

Muncie Action Plan to collaborate with Next Muncie on next community action plan



Jenni Marsh, Jeff Bird, Geoff Mearns

On the 10th anniversary of Muncie Action Plan (MAP), the organization is going back to its roots and partnering with Next Muncie to facilitate another broadscale intensive community feedback and planning process. The announcement of the partnership was made at MAP's annual community

presentation on January 28th by MAP President Jenni Marsh and Next Muncie Co-Chairs Jeff Bird and Geoff Mearns.

“The Muncie Action Plan board took a hard look at all the great work happening in our community and what the next steps for MAP should be. We looked at other organizations who are community change agents who might want to partner with us to do the work going forward,” Marsh explained at the announcement.

MAP is a grassroots organization—using community members’ thoughts, ideas and feedback to inform plans for how to enhance the city of Muncie. Currently, in its tenth year, MAP is on its third community action plan. The plan is broken down into five task forces who collectively manage 27 community-identified action items.

Next Muncie is a group of city leaders pondering what’s next for Muncie and leveraging their positions and relationships to accelerate growth and improvement for the city’s center. Their efforts dovetail into the city’s existing strengths, injecting new life into blighted and inactive parts of central city, and increasing connectivity between Muncie’s medical and educational assets with downtown, the greenway and cultural assets.

“Together, we are going to work on the NEXT Muncie Action Plan—capturing people’s input and assimilating it into a plan that will be a springboard for continued growth, collaboration, beautification, and positive outcomes for the people of Muncie,” Marsh explained.

Next Muncie is focused on the community’s next era of prosperity with a focus on attracting and retaining residents by providing high-quality employment opportunities, revitalized neighborhoods, healthy lifestyle choices, and an innovative culture of entrepreneurship as highlighted by educational, healthcare, arts, entertainment and recreational opportunities. At the helm of this effort, maximizing the connectivity of the city’s two largest employers—IU Health Ball Memorial Hospital and Ball State University, are President of the IU Health East Central Region Jeff Bird and President of Ball State University Geoff Mearns.

“We are very excited about this partnership with MAP,” said Next Muncie Co-Chair Jeff Bird.

“This is an opportunity to really accelerate our work with central city by capturing the community’s hopes for Muncie and connecting the dots between Next Muncie’s growing synergy with MAP’s deeply-developed plans.”

Next Muncie Co-Chair Geoff Mearns agreed. “We see this collaboration with MAP as an exciting opportunity to bring the community’s voice into Next Muncie’s efforts to help accelerate and prioritize the economic development and neighborhood revitalization projects that will transform our city, and build on our quality of place—which is intrinsically linked to attracting and retaining those who are early in their careers.”

Each organization has appointed three individuals to lead the plan development process. From Muncie Action Plan, Donna Browne, Mitch Isaacs and Heather Williams will serve. From Next Muncie, Mayor Dan Ridenour, Kelly Shrock, and Vicki Veach will serve. The two organizations

will hire a consultant to lead the process. Then, they will promote opportunities for the greater community input and engagement.

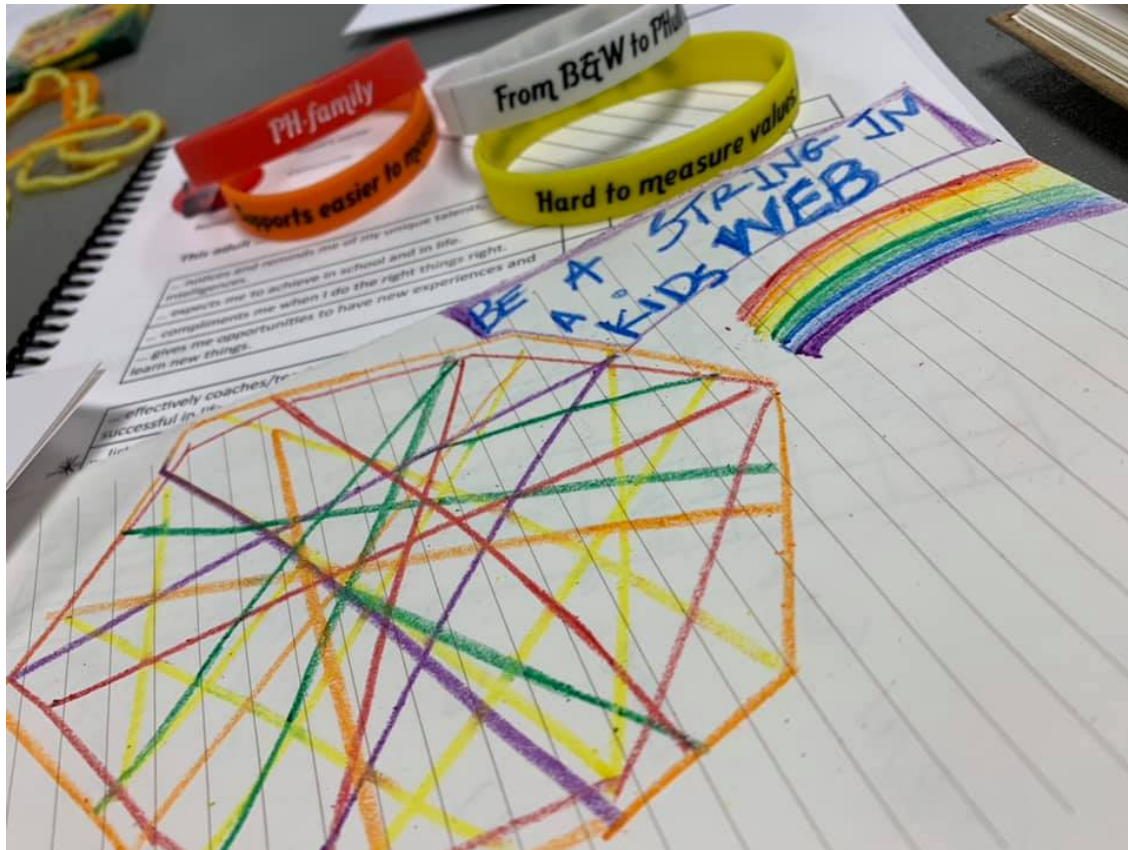


Photo by Watasha Barnes Griffin

Web of Support "Trained Up!"

One hundred and six Muncie community leaders, citizens and students completed two full days of training with Derek Peterson from ICAR-US. They were trained on the concept of the Web of Support and how to present a "Napkin Talk". A Web of Support relates to how many strong relationships a student needs in their life to increase their chances of being successful. One participant stated, "I enjoyed Derek's genuine engagement with us. He is passionate about what he does and truly demonstrates it. I enjoyed meeting and engaging with people I didn't know from our community and strengthening my relationships with the ones I did know."

Muncie Community Schools are excited to have another round of students "trained up" in the concept of the Web of Support.

Students from Muncie Central High School will be presenting at the IDEA Conference on March 7.

There will also be presentations planned for organizations such as Muncie on the Move, Altursa, and many more.

Coming Up In 2020

Muncie Mayor Dan Ridenour will present his 2020 **State of the City** Address during the afternoon keynote of the 5th annual IDEA Conference. Please join us to learn about the exciting plans Muncie's new administration has in store for our community. Reserve a seat (space is limited!) by going to muncieneighborhoods.org/IDEA

This spring's **Bridge Dinner** has been set for Thursday, April 23 (with a rain date of April 30). Mark your calendars now to join your neighbors for food, entertainment and a relaxing evening on the Washington Street Bridge!

MAP Neighborhood

Meetings:

Updated for 2020

MAP Neighborhood Presidents' Council:

6pm, 3rd Tuesday, Fisher Building, Ivy Tech

Anthony-Northside: 6:30pm, 4th Thursday of odd-numbered months, Community Fellowship Church

Blaine/Southeast: 6pm, 2nd Tuesday, Serenity Club, 1218 S. Brotherton St.

Forest Park: 6:30pm, 3rd Friday, Delaware County Senior Center

Gilbert: 7pm, 2nd Monday, Inside Out, 300 N. Madison Street

Industry: 6pm, 4th Thursday, Price Hall, 704 S. Madison Street

2020 MAP BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Donna Browne, Grant Writer, Center for Energy Research|Education|Service, Ball State University

Gretchen Cheesman, City of Muncie Community Development

Cornelius Dollison, Whitely Community Council

William Hughes, Attorney, Beasley & Gilkison (**Treasurer**)

Mitch Isaacs, Executive Director, Shafer Leadership Academy

Roni Johnson, Community Foundation of Muncie and Delaware County, retired

Wayne Johnson, Ivy Tech Community College

Jenni Marsh, President/CEO, United Way of Muncie and Delaware County (**President**)

Ludingwood: 2pm, 3rd Saturday, Woodlands Nursing Home, 3820 W. Jackson St.

Minnetrista/Central: 6pm, 1st Tuesday, Minnetrista Cultural Center

Northview: 6pm, 3rd Monday, Northview Elementary, 807 W. Yale Avenue

Old West End: 6:30pm, 4th Tuesday, Friends Memorial Church, 418 W. Adams Street

Riverside/Normal City: 7pm, 4th Wednesday, Hazelwood Christian Church Fellowship House, 1400 W. University Ave.

South Central: 6pm, 4th Monday, Bridges Community Services, 318 W. 8th Street

Thomas Park/Avondale: 6pm, 3rd Wednesday, Ross Community Center, 1110 W. 10th Street

Western Woods: 6pm, 1st Wednesday, Westview Elementary, 3401 W. Gilbert Street

Whitely: 5:30pm, 2nd Monday, Muncie Area Career Center, 2500 N. Elgin Street

Missy Modesitt, Delaware County BY5 Early Childhood Initiative, Inc.

Marta Moody, Director, Muncie-Delaware County-Metropolitan Plan Commission

Steve Moore, First Merchants Bank

Chuck Reynolds, Muncie Community Schools

Alison Robbins, Intersection advertising firm

Kelly Shrock, President, Community Foundation of Muncie and Delaware County
(Vice President)

Susan Volbrecht, Coldwell Banker the Real Estate Group

Heather Williams, Program Manager, Building Better Neighborhoods **(Secretary)**



Task Force 1: Linking Learning, Health, and Prosperity

MAP TF1/BY5 has increased resources and program to underserved families by over 60% and has increased access to high quality child care in Muncie/Delaware County by 22% since 2013.



Task Force 2: Fostering Collaboration

MAP TF2's efforts have created and sustained over 27 active neighborhood associations in the community of Muncie.



Task Force 3: Strengthening Pride and Image

MAP TF3 has worked together with communications partners to create Mymuncie.org, signage and delivering the good news of the opportunities Muncie has to offer.



Task Force 4: Creating Attractive and Desirable Places

MAP TF4 has strengthened Muncie's resiliency and code enforcement, helped to create the Muncie Cultural Train, Canan Commons and continues to work with Downtown Development to attract new business.



Task Force 5: Managing Community Resources

MAP TF5 has worked with Delaware County GIS department and helped to create Bike Muncie, Scout Muncie, has overseen Tuhey Pool Watterpark's transformation, reservoir projects, among other land resource improvements.



This email was sent to <<Email Address>>

[why did I get this?](#) [unsubscribe from this list](#) [update subscription preferences](#)

