About On the Table

We believe that the best solutions to local problems come from community members talking face-to-face and working together.

While we know that there’s no “quick-fix” to the issues facing our region, progress will result from residents and organizations making contributions that add up to a greater solution.

Your conversations on September 25th and 26th will help us drive progress and inspire action. Following the conversation, you will be asked to share your feedback through a brief survey. Legacy Foundation will share the results of the survey publicly and use the feedback to drive the direction of a regional development proposal.
Let’s Get Started

Planning Your Event

Select the Date
Choose either September 25th or 26th to host your conversation. You can plan to host at anytime during the two days.

Pick an Issue Area
After hearing from thousands of people over the last two years, the data from 2017 and 2018 helped us identify six priority areas. Hosts should pick at least one of the following areas to focus their conversation.

- Crime, Violence & Public Safety
- Placemaking (trails, downtown development, arts & culture, environment)
- Youth Identified Issues (drug use, bullying, mental health, jobs for teens)
- Public Transportation
- Small Business Development & Entrepreneurial Needs
- Workforce & Career Pathways

Decide on a Location
On the Table events can take place anywhere. Choose a place that is convenient and comfortable for your guests. We have seen successful conversations take place at people’s homes, classrooms, office break rooms, neighborhood parks, coffee shops, and churches.

Register Your Conversation
Visit legacyfdn.org/OnTheTable to register your event. Then, join the Facebook group for On the Table hosts and partners at facebook.com/groups/OnTheTable219.

Invite Guests
Six to eight guests per table is ideal. On the Table is about giving everyone a chance to speak and be heard. If you want to host a larger gathering, consider breaking into smaller groups and allowing time for each to discuss and report out to the larger group. Legacy Foundation will provide you an invitation template to make inviting guests easy.
The Table is Set. Now What?

During the Conversation

Do
- Share with guests why you picked the conversation topic.
- Use the conversation prompts to get the discussion going.
- Encourage participants to think creatively and reflect on possibilities, rather than fixate on challenges.
- Encourage everyone to participate.
- Invite guests to follow-up and expand on ideas.
- Share photos and takeaways on Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram using the hashtag #OnTheTable219.

Don’t
- Micromanage the conversation; let it flow freely.
- Be judgmental or dismissive of any person’s comments or ideas.
- Promote argument or unproductive debate.
- Be afraid to ask if you have questions.
Contact us at 219-736-1880 or email Maranda at mfishback@legacyfdn.org.
After Your Event

Before your guests depart, encourage them to provide their feedback by completing a short survey.

The survey is available in three ways.

1. **Text Survey**
   Text the code OTTIN to the number 797979 to take the survey on your phone.

2. **Online Survey**
   Visit legacyfdn.org/OnTheTable to access the survey online.

3. **Paper Survey**
   Legacy Foundation will provide paper copies of the survey to the host.

Feedback collected in the survey will be shared publicly, in an effort to help organizations and individuals better understand the needs of our community. Also, Legacy Foundation will use the data in a proposal for a regional development project.

Thank you for coming to the table! We’re excited to have you as part of this important conversation.
For more ideas and resources to host your On the Table event, including prompt cards and an invitation template, please visit www.legacyfdn.org/onthetable.
About Legacy Foundation

Legacy Foundation is a community foundation and the leading philanthropic partner in Lake County, Indiana. Through the generosity of a wide base of donors, Legacy Foundation has awarded more than $40 million in grants and scholarships to nonprofit organizations and individuals since its founding in 1992. The foundation manages $60 million in assets and is governed by a volunteer board of directors representing a diverse spectrum of business, education, and the nonprofit and public sectors. For more information visit www.legacyfdn.org.

Legacy Foundation’s On the Table conversations are part of a national initiative funded by the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation. On the Table replicates an annual civic engagement initiative of the same name developed by The Chicago Community Trust in 2014. Support for On the Table advances Knight Foundation’s work to help cities attract and keep talented people, expand economic opportunity and create a culture of civic engagement. Knight Foundation believes that successful communities are equitable, inclusive and participatory.