



United Way of Hancock County Community Conversations

Through our strategic plan we are charged with communicating with residents of Hancock County to get their thoughts and perspectives on the issues *facing our county*. The information we receive will help us *to find and address root causes and meet the needs of citizens through our funding*.

How will we achieve that goal?

- Community needs assessment
United Way recently received results from a Community Needs Assessment which was sent out to 1000 homes in Hancock County. The results of this needs assessment will give us one perspective on local issues.
- Community conversations
These informal gatherings (10-12 people), similar to small focus groups, will allow **us** to meet face to face with groups of county residents, on their turf, and allows the **residents** to share their personal perspectives on various topics and issues. Our goal is to include 500 Hancock County residents in these conversations during 2014.

Thanks to a format for success created by the Harwood Institute for Public Innovation, in collaboration with United Way Worldwide, United Ways all over the country use community conversations as a tool to gather a cross section of information from people of all walks of life.

Then what?

- Data from the needs assessment that was compiled and reported along with the data compilation from the community conversations will be shared.
- This data will enable us to define our community challenges, and move forward to work collaboratively to address root causes of issues and conditions impacting the common good by focusing on education, income, and health.

How do I get involved?

- Be a group leader. Find 10-12 people in your circle of connections such as work, neighborhood, place of worship, social club, etc., and ask them to meet on a specific date at a location of your preference. We will provide the facilitator and note takers to assist in the process. To cover the questions effectively, a 90 commitment from your group will be required.
- Attend a conversation currently scheduled at your location or contact United Way and we will be sure you are included in a conversation at a time or place that suits your schedule.

Help United Way to measurably improve lives in Hancock County.