Recommendations for Meeting Needs
It has been shown that when a family is involved with their child's school, improvement can be found on all levels, with the child, parents and teachers (Morrow & Young, 1997, p. 736). The strategic plan which we have created for the Lummi Nation involves a variety of needs. Morrow and Young (1997) have discussed how the success of a child’s literacy in school often depends on the experiences and relationships they have at home. One of the needs we have found in the Lummi community is to connect parents to their children’s schools; and through Morrow and Young’s (1997) study they have proven that making that connection does pay off.

The program created by Morrow and Young (1997) was “created to heighten the awareness of parents, children, and teachers concerning the importance of the role they all play together in literacy development of children” (Morrow and Young, 1997, p. 736). Through this program they brought together children, their parents, and their teachers for one reason, the child’s development. However, through the process each party learned something along the way. The parents of the children claimed they were learning new ideas to help their children as well as how important their active role in their children’s literacy development (Morrow & Young, 1997, p. 741), and the teachers admitted they had never realized how important a program could be in bringing the parents, children and teachers together.

Taylor and Adelman (2000) developed a system which they refer to as a ‘school-community collaborative’ (Taylor & Adelman, 2000, p. 300). Within this program they aim to connect the school, families of students, and other entities of the surrounding neighborhood. The other entities could vary including agencies and organizations which provide programs and services such as education, health and human services and juvenile justice while sharing spaces such as schools, parks and libraries (Taylor & Adelman, 2000, p. 300). Taylor and Adelman (2000) explain that when bringing the community together with the school system every person
involved can address barriers to learning and teaching while promoting positive development in the children. The parents of the students can especially address these barriers while strengthening the fabric of family and community life (Taylor & Adelman, 2000, p. 299).

Through this ‘school community collaborative’ not only are there benefits from the relationships formed there are also future opportunities which can develop from this program approach. From the relationships formed with the schools, families and community resources individuals are able to develop school-to-career opportunities, volunteer and mentor encouragement, expanding after school programs and enriching current goals while working towards an accomplishing future (Taylor & Adelman, 2000, p. 301).

Through the interviews our group has conducted we have heard members of the Lummi community express their desire for their child’s development. From the research our group has done we have found positive responses, increased learning in the child’s development, encouraging relationships, and community connectedness. We have decided to implement a program within the Lummi community which connects parents with their child’s school, other community members and available services. Through this we will use community facilities such as the community center we plan to restore, parks and libraries. This program will not necessarily be a literacy program such as Morrow and Young’s (1997) program, however, the program which will be implemented within the Lummi community will be connected with the other needs we found such as the community center focused on bringing together members of the community and creating stable healthy relationships for each person to grow with.

One of the strengths we found in the Lummi community is the pride and respect they had for their community, however, our group has also found a need to implement community celebrations allowing members of the Lummi community to come together as one, meet new
people and celebrate the Lummi nation and all they stand for. Throughout our research our group found a study which was done in Northamptonshire, England which assessed the development of the community celebrations and how creating stability in their celebrations can improve one's sense of community. Through the study done by Smith (2008) it was found that the community felt their celebration had been shifted rather than abandoned, now lacking meaning and significance to them. In order to change these negative feelings within Northamptonshire, Smith (2008), and the community transformed their current May Day into a celebration which places both the participants and audience in an active role. Using the historically stable procession of singing and dancing the community brought their restored May Day into schools incorporating the community’s children into a primary focus of the day, as well as incorporating parents and grandparents in hope to instill community pride and tradition for future generations to come.

The Lummi community has an enormous sense of pride and commitment to their culture, and just as Northamptonshire did, our group has planned to put into practice, and or restore a current celebration enabling the community to honor their heritage while forming relationships and instilling the community members with a network to reach out to. Using the celebrations involving all members of the community, as well as creating our program connecting the community with the school system our group hopes to create a brighter future by connecting community members with each other, giving them a network to work with, grow off of each other and celebrate the community they live in and the culture they come from.

These articles have enabled our group with proof that communities can reach out to their members and make some changes, creating room for growth and positive changes. From these resources our group has been able to determine that in order to help fill the gaps within the
Lummi community we need to work with the strengths which are already there, the main strength being the community members themselves and the honor they have for their community.
Strategic Plan
In order to effectively meet the needs of the Lummi community, it would be necessary to spend a more extensive period of time getting to know the community. Homan (2008) emphasizes the importance of discovering perspectives, characteristics, and functions of a community when working towards valuable change. We have spent several weeks getting to know our community when in reality it would take much longer. To implement community change that works towards improving the needs that have been found, it is essential to gain further knowledge of the community.

As a group we recognize that we are part of a different culture than those who belong in the Lummi community. If we were to execute a plan to meet the needs of Lummi it would be important to address the issue of power. It is imperative to avoid the expression of dominance and intrusiveness. Homan (2008) states that “the community is the context of your action, and power gives strength and purpose to your concerns. Planning puts that concentrated power to use by providing the approach and direction for your actions” (p. 155). Power should be used to motivate people toward change rather than manipulate them to believe or act a certain way. The power is in the people as it is their community and they know it far better than we do.

While planning to implement change, the Tribal Council will play a significant role. Homan (2008) discusses leadership as a valuable resource. The Tribal Council is influential in the decision making for the community and act as leaders. One of the needs that we have found is rebuilding the community center and surrounding facilities. Consulting Tribal Council members with proposals to accomplish this recommendation will be helpful in order to gain ideas, support, and further need.

Achieving change within the community uses a variety of resources. Homan (2008) discusses that many of these resources can come within the community without cost. Although
with many of our recommendations it will be impossible to avoid cost, it is definitely possible to
draw from the community assets to use as helpful resources. As mentioned above, the Tribal
Council will play a significant role in rebuilding community facilities. Ideas include asking
Tribal Council leaders to assist in facilitating a fundraiser to support this and seeing if members
would be interested in finding local businesses that may be interested in further assisting with
funding. Another recommendation of ours is to strengthen relationships with parents and schools
to advocate for their children. This will require working closely with the local schools and
drawing from some of their existing resources.

Engaging participants and getting the word out are important parts of our plan to
accomplish change within the community. Several of the community members that were
interviewed expressed that they saw little need or gaps of services in Lummi. Homan (2008)
states “bringing the issue into focus shakes people out of their complacency” (p. 253). In order
to get the word out the issues must be brought put forward and addressed. Drawing attention to
these issues will allow community members to become more aware and therefore further able to
contribute input. Homan (2008) gives ideas for spreading the word such as newsletters,
meetings, word of mouth, brochures, fliers, posters, mailing lists, as well as many other
techniques. “Once people have a clearer picture of a situation, you can introduce them to ways
of putting their awareness into action on it” (Homan, 2008, p. 253).

Accomplishing our recommendations will take time, resources, motivation, and most
importantly, community involvement. Our hope is that rebuilding community facilities,
strengthening relationships between parents and schools, and creating an intergenerational sports
league will greatly benefit the entire community. Taking steps to move towards this change will
include further getting to know the community, addressing issues of power, drawing from
community resources, and engaging members of the community. In following this plan improvements will be made to Lummi and enhance the community as a whole.
References


Lummi Reservation 
Vicinity Map 
Lummi Government

Legend

- Interstate 5
- Interstate Exit
- Major Roads
- Other Roads
- Lummi Reservation

Lummi Nation Community Assets

- Tribal Vanpool
- Tribal Child Care Center
- Youth Academy
- Northwest Indian College
- Lummi Food Bank

HUB of Services
- Human Resource Center
- Lummi Head Start Program
- YESS
- CARE
- Tribal TANF Program