

The Johnson Foundation at Wingspread Resilient Communities Update

RACINE, WISCONSIN, September 28, 2018 ...For over 50 years, The Johnson Foundation at Wingspread has been recognized as a premier non-profit conference center. Throughout its long history, Wingspread has regularly served as a meeting place for a diverse range of groups to explore new solutions to global, national and local issues affecting future quality of life. After more than a year of in-depth research and discovery into core components of community resilience, four key attributes emerged:

1. Bold, visionary cross-border, cross-sector leaders who embrace change
2. A regional approach works best; i.e. the sum of the whole is greater than the individual parts
3. Regional residents across neighboring communities all benefit from local governments working together; i.e. improved services, contained costs and improved economies
4. Acting with a sense of urgency

In June 2017, the Foundation launched its Resilient Communities Initiative with a three-part community briefing series headlined by well-known experts on community resilience and findings from an independent study focused on assessing our local and regional capacity for future resilience. The series launched a community dialogue around strengthening regional resilience and finding ways to ensure our local communities' long-term economic and social wellbeing. Since then, the Foundation has focused its resources and expertise on expanding this dialogue in a number of ways:

- Resilient Community presentations providing an overview of the briefing series and summaries of the lectures were made to municipal boards and civic organizations. These presentations garnered an overwhelmingly favorable public response and broad-based support for collaborative efforts to promote regional resiliency.
- Informative gatherings have brought together hundreds of individuals across various community sectors, including youth leaders, young professionals, non-profit leaders and business leaders, to broaden understanding, dialogue and engagement in regional resiliency.
- Recognized for its world-class convening expertise, the Foundation is bringing together county and municipal leaders and administrators and providing them the opportunity to explore and discuss if and how municipalities can work together to benefit both individual communities and the region as a whole. From these Resilient Community Roundtables arose a shared interest in independent study and analysis to better inform further discussion around possible collaboration. Wisconsin Policy Forum (WPF) is conducting these studies, which include in-depth fiscal analyses of each municipality and the county, as well as a regional service analysis, with the oversight of municipal administrators and involvement of service department's staff. The Foundation is

underwriting WPF's research and plans to invite additional community leaders from non-government sectors to participate in these Roundtable discussions in the coming year.

- In July 2018, the Foundation held its latest Resilient Community briefing: "From Reno to Racine." This informative briefing by public and private sector leaders from the Reno-Sparks Metropolitan Area, shared important lessons learned from that region's rapid economic expansion and the social and cultural transformation it catalyzed. Please visit www.thejohnsonfdn.org to view interviews with Reno officials and access summaries of their presentations.

"Well before Foxconn, the Johnson Foundation at Wingspread brought Eastern Racine County leaders together to find ways we can better work together. That initiative -- Resilient Communities -- was a huge step toward uniting our communities and breaking down the barriers that have existed for far too long," said Jonathan Delagrave, Racine County Executive. "

"No one could have predicted how valuable that initiative would be. Since Foxconn announced it will locate in Racine County, we've seen unprecedented collaboration among our communities in a number of ways -- from expanding infrastructure, to planning development, to building our workforce. The report released today offers more areas where our communities might work together and is another step forward on the work Resilient Communities started last year."

"I want to commend the Johnson Foundation at Wingspread for leading the way as we embark on a new era for our county. I'm proud of our Racine County communities for coming together like never before, and I'm confident we can continue working cooperatively so we all benefit from the tremendous opportunities on the horizon," concluded Delagrave.

Matt Montemurro, Executive Director, RAMAC had this to say: "RAMAC supports all of the work being done with the Resilient Communities initiative. This outreach across all community sectors helps to broaden understanding, facilitate dialogue, and foster collaboration. This work will help to ensure a strong future for everyone including the businesses that are here already here and those that will come to our region."

"The Johnson Foundation's legacy is built on our deeply-held belief that when people with different perspectives come together in the spirit of collaboration, new innovative solutions emerge. Over the years, our programs and conferences have always focused on issues that matter to us, and nothing matters more to us than helping ensure a stronger, better future and quality of life across the communities we all call home. "It is with this end in mind that our Resilient Communities Initiative was launched and will continue," said Ashley Staeck, Program Officer, The Johnson Foundation.

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The Johnson Foundation at Wingspread is dedicated to serving as a catalyst for change by bringing together leading thinkers and inspiring new solutions on important issues affecting future quality of life.

For additional information or to learn more about The Johnson Foundation at Wingspread, please visit www.johnsonfdn.org.