

December 1, 2016 Rosman Empathy Dinner Table Discussions

1) What would encourage and/or support trusting and empathetic connections between individuals, groups and communities in Transylvania County?

- If everybody would listen to and respect (value) one another, we'd get things done.
- Some areas are valued more than others.
- As you get to know people, you have more understanding of where they are coming from.
- People need to know communities like Toxaway and Sapphire exist.
- Finding common interest.
- Extending hospitality.
- Something in common – common friends – trust.
- Finding someone who has been there.
- Dialogue and community collaboration.
- Stop defining ourselves by geographic location – we are from Transylvania County.
- Economic differences / the digital world divides us / social / industry / service
- No judgements.
- Shared experiences.
- Common goals unite people.
- Understanding differences in people and that differences are okay.
- Being able to imagine the other person's position.
- Point of meeting one another (i.e., musical events; heritage day) – opportunity for community interaction.
- Heritage Day could invite people from different background (i.e., Cherokee) – heritage is common in our county.
- Empathy already exists within this community, but perhaps needs to be broadened beyond this community. Community is like a family and it is sometimes hard to be welcoming – there is less exposure to diversity; less people have moved into this community than other areas of the county. Take care of each other, but how do we step out of boundaries of this community?
- There are similarities between black community and Rosman community – does this build the tightness and closeness of community – feeling of disassociation with other member of the county?
- Coming together for activities around health issues for example. Often, it is a tragedy that brings communities together. Wish it could be a positive event.
- Community centers coming together in an annual event.
- Mutual / intergenerational conversation around changing forms of communication between senior, middle age, youth.

December 1, 2016 Rosman Empathy Dinner Table Discussions

2) What ideas or action steps could we take now for little or no cost?

- Collaboration – not consolidation.
- Representation in county government by district – not “at large”.
- Equal disbursement of funds to the entire county.
- How can churches be involved? Joint services, etc.?
- Assign tables in order to mix up groups.
- Power of personal invite.
- Keeping it low key.
- Neutral – make it accessible to students – maybe a short lunch version.
- Student led – adults would participate because of students.
- Locate celebration centrally.
- Locate Rec Fields centrally.
- Start in community.
- Reach out to other communities.
- Things that involve family.
- Strengthen community centers.
- Easter Egg Hunt.
- Make leadership opportunities within county – serving on committees more available during work hours.
- Provide opportunities for other communities to interact with Rosman community – Zion Church had joint meetings with Bethel A Church.
- More interaction with diverse groups – what does everyone enjoy – the musical performances are already being attended by different communities.
- Finding common interests to find the event that would bring others into community.
- Good place to start is within schools (i.e., alumni games; county chorus; ROTC-JR), but each community needs to keep their own identity but provide opportunities to work together.
- Empathy understanding one’s self so must keep understand of being a native – perhaps interaction with other natives in Brevard community – but build bridges to understand what people move into county can enhance what natives have.
- Have more events like 175th anniversary.
- Develop sister community relationships in Trans. Community.
- Have students from Rosman, Brevard, and Davidson River support Senior Service Days in both Rosman and Brevard. Mix the classes so that Rosman students participated alongside Brevard and Davidson River students to help with projects in Brevard and vice versa. Demonstrate serving both communities side by side.
- Conduct a “student exchange program” between the schools. Use part of a day or a full day to have selected or volunteer students and teachers from Rosman/Brevard attend classes at the other school.

December 1, 2016 Rosman Empathy Dinner Table Discussions

3) If we had \$1,000,000 to build empathy throughout the county, how could we do it?

- You can't do it with money.
- Parents need to accept the responsibility to teach their children values and morals.
- Communication.
- Guilford County – grant money for all students to attend college.
- Have each child have the opportunity to experience a different city.
- Celebrate diversity.
- Build a central community facility in the Harmony Korner area and fund events like a county fair, etc.
- YMCA (centered) Cathey's Creek gathers people from all areas.
- Activities for different ages.
- Pull people from all over the county to one place to have an activity.
- All communities need community center as a meeting place – have a plan for different communities to meet in community center of another community.
- We need to embrace those who are not natives, but don't lose the identity of our communities.
- Have community meals across generational / socio-economic groups.
- Support programs that assist economic opportunities in the county.
- Build understanding between natives, new residents and tourists.
- Hold events between students from Rosman and Brevard like the lock-in at RHS after prom.
- Possibly find ways to connect agricultural aspects of Rosman and emerging interest among newer residents.
- County Fair – reconsider / County Expo.
- Ways to connect music to a County Expo with artists, etc.