



UNIVERSITY OF
ILLINOIS
URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

SEMINAR 1: FINDING YOUR WHY



Emerging
Community Leaders





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United Way of Champaign County

Agenda

- United Way of Champaign County
- Topic Introduction
- Finding Your Why Activity,
presented by Salvo Rodriquez
- What's next?





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Introduction to United Way of Champaign County

- **102** years in Champaign County
- **40+** funded partner programs
- **900+** graduates from ECL
- **2800+** children registered for Dolly Parton's Imagination Library
- **13,000+** diapers distributed monthly
- **48,000+** neighbors served in 2025

Why it is important to FIND YOUR WHY

- Reflect on and sustain meaningful ways to give back
- Develop your plan for volunteerism
- Cultivate practices that motivate you to be an ambassador for positive impact





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FINDING YOUR WHY

Discover how your unique
skills and talents can
advance the causes you
care about.

SKILLS INVENTORY

PART 1

- Work / Task Skills
- Interpersonal Skills





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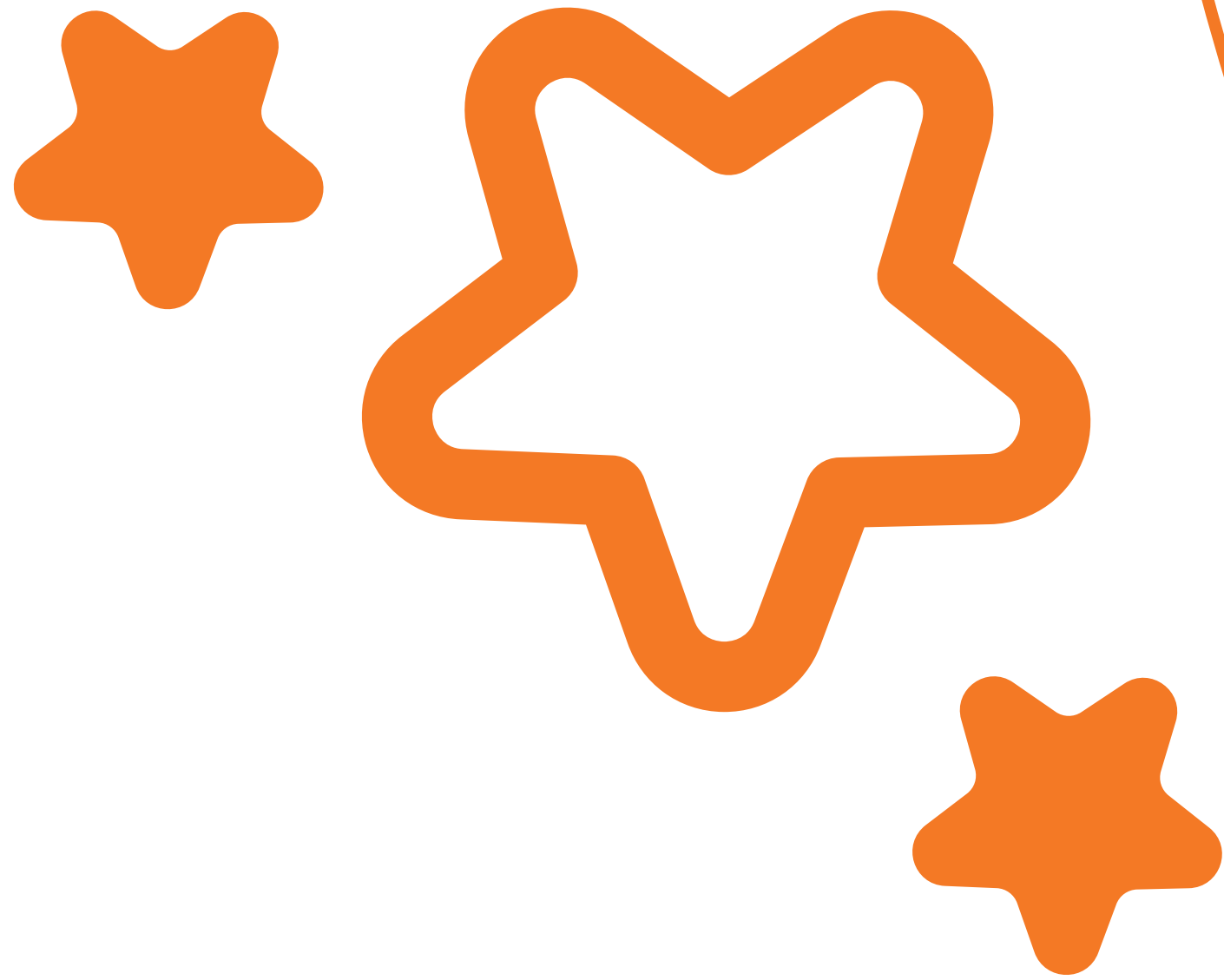
MAKE A LIST OF ALL YOUR SKILLS

Five minutes





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PUT A STAR NEXT
TO THE SKILLS
THAT BRING
YOU JOY!

TIME INVENTORY

PART 2

One Week = 168 Hours



TIME INVENTORY

SLEEP

WORK

CAREGIVING

FOOD

HOUSEHOLD

HOBBIES

TV / PHONE

SELF CARE

MAKING TIME FOR VOLUNTEERISM

- Unaccounted time
- Reallocate time spent in other areas
- Your “BEST YES”
- Employee Volunteerism Programs
- Remote or independent volunteerism
- Anticipated future changes in time allocation



CAUSE IDENTIFICATION

PART 3

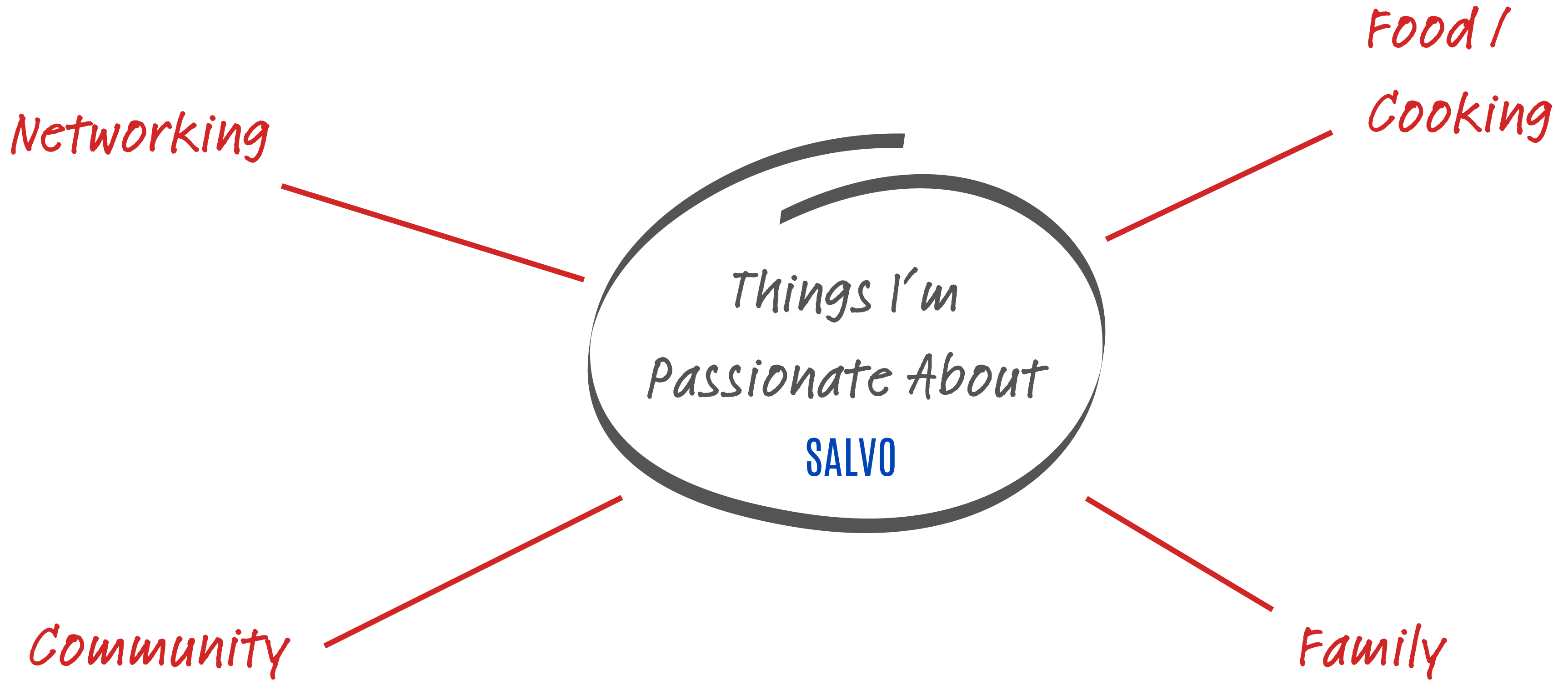
- Use a big piece of paper
- Draw a circle
- In the middle write “Things I’m Passionate About”
- Listen to the guiding questions and write around your circle

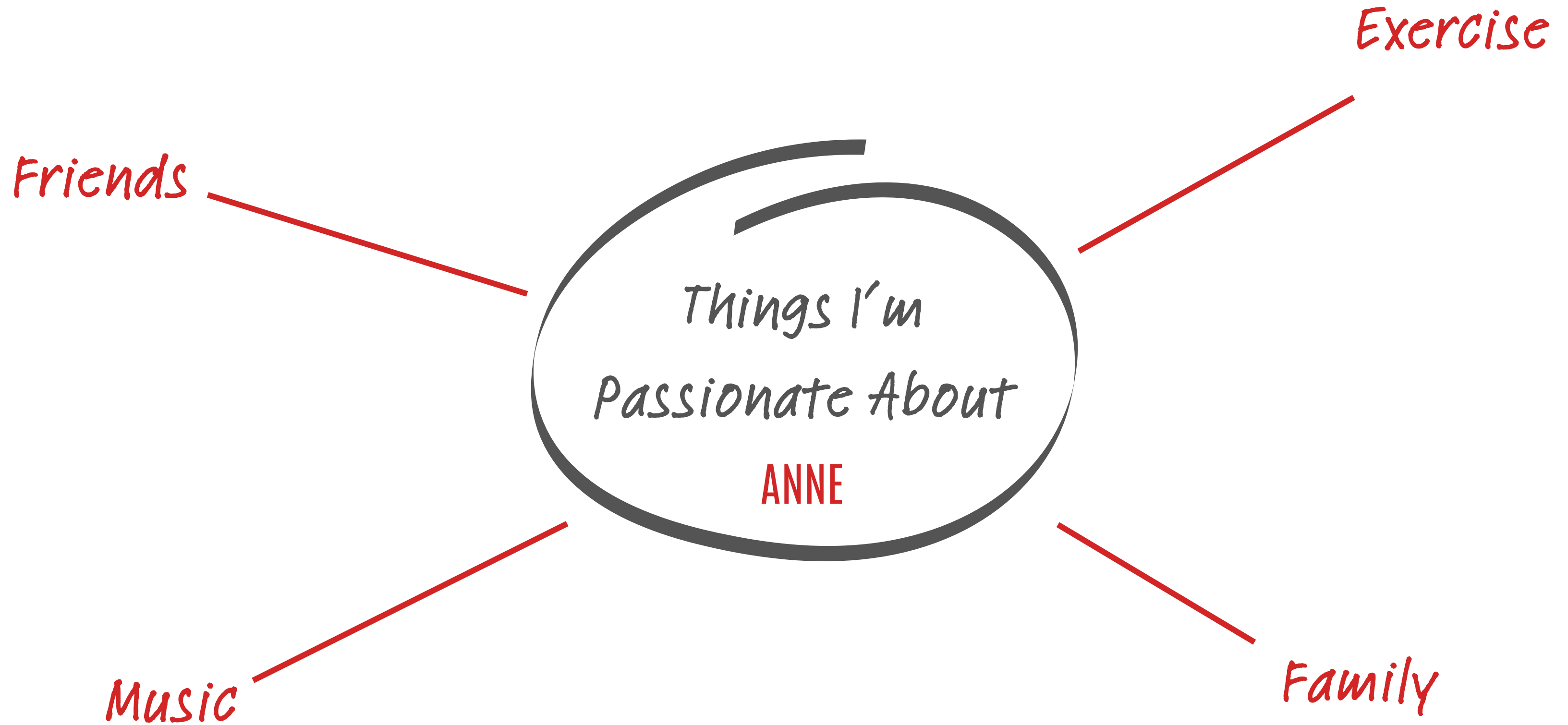
*Things I'm
Passionate About*
SALVO

*Things I'm
Passionate About*
ANNE

WHAT IS YOUR *ABSOLUTE* FAVORITE ACTIVITY?

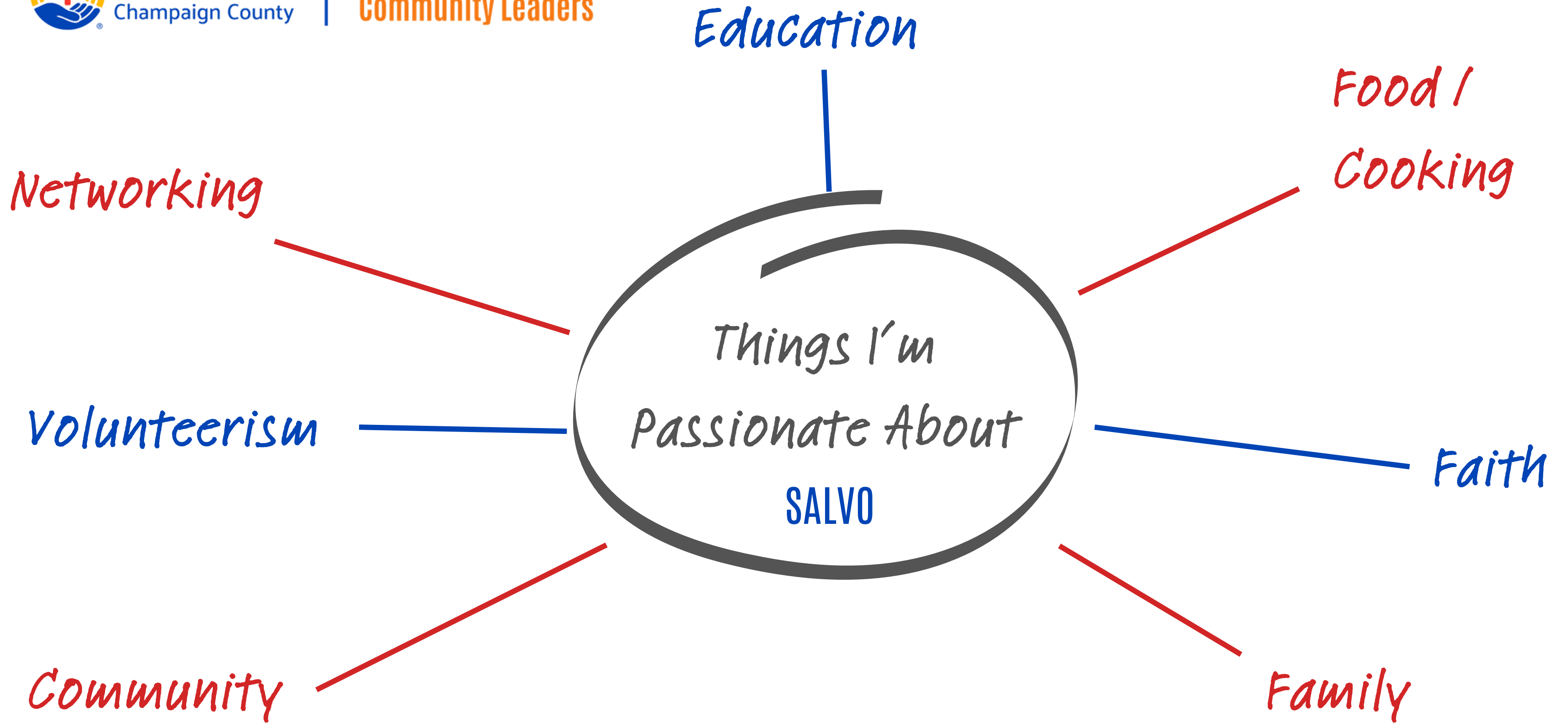
The activity you get lost in,
that you can spend HOURS doing
without realizing time has passed?

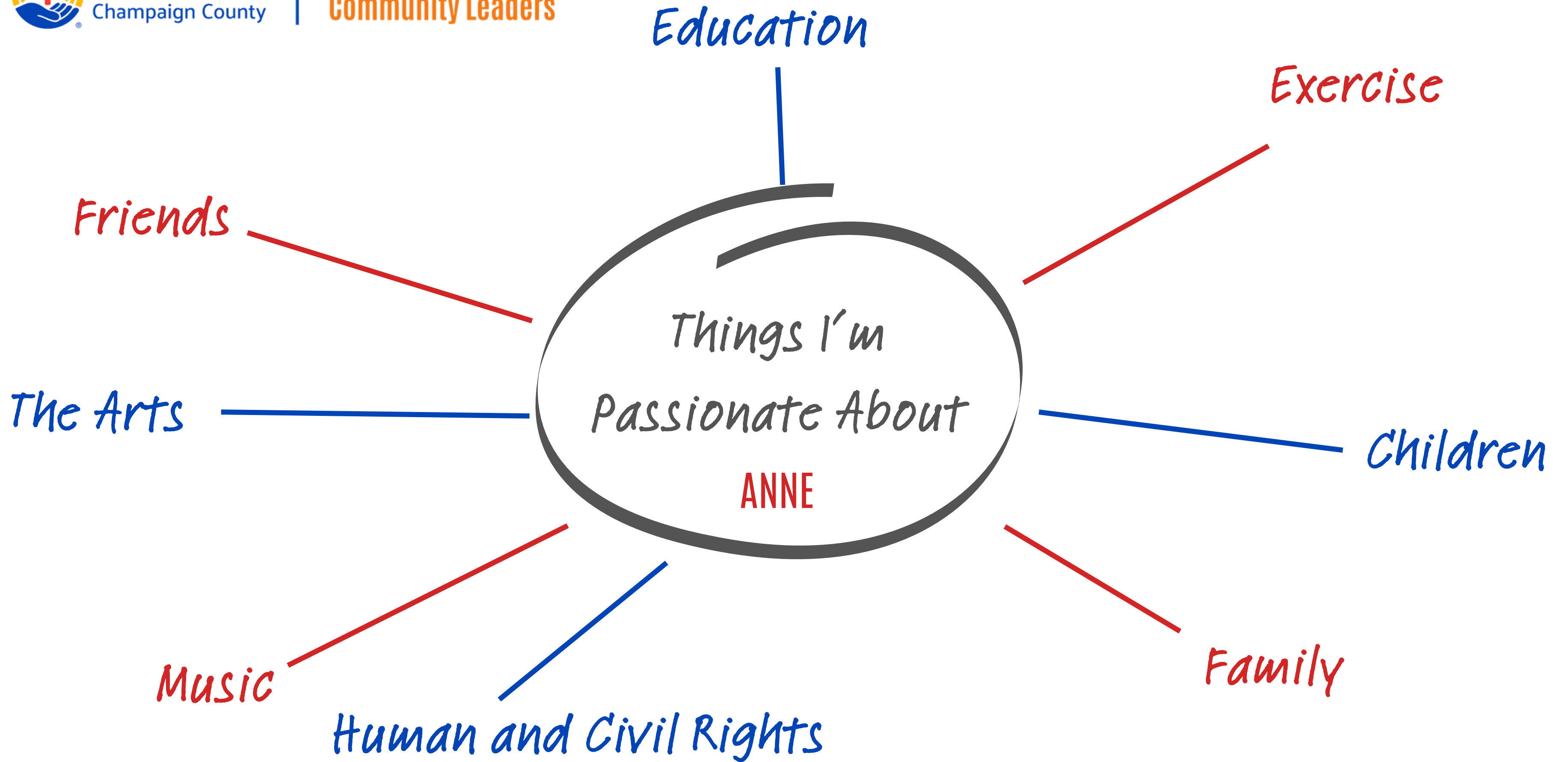




WHICH OF THESE RESONATES WITH YOU THE MOST?

- Environment
- Faith
- Children
- Senior Citizens
- Working Families
- The Arts
- Volunteerism
- Education
- Health
- Human and Civil Rights

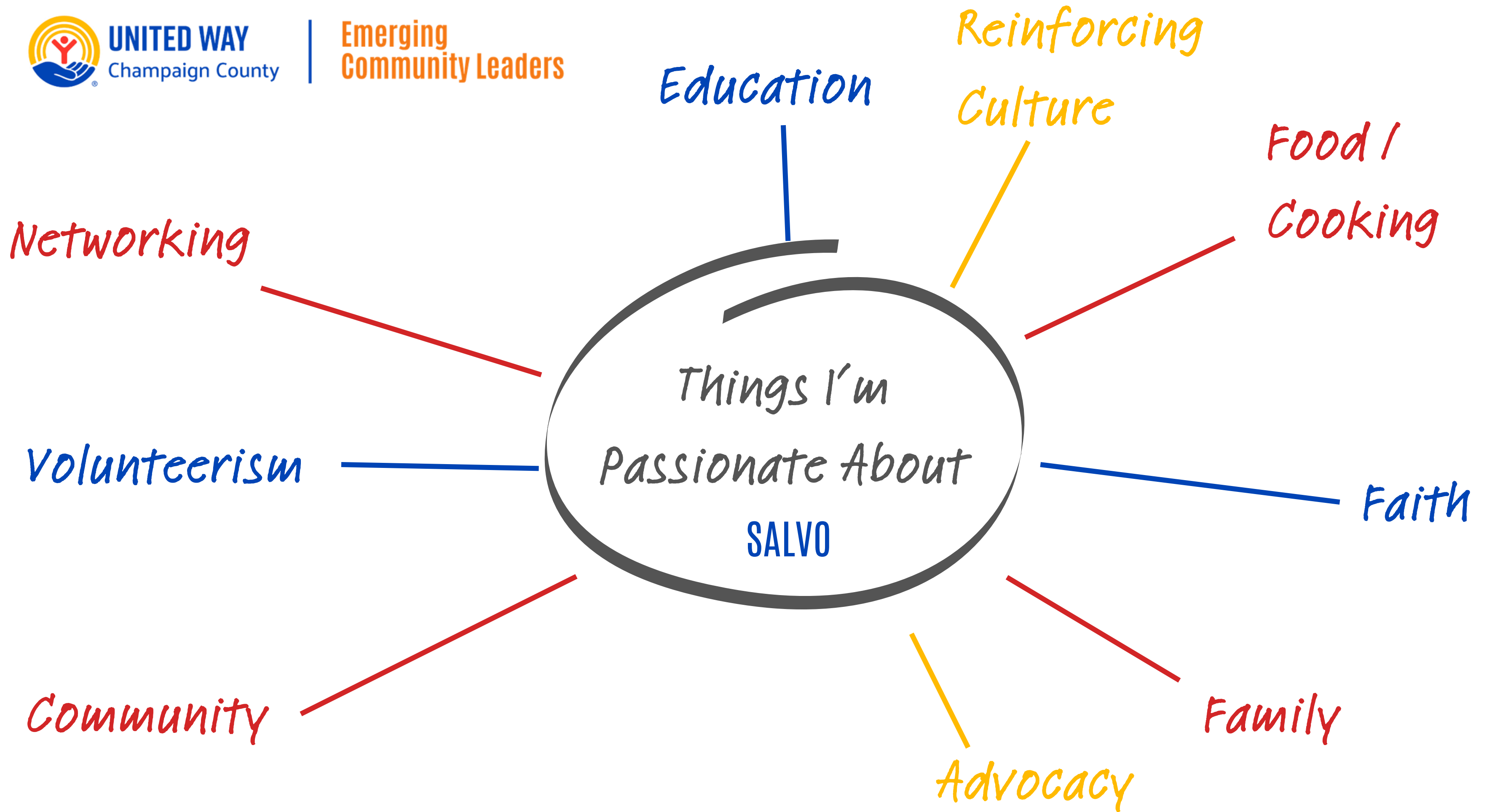


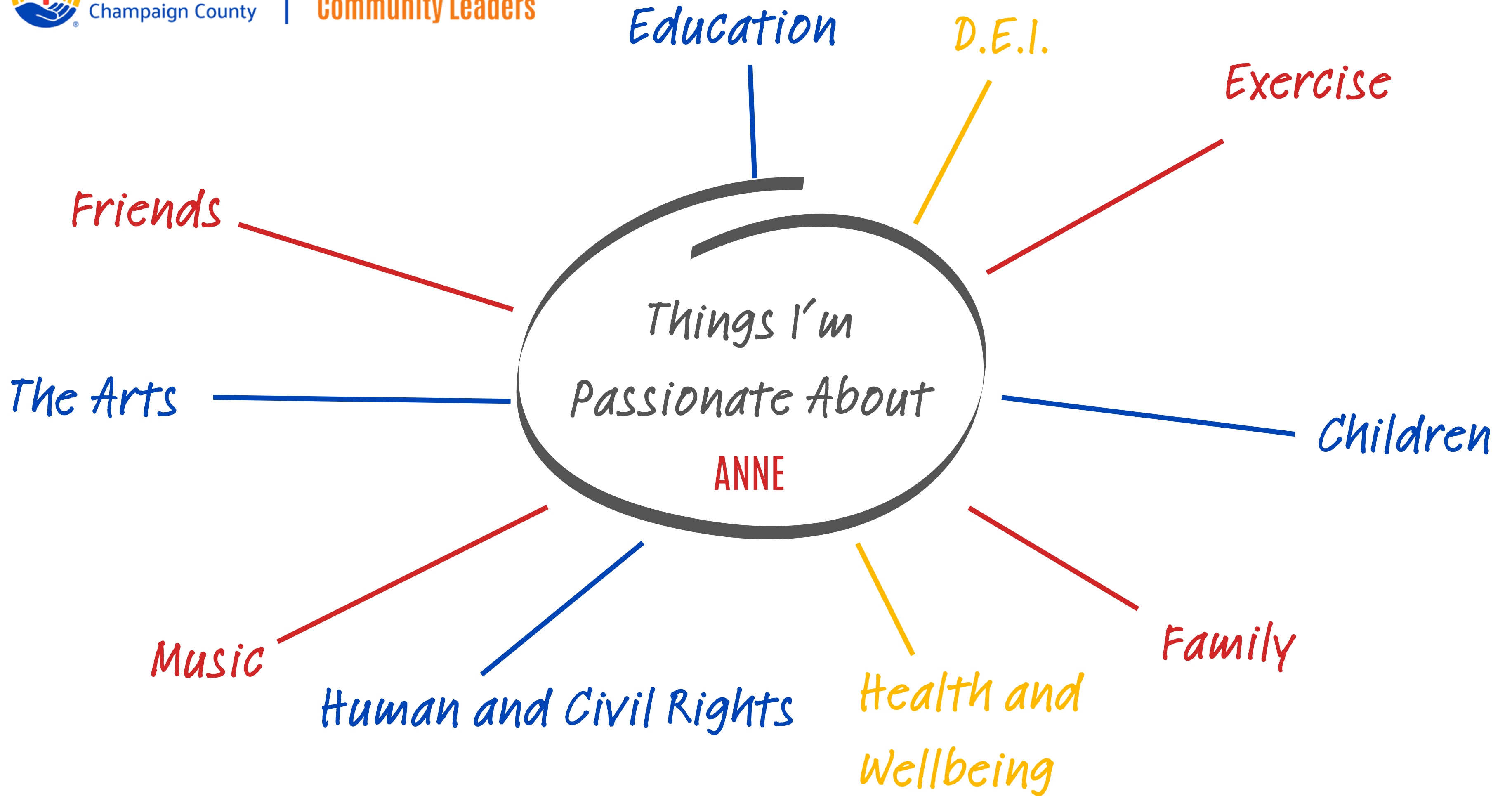




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WHAT ARE SOME SPECIFIC
ISSUES THAT MATTER TO YOU?







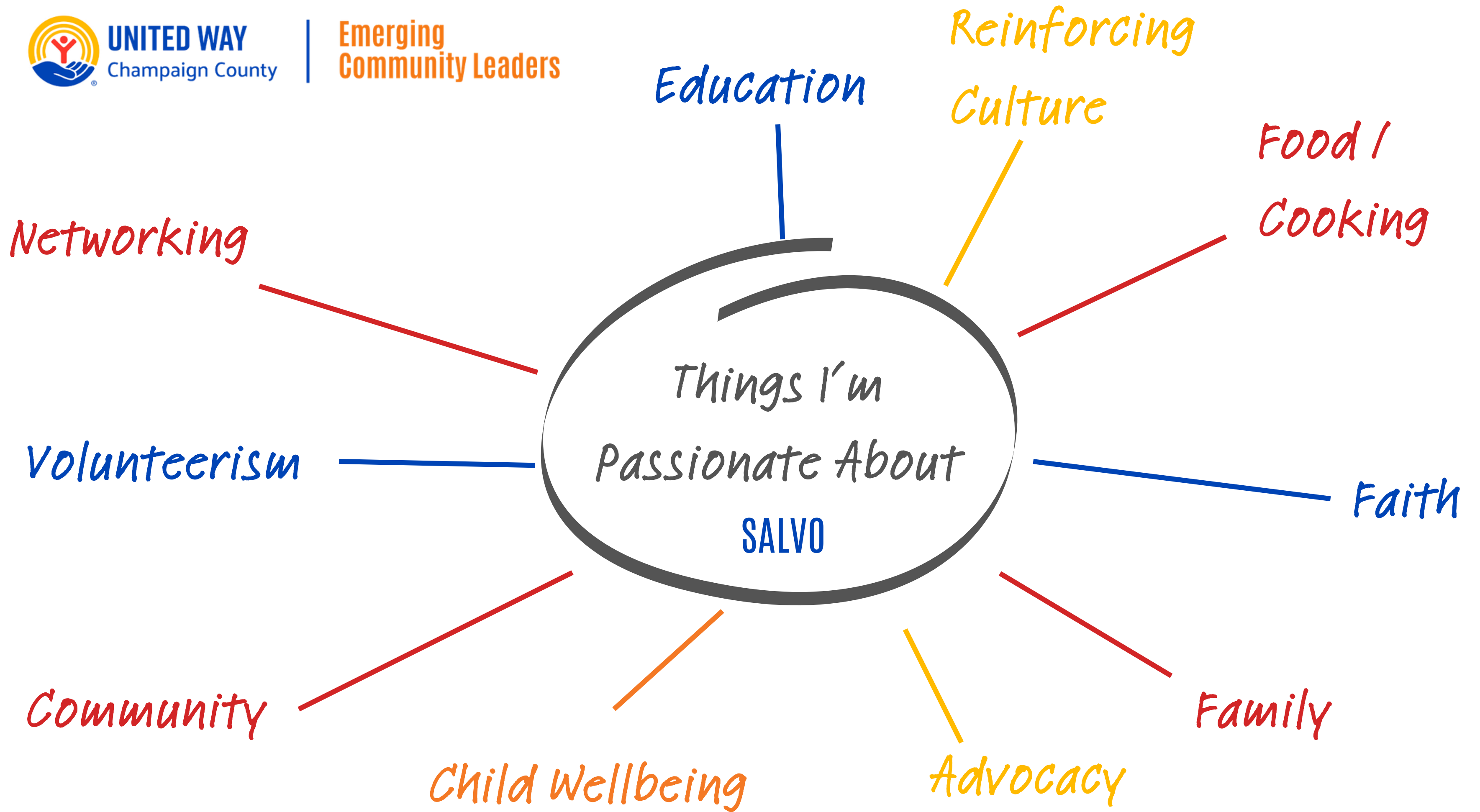
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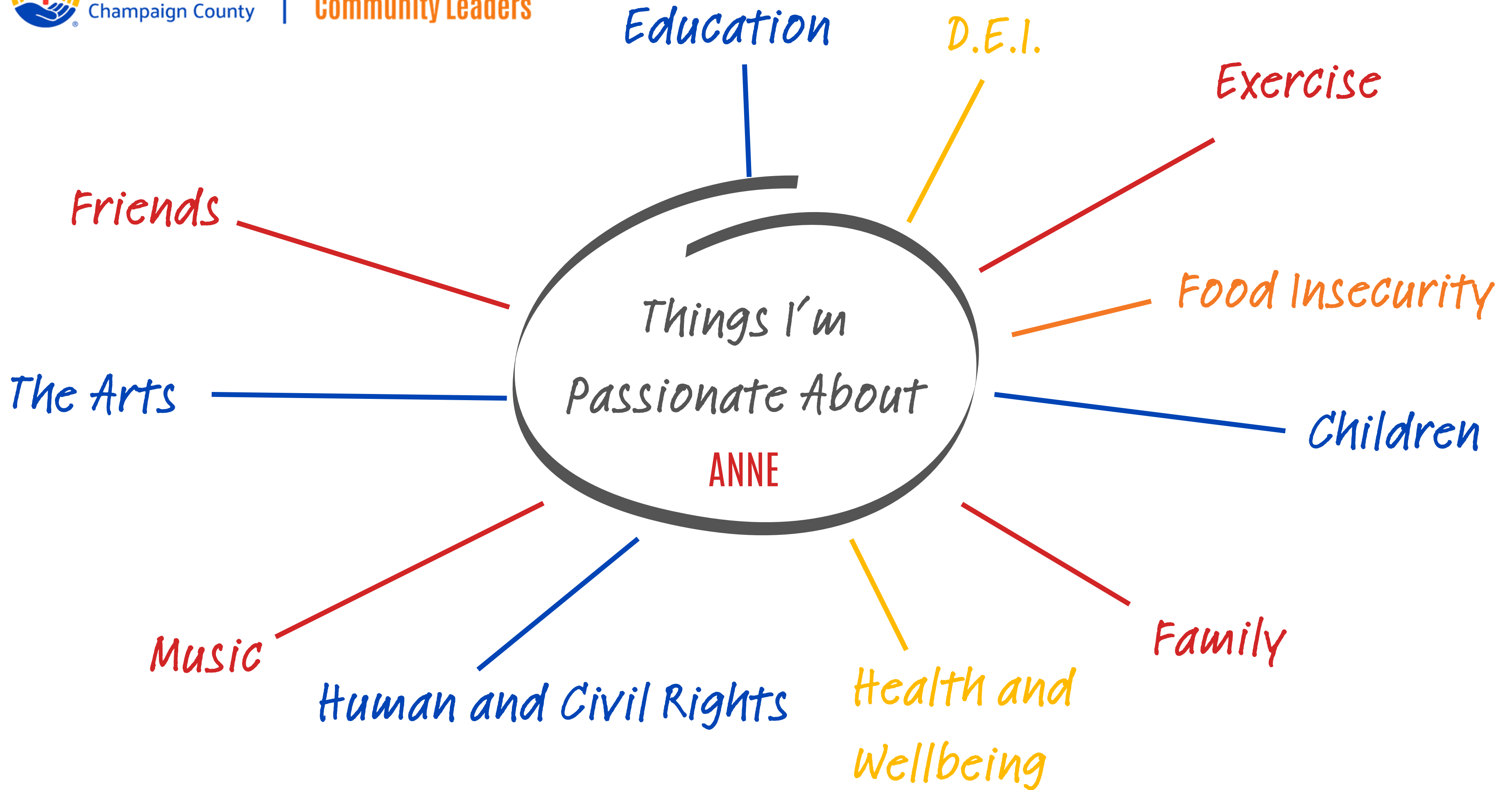
WHEN I HEAR A STORY ABOUT

_____ ON THE NEWS,

IT MAKES ME WANT TO

DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT

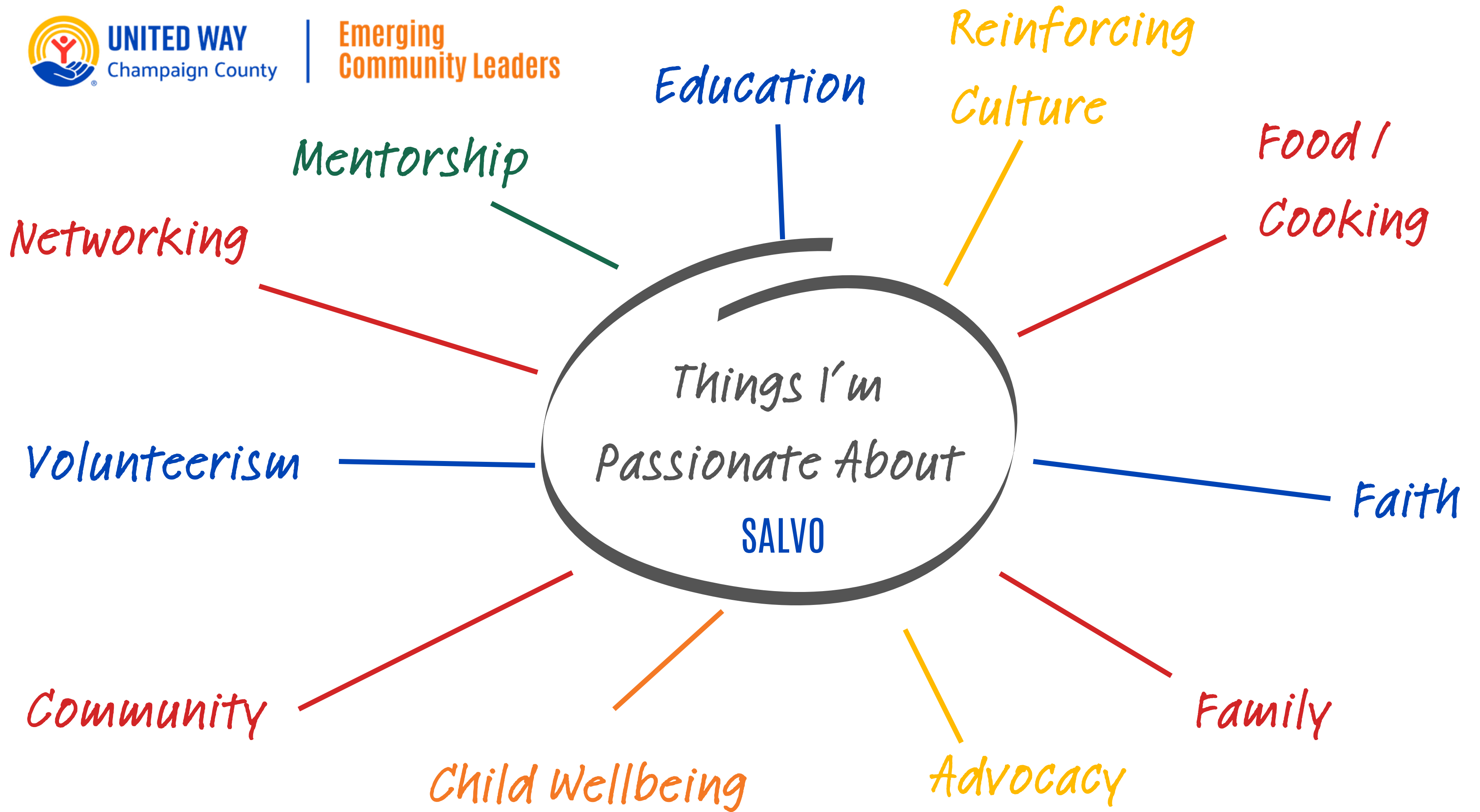


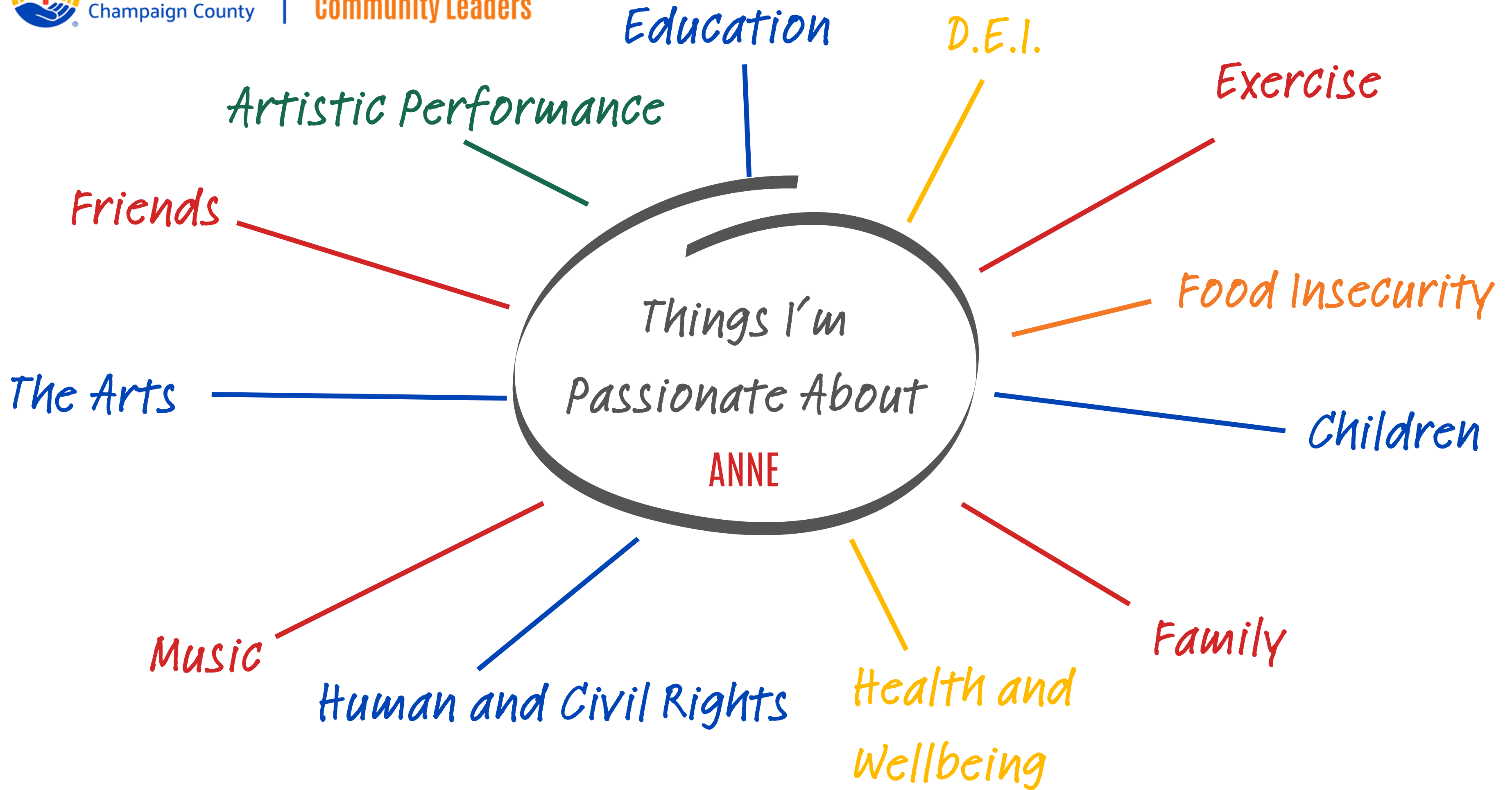




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A PERSONAL EXPERIENCE YOU
BELIEVE EVERYONE SHOULD HAVE,
OR THE OPPOSITE - THAT NO ONE
SHOULD EVER HAVE TO GO THROUGH







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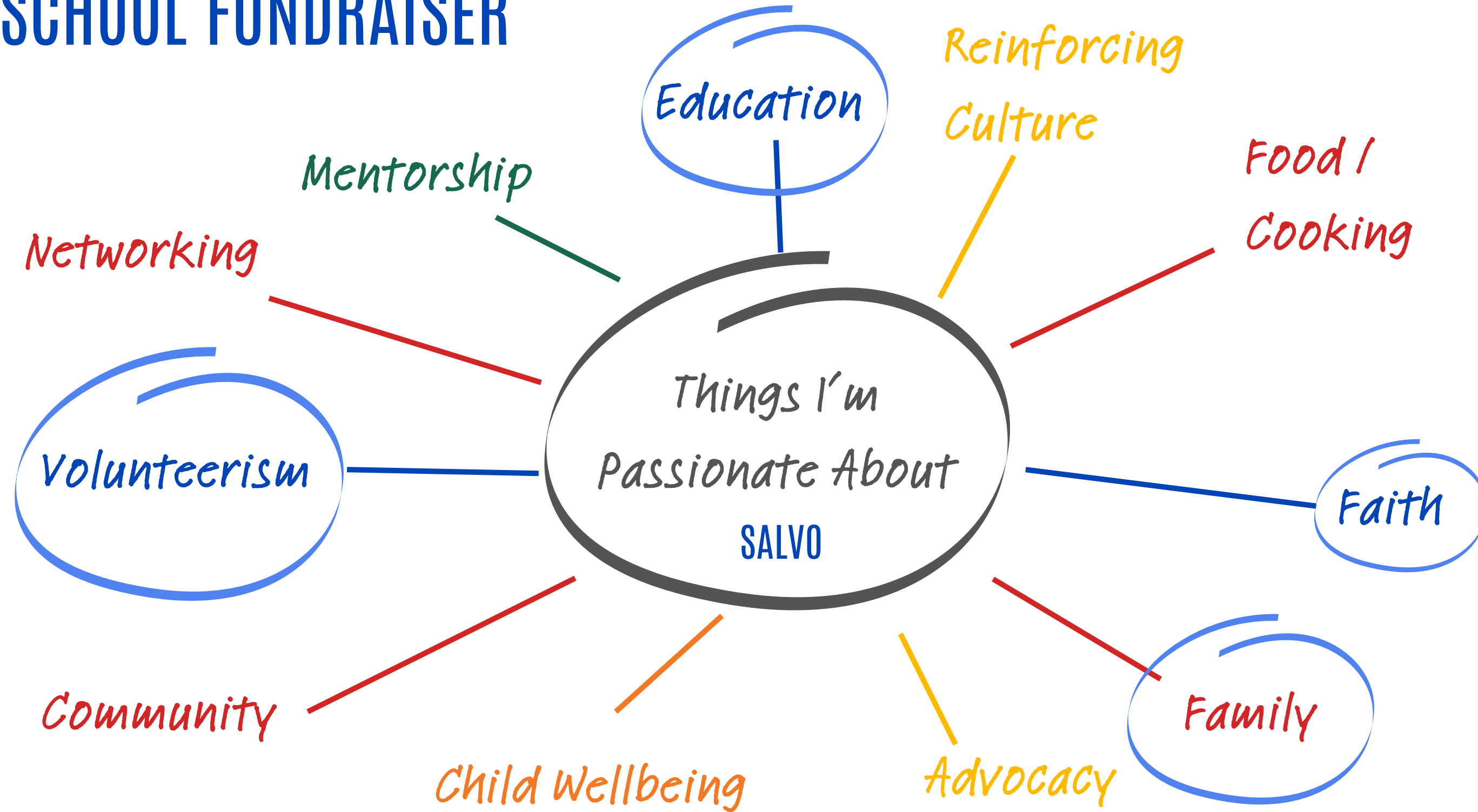
DO YOU SEE ANY CONNECTIONS?

Consider ways to link what you're passionate about with related organizations.

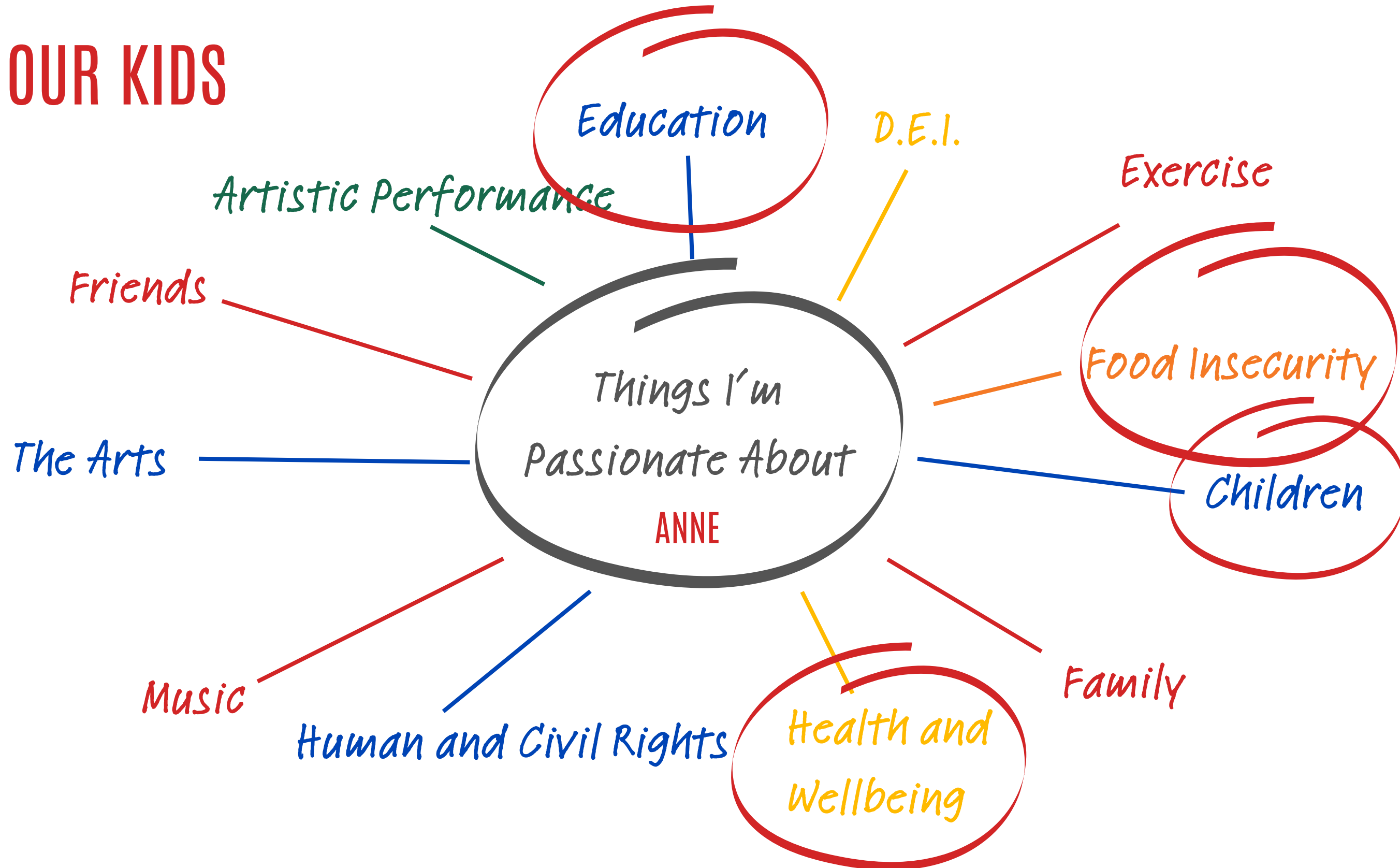
THERE ARE LOTS OF WAYS TO GIVE BACK

Time, Treasure, Talent, Testimony, Ties

SON'S SCHOOL FUNDRAISER



FEEDING OUR KIDS



SMALL GROUP ACTIVITY

- Discuss connections on sunburst
- Identify connections and causes;
consider less apparent connections
- Explore known local causes
- We're not committing to anything today!
- Respect differences
- No obligation to share

WHAT'S NEXT?

- Apply for 2026 ECL Program online

unitedwaychampaign.org/emerging-community-leaders

- First ECL Session, Tuesday, April 7
- Consider Group Volunteer Opportunities with ECL
 - Illinois Marathon, Saturday, April 25
 - United Way Power of the Purse, Thursday, May 7



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THANK YOU!



UNITED WAY
Champaign County

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