

## Community Discussion Response

### Organization

#### The Salvation Army (York, Chester, Lancaster)

What are the primary challenges in our community?

Rental Assistance / Collaborative Efforts of Community to ensure total care of individuals not just "immediate need"

What do you feel are the immediate needs to address the primary challenges within the community?

Instead of placing a "bandaid" on folks we should be finding out what is causing the hurt, why are they in the place they have ended up. Do they want to better themselves? What can we, as agencies in a collaborative effort, do to help.

What do you know about our community that we might not be aware of, but should know?

Sometimes you have to get outside of your four walls of comfortability to see what the real need of the community may be. All of us can get comfortable in our building, sometimes we have to meet the need where the need is.

What would an ideal community partnership with our church look like?

We know exactly what you can do to help our community and you know exactly what we can do to help. This way we can partner (as well with other agencies) to help fully encompass the needs of someone.

What specific action steps would our church need to engage in to help achieve that ideal partnership?

Come visit! See what we can do to help each other, and in return help our community!

### Organization

#### Hospice & Community Care

What are the primary challenges in our community?

As it relates to our organization - our primary concern is uninsured and underinsured patients. In the past year our uninsured and underinsured has increased more than 100%. You would be surprised that the largest portion of our underinsured are people under the age of 65 - many who have worked in public service such as teachers, city/county/state employees, police/fire. We also have concern about equitable access to healthcare and healthcare literacy especially in populations that are historically marginalized.

What do you feel are the immediate needs to address the primary challenges within the community?

As it concerns healthcare, we believe the challenges are centered in access to education and resources earlier in the healthcare continuum.

What do you know about our community that we might not be aware of, but should know?

Nonprofit providers continue to be challenged by the disconnect between the needs in the community and the organizations/individuals that can have significant impact in the community struggles. Often funding (community, foundation, and individual) and publicity is centralized in new program development rather than supporting and boosting existing programs. These existing programs often have valuable data to support their work but the "shiny" new programs attract attention and funding.

What would an ideal community partnership with our church look like?

Monetary support is always valuable but we are also in need of volunteers and educational opportunities, especially in populations that have limited access to healthcare information

What specific action steps would our church need to engage in to help achieve that ideal partnership?

We are so impressed with your willingness to reach out and understand the needs that exist in the community. I believe that these first steps continue by further understanding the organizations that are working in our community. Getting to know us and our struggles. Once you do this finding creative ways to support these efforts based on your talents and abilities.

## **Organization**

### **Clinton College**

What are the primary challenges in our community?

Quality education, economic development, and racial equity

What do you feel are the immediate needs to address the primary challenges within the community?

Access to quality education, job creation, job skills development

What do you know about our community that we might not be aware of, but should know?

What would an ideal community partnership with our church look like?

Opportunities for dialogue, shared planning, support for students, participation in public events

What specific action steps would our church need to engage in to help achieve that ideal partnership?

Initial dialogue with leadership, formation of a collaboration team

## **Organization**

### **Dorothy Day Soup Kitchen**

What are the primary challenges in our community?

Food Insecurity

What do you feel are the immediate needs to address the primary challenges within the community?

Communication, collaboration, and unity among community leaders, churches, agencies, etc. We need "all hands on deck" and we need everyone working together and pulling in the same direction.

What do you know about our community that we might not be aware of, but should know?

From our perspective OBC has great awareness, involvement, and insight on the needs of our community. Just a reminder that with the growth that York county is experiencing and the increase of the cost of living, we are going to face big challenges for people facing homelessness in the years to come

What would an ideal community partnership with our church look like?

Prayer for our staff, volunteers, and clients. A gospel witness on our campus. Volunteer recruitment for our agencies. Helping educate your members on poverty. Financial support.

What specific action steps would our church need to engage in to help achieve that ideal partnership?

Have a leader of your church engage with our Kingdom Partnership Team, invite members to come take a tour of Pathways, provide education opportunities for your members to learn about poverty, invite agency leaders to share at church functions, and consider putting Pathways and/or our partner agencies in your annual budget.

## **Organization**

### **Pathways Community Center**

What are the primary challenges in our community?

We are focused on addressing the primary challenge of helping organizations that are serving people in need in our community to collaborate and work together. We are seeking unity and a unified effort among many community leaders to create a comprehensive continuum of care for people at risk of homelessness.

What do you feel are the immediate needs to address the primary challenges within the community?

Communication, collaboration, and unity among community leaders, churches, agencies, etc. We need "all hands on deck" and we need everyone working together and pulling in the same direction

What do you know about our community that we might not be aware of, but should know?

From our perspective OBC has great awareness, involvement, and insight on the needs of our community. Just a reminder that with the growth that York county is experiencing and the increase of the cost of living, we are going to face big challenges for people facing homelessness in the years to come.

What would an ideal community partnership with our church look like?

Prayer for our staff, volunteers, and clients. A gospel witness on our campus. Volunteer recruitment for our agencies. Helping educate your members on poverty. Financial support.

What specific action steps would our church need to engage in to help achieve that ideal partnership?

Have a leader of your church engage with our Kingdom Partnership Team, invite members to come take a tour of Pathways, provide education opportunities for your members to learn about poverty, invite agency leaders to share at church functions, and consider putting Pathways and/or our partner agencies in your annual budget.

## **Organization**

### **The Off Ramp and her subsidiary Threads by Nomad**

What are the primary challenges in our community?

Charlotte and the surrounding area is home to approximately 20,000 refugees and more than 130,000 immigrants. Displacement, cultural/language acquisition, and job placement present unique challenges to this population hindering them from becoming thriving citizens. President Biden has increased the number of refugees to be welcomed to the US to 62,500 and then an increase to 125,000 next fiscal year. As Charlotte is a major resettlement area, an influx of newly arrived refugees is anticipated. They will come not only with physical needs, but emotional, psychological, and spiritual needs. Charlotte is also the number 1 city in North Carolina for sex trafficking. Until recently labor trafficking has been virtually ignored. There is now a task force serving NC to examine labor trafficking throughout the state. In SC in 2020 there were 96 sex trafficking cases, 22 labor trafficking cases, 9 sex and labor trafficking cases and 12 cases not specified. The vast majority of human trafficking victims are women, data show, and most of them are adults. We know that when it comes to human trafficking both labor and sex, the crime is hidden. Addressing it at a grass roots level is imperative to eradicating modern day slavery.

What do you feel are the immediate needs to address the primary challenges within the community?

Helping displaced people thrive wherever they are through skills acquisition, fostering entrepreneurial vision, cultural acclimation, language acquisition, and educational opportunities prevents them from entering a cycle of poverty that is difficult to exit. Helping them thrive through these opportunities give them the possibility of being valuable contributors to the community. Teaching and raising awareness of human trafficking will help foster the growth of a grass roots movement reducing human trafficking in our area. Identifying needs of victims and connecting them to resources will be necessary as victims self-identify.

What do you know about our community that we might not be aware of, but should know?

Approximately 7% of Rock Hill's population was born outside of the United States.

What would an ideal community partnership with our church look like?

We would welcome an ongoing partnership as we build the ministry of The Off Ramp here on the east coast. This could include but not limited to volunteers for programs and special events, space for studio and working with refugees, resourcing of expertise (for example sewing teachers), and hosting events. Networking with and for us to build connections and partnerships with existing organizations with like goals in the community. Hosting of educational opportunities to learn more about displaced people and their needs and addressing human trafficking. Help with promotion of events within the OBC community and Rock Hill area would be welcomed.

What specific action steps would our church need to engage in to help achieve that ideal partnership?

As conversation continues regarding the relationship between The Off Ramp and her subsidiary, Threads by Nomad, the drafting of an MOU would be beneficial. An opportunity to regularly i.e. quarterly connect with an identified staff liaison would permit us to keep OBC informed of the work and vision of The Off Ramp.

## **Organization**

### **Pathways of YC**

What are the primary challenges in our community?

Job equity; crime especially in the poor neighborhoods; affordable housing; children being abused or neglected and not proper parenting

What do you feel are the immediate needs to address the primary challenges within the community?

A unified commitment from the businesses, government entities, and faith-based community to work on solutions. We need money but no amount of money will solve these problems if we are not unified.

What do you know about our community that we might not be aware of, but should know?

Annual budgets for non-profits in this community far exceed \$50mm. We lack unity and focus. The community's intoxication over the Panthers coming to town will likely exacerbate these problems.

What would an ideal community partnership with our church look like?

Efforts to educate and unify the community, especially the faithbased. Our churches are too focused on new buildings, adding coffee lounges, etc. and we tend to become very ingrown. We should teach the Word and equip our members to go into the community and make an impact for The Kingdom.

What specific action steps would our church need to engage in to help achieve that ideal partnership?

Complicated question. It will take all of us working together. OBC could begin with a Community Action Team with a strong leader. You have some good ones at OBC. Seek to encourage other partner churches to do the same. Host these churches in a series of planning sessions. Once this is done, then invite the Mayor and other community leaders to join you.

## **Organization**

### **Oakland Baptist Ministry Center**

What are the primary challenges in our community?

helping with the homeless, securing housing, help with food and clothing and Jobs

What do you feel are the immediate needs to address the primary challenges within the community?

shelters for men, women, and children; help with jobs to make more stable families

What do you know about our community that we might not be aware of, but should know?

Help with shelter, clothing, and food is not always accessible to those in need; language barriers are among the reasons

What would an ideal community partnership with our church look like?

Good communication with agencies that can identify needs of their clients to whom they can refer to us at the Ministry Center (We have had limited success with some agencies, but could be must improved). Pathways should be a major partner, but we have not been successful in working with them (except for Allston Wilkes, which is housed at Pathways).

What specific action steps would our church need to engage in to help achieve that ideal partnership?

Set up meetings with agencies to explain our desire to be partners with them and then follow through. Advertise our willingness to serve.

**Organization**  
**Hope of Rock Hill**

What are the primary challenges in our community?

For us, it is providing food for those in crisis during the current pandemic. We also are challenged to provide funds to help those in need with utility assistance. Rock Hill is currently experiencing a growing homeless population, as well. Housing cost have increased to the point a large segment of our community struggles to afford decent housing. With high housing cost people struggle with food insecurity.

What do you feel are the immediate needs to address the primary challenges within the community?

Education of available resources and a true back to work effort. For Hope, volunteers and resources to help those in crisis successfully get out of the crisis and succeed.

What do you know about our community that we might not be aware of, but should know?

Our elderly are experiencing a choice between food or needed medicine. Many in our community do not have the funds to pay for both. We also have a segment of our community who lose a spouse and their income forcing them to struggle to keep up the home they live in. Food insecurity is real and even is seen in the Winthrop student population.

What would an ideal community partnership with our church look like?

It sounds corny but Prayer First, it works! Volunteers to help with food distribution and to get the word out. Hope has helped those in need for 45 years and still struggles with the community knowing who we are. WE also need those who have skills to mentor and teach "How to balance a checkbook" or basic budgeting. Financial resources always help and are needed.

What specific action steps would our church need to engage in to help achieve that ideal partnership?

Come see what we do! Get involved!

**Organization**  
**Mayor John Gettys**

What are the primary challenges in our community?

The City of Rock Hill's primary challenges have actually created a great number of opportunities. At the forefront of my mind is the challenge and opportunity that growth creates for us. With new development and jobs coming to our City, we have additional needs in terms of infrastructure and service provision. We also must balance new needs with existing commitments to community infrastructure – including older neighborhood parks, sidewalks, and roads. Another challenge and opportunity is related to our community identity.

From seeing mills shut down a few decades ago, to rebuilding our identity as a sports tourism hub, we are at an important inflection point. Who are we as a community? What sets us apart from any other city in the state or the region? What makes us, us – in my opinion – is taking care of each other. Looking out for one another. Being a community. So how do we create this community identity in a way that supports ALL of our people?

What do you feel are the immediate needs to address the primary challenges within the community?

In addressing both the challenges of growth and community identity, the biggest community need we have is to be unified in how we can all work together to better our community. Everything about Rock Hill as a community is really about finding ways to have people be involved to better the quality of life for people who live here. Whether it is reading to children, paying it forward for people in tight positions, or helping single mothers become self-sufficient. If we all contribute a bit more, be it with our time, our contributions, or our energy, we can really change the lives of the ALL our residents.

What do you know about our community that we might not be aware of, but should know?

There are so many folks stepping up to help with needs in our community. Efforts like Help Others Progress through Education which is finding ways to feed kids in the summer – and to get healthy boxes of food at very affordable rates to areas of town with health disparities. There are also a number of efforts to help develop entrepreneurs – through the Gravity Center – or more specialized entrepreneurs – like Cultivate RH which is helping create restaurant and retail entrepreneurs.

What would an ideal community partnership with our church look like?

An ideal community partnership can take a lot of different forms – all depending on the resources and commitment that the church would like to make. It would be helpful to know if there are specific desires placed on the church's heart to address.

What specific action steps would our church need to engage in to help achieve that ideal partnership?

Happy to talk through specific action steps and where we got from here during our conversation.



**Organization**  
**Sullivan Middle School**

What are the primary challenges in our community?

What do you feel are the immediate needs to address the primary challenges within the community?

What do you know about our community that we might not be aware of, but should know?

What would an ideal community partnership with our church look like?

What specific action steps would our church need to engage in to help achieve that ideal partnership?