

## DVD SUMMARY

### UTAH LEAGUE OF CITIES AND TOWNS DVD: BUILDING A STATE OF COMMUNITY

**“Men can do jointly what they can’t do individually.” – DANIEL WEBSTER**

#### **Summary**

When the Mormon pioneers came to the Salt Lake Valley, Brigham Young decided that this was the right place to create a new community.

Immediately on arrival, the settlers began to organize resources and create a city. But the organizational plan, work ethic, and community spirit had started long before they reached the Salt Lake Valley. Their model for community building had been developed through long years of working and sacrificing together. By the time the settlers reached Utah, they were organized and efficient. Each member of the society added their talents and abilities to make the community a success.

New people with different cultures moved into the valley creating challenges and opportunities for growth and change. Change caused some Utah communities to adapt and flourish, while others diminished and even disappeared. Population growth, technical advances, economic and employment options, and resource availability played a role in the success of early communities and provide continuing challenges for Utah communities now and in the future.

#### **History**

People have lived in communities since the beginning of time. Group living provides for needs that cannot be effectively met when living alone. Community living allows for:

- Protection
- Trade and commerce
- Transportation systems
- Education
- Recreation spaces and structures
- Religion
- Arts funding and promotion
- Government structures

Native Americans comprised Utah’s first communities. Mormon pioneers settled a variety of cities and towns throughout the area. Working together was a matter of life and death. The beehive became the symbol of Utah’s spirit of industry and working for the common good.

#### **Challenges**

Early farmers and miners relied on each other for their social and physical existence. Life in Utah today has become much less personal, and people are less likely to rely on, or work with, neighbors to achieve common goals. Modern citizens often forget the keys to community



success practiced by early settlers. For cities and towns to thrive, citizens must invest in their communities in three ways:

- **Invest socially** (actively be involved with and care about others)
- **Invest physically** (take part in community events, politics, and programs)
- **Invest financially** (willingly participate in the funding/decision making process)

### **Future**

Early settlers created successful communities through individual sacrifice and concern for the good of the group. Citizens today must take ownership for the unique problems and opportunities that come with growth.

- There are no quick fixes
- Citizens must feel personally responsible for the success of their community (Example: Scout projects)
- Communities must attract new jobs
- Communities must balance tourist, business, housing, and open space needs
- Communities must find ways to fund their infrastructure (streets, sewers, and water) and meet the needs of their citizens through financial and community planning

### **Summary**

Each generation is faced with unique problems, but Utah cities and towns can look to the social, physical, and financial investments of the past as a model of community building for the future.

The story of Utah communities is not a matter of chance but of choice.

The choices we make now will create the legacy we pass on to future generations.

**“There is no me or them in community, just ‘unity.’” – TOM BROKAW**