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Let's Circle Up

Role Play: Community Meets

SCENARIO #1

Mitch, drunk, high on K2, and desperate for money, robbed at gunpoint a neighborhood store owned and run by seventy-two-year-old Mr. Henry, a pillar of the community for decades. During the robbery, Mitch hit Mr. Henry across the head with the gun, resulting in a severe bruise and 18 stitches. Mr. Henry spent three days in the hospital recovering from the injury.

Several witnesses, including Margie and her eight-year-old son, were in the store when the robbery occurred. Others witnessed Mitch run out and jump in the car of his friend Omar. They made off with about \$150. Both were caught by police about a half-hour later while getting high in the car a few blocks away.

The community is fearful and angry about what has become of the neighborhood. Tommy, a community organizer, decides to call a meeting at a local school gym to discuss the recent increase of crime and violence in their streets. Word is that Mitch's father Dan is planning to post bail for Mitch.

Mitch is twenty-two, unemployed, and dropped out of school in tenth grade. He has two children, six and four, but is not in contact with either. He spends most of his time chasing drugs. He had a bright future as a kid, before he started using. He has served a few minor jail sentences, but this is his most serious case.

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Roles for Role Play: Community Meets

SCENARIO #1

Roles*

- **Mr. Henry**—neighborhood store owner who was robbed
- **Dan**—Mitch's father
- **Tommy**—community organizer
- **Officer Harvey**—neighborhood police officer
- **Rep. Cole Nelson**—State Representative of 23rd District
- **Troy**—concerned and fearful citizen
- **Reverend Peters**—pastor of local church
- **Big Lou**—neighborhood store owner
- **Carl**—community recreation center worker
- **Margie**—witness to robbery
- **Rob**—Margie's husband
- **Alicia**—mother of three
- **Jake Henry, Jr.**—Mr. Henry's son
- **Tone**—formerly incarcerated citizen
- **DJ Smalls**—local radio disk jockey
- **Nate**—former high school classmate and friend of Mitch
- **Barb**—crossing guard
- **Mrs. Rodriguez**—local high school teacher
- **Al**—school bus driver
- **Rachel**—nurse at local hospital

*Character names and pronouns can be changed to fit different gender needs of a workshop group.