



## Web of Support

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## Everybody Succeeds

### Webbing up our community for greater resilience in a time of pandemic

In every iteration of Muncie Action Plan (MAP), community members identified developing a “mentoring program” as a priority. People want youth and children to have mentors in order to prevent them engaging in risky behaviors, and they also want mentors for themselves.

Derek Peterson, an international speaker and founder of the Institute for Community and Adolescent Resiliency, has studied the value of positive adult role models and mentorship. Through his research for the federal government, Derek discovered several key factors—including how many mentors youth need to reduce risky behavior and become more resilient, healthy, happy adults.

At the start of 2020, MAP brought Derek to Muncie to train 100 ambassadors, 50 adults and 50 young adults, on the Web of Support and how we can build it here in Muncie to form a more resilient community. This group had just begun to give presentations and increase support for

building a culture locally in which youth are empowered to identify and recruit supportive adults, and those adults have diverse support systems to support the youth's success.

Just as MAP and the ambassadors were poised to launch this grassroots initiative and, COVID-19 hit. Eager to not lose momentum, Derek worked with the ambassadors and offered a Zoom training to further build on their understanding of how webs of support strengthen resiliency in a crisis. A smaller core contingent of ambassadors then commenced participating in a four week "Deep Dive" into building and promoting Web of Support.

Future of Work Coordinator for Sustainable Muncie Kyra Zylstra has been integrally involved with this effort. She worked with Derek and his partner Laura to create all the materials for the Deep Dive training and helped craft a creative project challenge for the two Deep Dive groups.

"The Deep Dive discussions have created an incredible depth of connection and community among the participants in such a short time. It has been incredible to see vulnerability, resilience and care for others not just being discussed, but truly lived out and exemplified," Kyra shared.

Chandra Parks president of the Southside Neighborhood Association and Jacqui Hanoman executive director of the Ross Community Center have been leading the two Deep Dive groups. Muncie Community Schools faculty and students have also participated in the groups. The sessions, which end the first week in June, will culminate with the creation of two creative projects to start promoting the grassroots initiative locally.

"We are so excited to unveil the creative projects these groups are preparing that share a message of hope, strength and gratitude that affirms the unique resilience that connects our community," Kyra said.

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## Neighborhood Highlights



Fair Garden Photos Courtesy of Becky Cox & Deborah Brown  
Halteman Village Neighborhood Association

In order to stay socially connected during this time of physical distancing, neighborhoods with large populations of families with children, such as Halteman Village, Country Village/Creekwood, Kenmore, Anthony-Northside, and Mayfield, have organized "bear hunts" by asking residents to put stuffed animals in their windows for children to search for. Halteman has grown their hunt to include fairy houses set out by the street for walkers to enjoy discovering.

Muncie's residents are resilient – they will find creative ways to connect while remaining physically apart. Our creativity speaks to our shared bond. We are all in this together and together we will continue to build community and improve our neighborhoods.

Read a full article in The Muncie Journal: *Muncie Neighborhood Associations Get Creative During Covid-19 Pandemic*

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**MAP Board Member Spotlight: Chuck Reynolds**  
**Associate Superintendent of Muncie Community Schools**



**When did you join the MAP board?** I began serving on MAP in February 2020

**Why do you work with MAP?** I want to serve in an active role of promoting and facilitating growth of the Muncie community.

**Favorite Travel Destination:** We have a small lake house in northern Indiana that we enjoy visiting. The scenery is beautifully relaxing and the cell and internet service is terrible!

*"I Love Muncie because it is home. The large city amenities with a small town feel of Muncie provides the ideal environment to enjoy the friendliness of the community, the empowerment of making a positive impact through volunteerism, and the caring and engaging schools."*

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## Coming Up In 2020

Muncie is starting to open back up! Check out the Muncie Visitors Bureau [calendar](#) for open venues as well as virtual exploring and entertainment. Or check out their Facebook page: [Muncie Visitors Bureau](#).

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**Be sure to check your neighborhoods Facebook page for updates about this months meeting.**

**MAP Neighborhood**

**Meetings:**

*Updated for 2020*

**2020 MAP BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

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

**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.

**Cowing Park:** 6pm, 3rd Thursday, Garden of  
Gethsemane Methodist Church

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

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

**Halteman Village (representing  
Halteman, Norwood, and Vienna Woods):**  
7pm, last Monday of every other month,  
Halteman village Baptist Church

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

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

**McKinley:** 6pm, 4th Thursday, Muncie  
Central High School

**Minnetrissa/Central:** 6pm, 1st Tuesday,  
Minnetrissa 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.

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**)

**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**)

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

**Southside:** 5:30pm, 4th Tuesday, Southside  
Middle School, 1601 E 26th Street

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

**University Heights:** 6:30pm, 2nd Thursday  
in March, June, September and December,  
Riverside Baptist Church

**Western Woods:** 6pm, 1st Wednesday,  
Westview Elementary

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



### **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.



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