

The background of the poster is a dramatic landscape. A winding, glowing path leads up a mountain towards a bright sun or star in the sky. The scene is bathed in a warm, golden light, suggesting a sunrise or sunset. The mountains are rugged and rocky, with some vegetation visible on the lower slopes. The overall mood is one of hope and journey.

EPISODE 10

WHAT MOUNTAINS NEED TO BE MOVED?

See the Need. Make
the connection. Show up.
Then see what
happens next.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT — A SUSTAINABILITY SERIES

Clay Coleman | Community Mountain

August 2026

WHAT MOUNTAINS NEED TO BE MOVED?

*Community Intelligence can help us see the mountain. Connection creates possibility.
People still have to show up.*

**Community Intelligence can help us see the mountain.
Connection creates possibility. People still have to show up.**

Some Mountains Are Easy to See

Poverty. Violence. Addiction. Homelessness. Hunger. Educational failure. Isolation. Unemployment. Broken relationships.

There are no magic solutions here. But perhaps we can stop staring only at the summit and examine what holds the mountain in place.

What Sustains the Mountain?

Instead of only asking how to solve poverty, ask what continually reproduces poverty here. Instead of only how to stop violence, ask what trajectories repeatedly lead toward violence.

The mountain remains enormous, but its contours begin to appear.

Some Mountains Hide in Plain Sight

A child needs a tutor and a retired teacher wants to help. A worker needs transportation and a neighbor drives past the workplace. Two organizations solve the same problem without knowing one another.

Sometimes the mountain is not the absence of resources. It is the distance between them.

Sometimes the mountain is not the absence of resources. It is the distance between them.

The Mountain Between Intention and Action

People care. Organizations have missions. Volunteers want meaningful opportunities. Donors want resources to matter. Yet Need goes unmet.

Sometimes there is a mountain between “I care” and “I showed up.”

Nothing Happens Until Someone Shows Up

Capacity is potential. Connection creates possibility. Showing up turns possibility into action.

Showing up can mean volunteering, mentoring, hiring, teaching, driving, listening, introducing, forgiving, following through, or simply refusing to walk past a Need.

Showing Up Once Is Not Sustainability

Difficult human problems rarely cooperate with our schedules. Plans fail. People relapse. Trust takes time.

Sustainable Serve may require: Show up. Learn. Adjust. Return. Bring someone else. Try again.

Sustainable Serve may require: Show up. Learn. Adjust. Return. Bring someone else. Try again.

Reliability Turns Capacity Into Infrastructure

Ten people may say they are willing to help; one consistently arrives. Potential capacity is not the same as reliable capacity.

Potential → Available → Connected → Activated → Reliable. Trust grows around reliability.

Seeing Is Not Moving

Information, data, research and Community Intelligence matter. But a map cannot deliver the meal, data cannot sit beside the student, and analysis cannot drive the car.

SEE → CONNECT → ACT → LEARN → ADAPT → SHOW UP AGAIN.

A Countermovement Begins Small

Harm can reinforce harm. But Serve can generate Serve, trust can generate trust, connection can create connection, and LOVE can inspire LOVE.

A countermovement may begin with one interruption: one person notices, one connection occurs, one person shows up.

What Are We Willing to Sustain?

Relationships. Attention. Accountability without abandonment. Volunteers without exhaustion. Learning. Connection. Hope. The practice of showing up.

The Series began by asking “What are we sustaining?” It ends by asking “What are we willing to sustain?”

Community

A woman wanted one cupcake. A clerk admired them. She shared. He expressed gratitude. Others witnessed. People smiled. For a moment, strangers became community.

The resource became smaller. The LOVE became larger.

Food for Thought

- What mountains do you see?
- What conditions are sustaining them?
- What capacity already exists nearby?
- What connection is missing?
- What beneficial patterns should become self-reinforcing?
- What can you do with what you already have, where you already are, for someone whose Need you can actually reach?
- Will you show up?

The mountain may be enormous. Your part may not be.

FROM THOUGHT TO ACTION

FIND THE NEED

DISCOVER HOW YOU CAN SERVE

MAKE THE CONNECTION

SHOW UP

LEARN WHAT HAPPENED

SHOW UP AGAIN

Mountains don't move simply because we talk about them. People have to show up.

Continue the conversation in the Impact Exchange.

Clay Coleman | Community Mountain | August 2026

© 2026 Community Mountain. All rights reserved.