relax with our families; what we do with our ordinary days, and what we think and feel as we do it.

Our collaborators will keep written, video, or audio diaries. We will make this information available to our community so we can see where we are and how we can work together to improve our community. We will use creative digital tools to make this information useful.

WE’RE IN GLOBAL COMPANY

Our collaborators will have a lot in common with more than 2,000 people in England who have recorded their everyday lives since the 1930s. That project, called Mass Observation, gathers and shares information about what people – from factory workers, to homemakers, to CEOs and ministers – think about the world around them and how they can strengthen their communities.

WHO WE ARE

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HOW YOU CAN HELP

• Sign up to keep a written diary; submit detailed accounts of three days over the next year
• Share your everyday life with us in other ways: social media posts, video diary, audio diary
• Give us suggestions for capturing everyday life in Muncie – who should we talk to? What places are important? What groups can this project help connect?
• Suggest everyday topics you think we should explore, events we should attend, etc.

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