



Madison
Rotary



February 2022 Update

Since the initial Grow Better meeting in November, we prepared a summary report of the meeting that identified several themes of the many community-needs which surfaced during the assessment. We then conducted a survey to gain an understanding of the priority of the themes. The results of that survey are reflected in the comments above.

We have several updates to share with the community this month.

First, we are following a process that we believe will keep building momentum. The outline of that process is:

A. Discovery

- A. Gather community leaders, to listen and understand the community needs they voice (complete)
- B. Find out what is being done or has already been done to address the identified needs. What has worked and what has not worked.
Recognize and acknowledge successes
- C. Invite people to help lead continuing work

B. Commit

- A. Analyze challenges and opportunities from information gathered during Discovery. Choose an initial focus, perhaps one to four of the most significant areas that are of importance to the community.
- B. Based upon prioritized choices, create a plan to move forward including specific short-term and long-term objectives, action plans, and anticipated outcomes.

C. Build

- A. Build momentum by executing plans, involving and linking community members, to community events...connecting dots**
- B. Communicate within the community on a regular basis—meetings, emails, articles, social media, the Rotary website and whatever other means—to keep people informed and energized.**

Updates:

- **Our first update is to acknowledge the town’s establishment of a styrofoam recycling program. This need was mentioned in November. While not a top priority item from our survey, it was one of those things that was already being worked on by the town and the program is in operation as of February 1. Details of the program are available on Rosenet.org.**
- **Second, we have established an oversight group to coordinate and maintain the momentum of the overall project:**
 - **Guillermo Gill**
 - **Doug Willis**
 - **Carol Martorana**

This group may fluctuate as priorities are addressed.

- **Next, one of the top priority themes was for a “curated community information hub”. Right now, we are trying to understand, what is out there that could accommodate the needs of this theme. To date, we have met with Borough Communication and Technology officer – Michael Pellessier and have a better understanding of Rosenet.org. We have a meeting with John LaPierre who manages the Board of Education website on February 8th and we are meeting with Lynn Favreau, Director of the Madison Library on February 23rd. It appears that these three sites address the broad theme. As we get more granular we will see if that is the case.**
- **Making Madison a more vibrant community for all was the top priority theme. Several underlying needs are within this theme. We have met with Mark Schwarz to discuss a number of school system needs under this theme. We will be arranging a follow up meeting between Mark and Guillermo Gill. Relationship between the police and the Hispanic community also falls under this theme and we have a meeting on February**

14th with John Miscia, Chief of Police, to understand his ideas on establishing a Community Relations Unit within the department.

- **This Wednesday, February 9th, we are meeting with Lisa Ellis, Borough Director of Business Development to understand what the town has done or is doing to address several identified needs.**

In addition to the above, in the month ahead, we will be looking into the themes of Expanding Mental Health Services and Embracing Diversity and Building New Traditions. We will also be going back to workshop participants to get further detail on their assessments of needs informed by the new information we have gathered with the objective of taking each theme and identifying:

- **Needed additional information to fully articulate the themes and possible related actions**
- **Potential actions and projects that would address key gaps in our community's un-met needs**
- **Individuals to take a leadership role in guiding final specific actions / projects that are identified**

We will continue to keep the community informed. Members of the public can get back to us at madisongrowbetter@njrotary.org with their thoughts and also let us know if they want to be more involved.