

Voices:

A Community Dialogue

Executive Summary And General Discoveries

Presented To:
United Way of Henderson County
Board of Directors
Henderson, Kentucky

Presented By:
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February, 2007

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Executive Summary
for
United Way of Henderson County
“Voices – A Community Dialogue”
February, 2007

United Way of Henderson County should be commended for assuming leadership in the discovery – and ultimately – the improvement of significant challenges facing the entire county. They have met face-to-face with 226 community members and gathered written data from an additional nine hundred more. The scope of the “Voices” project was broad enough to touch all aspects of the county. The leadership of UWHC can be confident that they have truly heard a diverse set of “Voices” in this endeavor.

COMMUNITY SURVEY

Of the two sets of data that were gathered and analyzed, the community survey yields the most concrete numerical data. Of the list of twenty-three (23) “important issues” given to community members, the following were the most common items chosen as “most important”:

1. Reducing drug and alcohol abuse
2. Affordable healthcare for Henderson County residents
3. Meeting the basic needs of individuals and families for food, shelter and other necessities
4. Assuring that children are safe, healthy, nurtured and ready to succeed in school by age 6
5. Providing residents with the opportunities and skills to maintain meaningful living-wage employment
6. Attracting and retaining businesses for Henderson County that provide good jobs

A detailed breakdown of demographics for these six items is included in this report. Generally, the most variances between groups occur in the “age” and “income level” demographics. Though these six items were of the most concern overall, there are variances among groups that may help the United Way of Henderson County understand the issues more fully and respond to the needs of particular groups.

FOCUS GROUP DISCUSSIONS

The United Way held twenty-eight focus groups over a three month period in fall 2006. They spoke with hundreds of community members about their dreams, hopes, and goals. The engaged population certainly embraced more than the superficial aspects of their dreams. In fact, the majority of those speaking out were more concerned with basic needs and services than they were with riches or opulence.

In the vast majority of focus groups, the most frequent dream, hope, or goal dealt with a community that provides adequate basic services for all elements of its population. People want access to affordable healthcare. They want public transportation that is reliable and sensitive to the needs of all populations. They want child care for the growing number of single parents and adult day care for those who may no longer be able to navigate all of the challenges of daily living. Accommodating basic needs of all populations was discussed in virtually every focus group.

Additionally, people said they dreamed of a community that does not have all of the “fallout” of a drug crazed culture. The drug epidemic was linked to many issues, including crime, teen pregnancy, homelessness, unemployment, and school violence. People indicated that a truly “safe” community cannot exist with one that is constantly struggling to control drug and alcohol abuse among its citizens. Because the drug culture has a domino effect on many other problematic issues, many saw it as a critical issue to address immediately.

Creating and maintaining jobs was also a frequent topic, especially in relation to those that would be successful in retaining local young professionals. Participants frequently confessed that their kids couldn’t come back home and be able to make a living for their family. The participants seemed to recognize a perceived disadvantage in competing with Evansville and Owensboro in attracting new business; or even in retaining current business. A “defeatist” mindset seemed to be engrained in a significant number of participants.

Also prevalent in dreams, goals and hopes was a community where there was access to affordable education and training. Many praised the opportunities available through various OJT opportunities and Henderson Community College, while others dreamed of a four year school being available to people living in Henderson County.

Children were frequently the topic of focus groups, and many discussed their dream for a community that provides adequate and balanced recreational opportunities for its kids; particularly those less capable of enjoying recreational opportunities because of handicaps, inadequate money or inadequate access to what is available. People seemed to appreciate what was currently offered, but there was a perceived need for fun, engaging activities during the critical times of day when kids are most apt to be involved with mischief if left unsupervised.

Also discussed as part of a dream community were:

1. More inclusion of newcomers
2. A “safer” environment
3. A community that encourages a healthier lifestyle (wellness)
4. The ability to break the “poverty cycle” that tends to recreate itself generation after generation
5. A community with little or no unwanted teen pregnancies

While some other variations surfaced, these were, by far, the most common hopes, dreams, and goals expressed in the focus groups.

The things that have helped the participants achieve their goals are quite similar to what we have all probably experienced. People often cited others who have had a positive intervention in their life, whether it is family, friends, teachers, coaches, mentors, etc. Faith was mentioned often, along with “having the right attitude about life as a whole.” Also mentioned was the importance of having a clear goal and a positive attitude with which to pursue it.

The obstacles cited by participants were more diverse but equally important. The most common responses by those participating were related to a person’s lack of motivation or negative attitude. Participants perceive that significant numbers of community members are capable of improving their personal financial situation, but simply choose not to. Some attributed this to the “poverty cycle” that can be established across generations. Others saw it as a result of governmental regulations and stipulations that can reduce benefits if someone tries to “improve” himself/herself. In numerous cases – some of which were first person, the participants said that they/we were often their own biggest enemy simply because the focus and motivation were not there.

Additional obstacles seemed to revolve around lack of money, lack of support, lack of public transportation, and lack of education/training. Also mentioned were lack of goals and poor reinforcement designs.

When asked “What do we need, now?” the responses were consistent with previous comments, but often lacked any recommended action. One frequently cited need was for more affordable and accessible education. Another was the need for more jobs that would entice young people back to Henderson after receiving their training. Several groups referred to the need for strong leadership with a purpose and vision for Henderson County. The prevailing view currently seems to be that such vision and leadership is lacking. Remarkable, by its omission, was any response to the drug epidemic that was so prevalently mentioned in both the dreams and obstacles sections.

The obvious question that follows most of these observations is “HOW” do we go about accomplishing these goals. The following suggestions seem appropriate based upon the input received from the 1000+ surveys and the 226 people who took part in the focus groups.

SUGGESTED “NEXT STEPS”

1. Appoint and fund a leadership body to act on the results of “Voices”
2. Educate the community and the participants about the results of “Voices”
3. Create a “Henderson County 2010” steering committee to create a vision with priorities for the next three (3) years
4. Involve all churches and civic clubs in promoting the priorities for Henderson County
5. Seek cooperation from all educational providers in providing basic life skills classes
6. Create a “Leadership Henderson” for young leaders/potential leaders in the city/county
7. Create a “Leadership Tomorrow” program for high potential juniors and seniors in high school
8. Create a complimentary “Directory of Resources” for general distribution
9. Pursue grant opportunities for public sector agencies to assist in diversity, multiculturalism and tolerance

The challenge to the leadership of United Way of Henderson County is to educate the community on what it has said; the challenge to the leadership of the city and county is to provide a plan, a vision, and focus for success.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jerry W. Mayes, Ph.D.

Methodology

In an attempt to ensure the most productive use of its funds, the United Way of Henderson County chose to conduct “Voices” dialogues with a variety of stakeholders in an effort to better understand how to be of greater service. The United Way of Henderson County based its model for soliciting feedback on the general model used initially in York County, Maine and later used in Frankfort and Paducah, Kentucky.

The Executive Director (Peak) and Project Director (McElwain) sought to establish a response base that resembled the socio-economic profile of Henderson County. The Project Director, who is a trained facilitator, led each of the twenty-eight (28) focus groups on sessions ranging from approximately one hour to sessions that lasted in excess of two hours. The twenty-eight (28) focus groups ranged in size from two (2) to twelve (12) with a total number of participants of approximately two hundred twenty-six (226).

The purpose of “Voices” was explained to each of the groups prior to the discussion. The facilitator ensured anonymity to assigning each participant a number rather than a name, and by changing the numerical order in which the participants spoke.

Additionally, each focus group member was asked to fill out a survey that contained numerous issues of interest to Henderson County. Each participant chose the five (5) most important issues and filled out a series of demographic items as well. There was a total of 1,130 surveys completed; of which approximately 200 came from the focus groups. The remaining surveys were taken from random organized groups in the city and county (see Appendix).

There was an attempt to establish an informal and comfortable climate for each of the focus groups. Refreshments and informal pleasantries were shared before the facilitator began the questions. Ultimately, all participants were asked to share their thoughts and ideas in the following four (4) general areas:

1. What are your dreams, goals and hopes?
2. What has helped you the most to reach your dreams, goals and hopes?
3. What has kept you from reaching your dreams, goals and hopes?
4. What do you need (now) to help you reach your dreams, goals and hopes?

Each session was transcribed into full texts by a court reporter. The diversity of respondents is reflected in the demographic segment of this report. The transcripts were read independently by two (2) different evaluators before the two came back together to report and compare the results of their findings. There was excellent reliability between the two (2) readers. Each issue possessing *prima facie* significance was recorded and noted. Subsequent surveys allowed the six (6) most significant issues to Henderson County to emerge. A statistical break down by eight (8) demographic variables enabled us to discover the true “pressure points” for each of the issues identified by the greatest number of respondents.

Limitations of the “Voices” Project

This project was intended to provide a cross-section of Henderson County, Kentucky residents with an opportunity to talk with each other about dreams and issues that were important to them. This initiative was neither intended nor designed to be a statistically valid quantitative study. Rather, the objective was to capture prevalent themes that reflected the concerns, priorities and needs of the participants. The research model was more ethnocentric than quantitative. The focus was more on shared understanding than academic construction. We are confident that this stated purpose was accomplished. With that goal clearly in mind, the following limitations are acknowledged:

1. There was not a truly “random” method in the selection of participants.
2. The focus groups were basically homogeneous in composition. Academic arguments can be made for and against homogeneity in small groups. “Voices” leadership chose homogeneous groups primarily for ease of administration.
3. Focus group participants completed a survey that listed twenty-three (23) community issues for them to rank order for importance. Such attention prior to the focus group could influence comments when the focus group commenced.

We are confident that the methodology employed was more than adequate to achieve the stated goals of the project.

PREVAILING THEMES AND SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

Question # 1: What are your dreams, goals and hopes?

While scores of responses were offered that ranged from the mundane (“be a football player” and “get out of jail”) to the sublime (“a world of peace” and “eliminate sickness”), there were eight basic themes that seemed to resound through the various groups reflecting their greatest hopes and dreams.

1. AVAILABLE AND AFFORDABLE PUBLIC SERVICES

The great majority of participants hoped and dreamed – not for temporary and superficial trappings – but rather expressed a desire for circumstances that create a higher quality of life for all segments of the population. Frequently expressed dreams and hopes included such basic services as available and affordable healthcare and public transportation. Improved transportation would allow the youth to get to recreational activities, the elderly to get to desired destinations, and the young working person to get to a job. Daycare, for both the very young and the aged, was seen as an essential basic service to be offered in Henderson County. The lack of such greatly impacts a family’s ability to have both spouses working. Particularly in lower paying jobs, it is more and more necessary that both spouses work to meet the basic needs of their family.

Basic healthcare was deemed to be a vital part of any dream community. The elderly should not have to choose between medicine and shelter, children should not be denied basic preventative care, and those who are incapacitated should not be penalized because they can no longer work.

2. AN ECONOMIC BASE THAT CAN RETAIN AND ATTRACT YOUNG PROFESSIONALS

Virtually all groups expressed a desire for an economic climate that could support the young people of Henderson County. While most recognize that a majority of the youth will not be college trained, they also recognize that the “low end” jobs that are so prevalent are insufficient to support a family. Not every town or county can attract an automotive factory, but it is absolutely essential for any area to maintain or develop an economic base that will provide an acceptable standard of living for its inhabitants.

3. A DRUG FREE ENVIRONMENT

Perhaps more concern was expressed over the tremendous negative impact of illegal drugs in Henderson County than over any other single issue. The “drug problem” is viewed as contributing significantly to a plethora of area problems. Drugs appear directly related to school drop out rates, divorce rates, unplanned teen pregnancies and a variety of related crimes against both property and people. While illegal drugs

were condemned by virtually all participants, there were little – if any – recommendations presented to deal with the escalating problem. There are few more important challenges for Henderson County – or the rest of the state and/or country, than finding ways to reduce the negative impact of illegal drugs around us.

4. AFFORDABLE AND ACCESSIBLE EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

Those dreaming of the ideal Henderson County frequently expressed the desire for affordable and accessible education. The educational opportunities desired include community colleges, technical schools, four year universities and “on-the-job” training courses sponsored by employers. The vision for Henderson County recognizes that the rapidly changing job skills needed for a changing economy make affordable and accessible education an absolute “must.”

This important component of the dream for Henderson County seems to dim in the presence of a reality that includes a community college in the county, numerous trade schools and multiple four year colleges/universities within a relatively short driving distance. If the dream is legitimate – and we think most would agree that it is – then we must ask the hard questions about why more people are not taking advantage of the opportunities that are currently available.

5. IMPROVED RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUTH

Every mature population wants an environment for its youth that is complete with safe opportunities to grow, to play and to become adults. The focus group participants echoed that desire for their dream community. They want a place where poor as well as rich can play with other children without regard for skin color or for social/economic status. Affordable and accessible activities for youth that are wholesome are believed to contribute to a reduction in drug participation and a reduction in crime. These recreational options do not necessarily require large expenditures of money. Many focus group participants bemoan the fact that neighboring towns and counties seem to have more youth related opportunities than Henderson County.

6. BREAKING THE POVERTY CYCLE

A variety of focus group participants expressed concern about the apparent inability of many families to “break the cycle” of poverty. Welfare and impoverished parents give birth to impoverished children who often give birth to more children. The examples set before many of the impoverished populace are examples only of how to survive on welfare or with the assistance of the state. Unfortunately, many of the well-intended programs that are supposed to help people in need do little more than encourage this self-perpetuating behavior. Many in the poverty cycle soon learn that they are in fact better off on the welfare roles than they are with a minimum wage job. And the beat goes on

7. MORE INCLUSIVENESS FOR NEWCOMERS

One pervasive theme throughout the focus groups was the difficulty newcomers experience in gaining acceptance in a new community and/or new culture. Some of the newcomers to the area spoke of the subtle difficulties encountered at locations from the school to the grocery store. The presence of Tyson in the area seems to give Henderson County an opportunity to initiate a variety of unique cultural opportunities to the entire community.

8. LEADERSHIP WITH A VISION FOR THE FUTURE

Several focus groups expressed the intense need for a vision for Henderson County that would serve to unite the people in a common effort. While the vision may or may not exist, it is evidently not clear to a large majority of those who spoke of its absence. Henderson County seems to be in great need of something around which to rally its population. There is a subtle acceptance that Henderson County somehow takes a “back seat” to Evansville and Owensboro. A review of the transcripts show multiple instances of the participants talking about the need to go “across the river” or over to Owensboro to meet some need that they perceive. The wise man Solomon said many years ago, “Without a vision, my people will surely perish.” Henderson County is challenged to create that vision.

REPRESENTATIVE QUOTES

“There are certain kids that kind of fall through the cracks. They are not in sports; they are not in choir; they are not in whatever. They go home, the parents are gone, both of them are working. So an after school program that gets kids involved in something or even to do their homework after school, if nothing else. To keep them occupied and out of harm’s way until their parents get home. They’re a little bit too old for baby-sitters, but not really old enough to be totally on their own.”

“I used to think it was only the elderly that were choosing between paying their rent and buying groceries and getting their medicine. But you know what, it’s younger people too.”

“Create the atmosphere in the community whereby we can bring business, industry, economic well-being, the creation of jobs. Then, there will be opportunities for people to learn the skills to be able to take those jobs or fill those jobs.”

“There’s a cycle that goes on. We see it in the school system, kids that can’t read, you know, come from low-income areas. And when they do learn how to read, some of them break out of it, get their mentoring and everything that they need. They manage to graduate out of college, but they don’t come back and pull another family member up with them.”

“But there’s so many children in this community that don’t have enough food to eat, don’t have beds or sleep on a bed with no sheets and no blankets. You know, they don’t even have the most basic (items)...So I think you have to address that population first.”

“We don’t have a movie theater. We don’t have anything. We have to go to Evansville to do anything. And I’d rather see those things in Henderson, so our kids aren’t going across the bridge. You know, keep the money, keep the fun activities in Henderson.”

“I’m a newcomer... and when I got here it was more like everybody already knew everybody. Everybody already had their own thing... It took me a long time to figure out a lot of things that I think could have been maybe easier finding stuff to do.”

PREVAILING THEMES AND SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

Question # 2: What has helped you the most to reach your dreams, goals and hopes?

When asked about what had aided them most in achieving their dreams, hopes, and goals, the results were striking in their unanimity and simplicity. The vast majority of responses fell into the following six categories:

1. SUPPORTIVE FAMILIES

Regardless of age, race, sex or profession, the runaway #1 response to this question was “FAMILY.” It is important to note that a supportive family was not always defined as one that was permissive or accepting of choices that were made. In several instances, it was family that insisted a person assume some responsibility and accountability for choices made even though the consequences were rough. Numerous stories were relayed about the wise council or harsh punishment administered by some family member to help teach an important “life lesson.” The one constant that never seemed to vary, however, was the love that attended whatever action was taken. Families teach values, provide examples, provide reinforcement, teach skills, and in some cases apply the punishment that is deemed necessary to prepare for the latter stages of life. When one grows up without this influence, the potential for poorer choices increases.

2. POSITIVE ROLE MODELS

Closely akin to “Supportive Families” mentioned above, several people mentioned some “IOP” (Important Other Person) that had exerted significant influence on his/her life. The effect of a special teacher, a tough coach, a caring neighbor, or a considerate extended member of the family is often never realized until much later in life. The number of respondents that mentioned positive role models closely approached the number that mentioned their own family. While the term “mentoring” is sometimes restricted to the workplace, it is a concept that every community can utilize to help meet the ever-growing need for positive role models for children in the community who lack such an example. There are few areas where such a small amount of money can generate such tremendous dividends. Local churches, schools, civic clubs and/or professional societies can be an excellent starting point for mentoring programs in a community.

3. GOD & FAITH-BASED INFLUENCES

It was fascinating to note how many people credited their early life experiences in church or some religious environment with shaping their concept of good and bad and right and wrong. Even those who admitted very little current activity in an organized church traced much of their influence to the early trips with parents or grandparents to church and sitting through or participating in those lessons. The fact is that we all

gain our view of right and wrong and good and bad somewhere. The determinates of those concepts can be influenced by home, peers, media, or some other affiliation. Those who were influenced by God and faith-based experiences seemed to think the influence had been both strong and positive.

4. EDUCATION

Even the groups that did not have a very extensive formal education seemed to be quick to credit education in some manner or form with whatever success they have experienced. As we might expect, those respondents that represented professions also hailed education as the key that enabled them to accomplish many of the goals in their life. While the greater emphasis was placed upon the formal education channels, there was also a recognition of more informal educational opportunities. Such options as on-the-job training, internships and co-ops, as well as the various trade programs were recognized as contributing to the goals of the participants. Education is truly a standard around which all segments of society can rally. Many communities are defined qualitatively by the availability of diverse educational opportunities available to its residents.

5. A POSITIVE ATTITUDE

We were somewhat surprised by the number of respondents who cited a positive mental attitude as a great contributor to their success. The ability to persevere when things are tough, to find the positive when things appear negative, and the ability to work hard for a dream or vision of something in the future were cited as contributing factors. A significant number of respondents talked about the importance of discipline and responsibility as necessary qualities for any successful life. Concern was expressed over the perceived breakdown in discipline in the public schools and the general lack of respect that many of our young people seem to reflect for anything or anybody. While most recognize that a “positive attitude” is a result of many other variables, it is worthwhile to note it as a perceived necessary ingredient for successful lives.

6. A CLEAR FOCUS

This was another factor that was somewhat surprising. While the thoughts and comments certainly make great sense, it is not something that we assume a great many people would think of claiming as a contributing factor to success. Several participants spoke of the importance of having a clear goal upon which everyone can focus so that the desired results can be obtained. There is a pervasive feeling that such a focus and vision is lacking in Henderson County. The opinion is that this strong focus is what enables us to “stay the course” when things are going bad for us and many distractions are occurring. This strong focus is needed to unify the thoughts and efforts of the people of Henderson County.

7. OTHER CONTRIBUTING FACTORS

The focus group participants also mentioned the important contributions that had been made by area civic clubs and social organizations. They again talked about the importance of discipline and embracing diversity. Finally, some of the participants acknowledged the importance of gaining basic life skills, i.e. learning to get along with others, learning to be financially and socially responsible, etc.

While everyone's situation is unique, there do appear to be some common threads that run through all successful lives. These focus groups have helped to remind us that ultimately the responsibility for our lives is **our own**. As we seek to find how Henderson County can best improve itself, it is important to remember the lessons of our focus group participants.

REPRESENTATIVE QUOTES

“It (hardships) makes you have to sit back, take a look at yourself and decide ‘Where do I go from here?’ ‘How am I ever going to get there from here?’ Because not always do you step up a stairway completely one step at a time, you have to take some steps backwards because problems make you do that.”

“It’s that encouraging word and supporting word that someone can give to you that can help you make the difference between giving up and going on.”

“I think family would be the top one. Because that’s where you start learning, and that’s where the encouragement starts, and they set your attitude, I guess you could say.”

“Things that help me reach my goals and dreams is my positive upbringing that I had, and I was taught the way to look at certain hardships in life as life’s classroom itself. And I have come to get the ability to make negative things a positive...”

“...it’s mentors. Whether it’s professors or your supervisors or internships, you know. I have never done anything on my own. Someone has given me a chance and opportunity.”

“I was fortunate enough to have parents that nurtured and encouraged and praised me when I had to be. And they always, you know, gave us the things that – it was your responsibility to leave the world a little better than how you found it... that you had social responsibility. I’m not sure that’s being taught a lot anymore.”

PREVAILING THEMES AND SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

Question # 3: What has kept you from reaching your dreams, goals and hopes?

The responses to this question carried a much more personalized tone than the responses on the previous two questions. While there was a wide variety of responses, the greatest discussion centered around the following issues.

1. POOR ATTITUDES ON THE PART OF THOSE FACING CHALLENGES

While there was certainly an awareness of what the community, the government and various local organizations could do and/or provide, the primary emphasis of the discussions often centered on how individuals could improve their own status with different approaches and attitudes. Negative attitudes, an entitlement mentality and an inability or unwillingness to change the circumstances surrounding them were seen as primary inhibitors to people fulfilling their dreams and goals.

2. LACK OF EDUCATION

Just as education was seen as the key to achieving so many of the dreams, hopes, and goals in the previous questions, the absence of education was often viewed as one of the big obstacles. The absence of affordable education was cited, although the affordability was often more than simply the cost of tuition or books. In order to attend the most inexpensive educational providers, the issues of transportation, child care, etc. often emerged as just as much of the challenge as did the actual cost of the school. Unfortunately, the value of education is often recognized only after the lack of it has made circumstances very difficult to overcome.

3. LACK OF MONEY

The simplistic answer, particularly from those who are either quite young or are already struggling is to simply get some more money. More money is viewed as the immediate answer to whatever problems seem to exist. For some, that means involvement in drugs where the money is big and immediate. For others, it means having more children so that the assistance check that is received is increased. Relatively few of those in difficult circumstances possess the understanding, the discipline, and the opportunity to make the investment required to achieve the benefits of education or some other appropriate type of training. The “give a man a fish” rather than “teach a man to fish” analogy seems particularly appropriate in many of these discussions.

4. LACK OF ACCESSIBLE SERVICES

The lack of accessible and affordable services was cited frequently as an obstacle to people achieving their goals. For all those who read the transcripts (or those who witnessed the discussions) the connectedness of these issues becomes more and more apparent. Whether it is transportation, childcare, healthcare, housing, food, etc., the “lack

of” these things can be traced back to a cycle of poverty that is extremely difficult to break. The “poverty cycle” was referenced often among the participants as something that needs to be addressed. Unfortunately, there was little in the way of concrete suggestions or recommendations regarding how that could best be accomplished.

Also cited by the participants as being obstacles to their dreams and goals were such factors as a poor school system, the lack of goals, unhealthy lifestyles, the negative influence of the media (including the internet), lack of parental involvement and guidance, leadership that is more interested in power than in leading, poor cooperation among helping agencies and the poor reinforcement design that make it more desirable to **not** work than to work.

REPRESENTATIVE QUOTES

“I think we have, in fact, abused a generation of children not giving them discipline, not knowing what their responsibility is, not giving them consequences.”

“The same things that help us reach those goals are probably the very things that I think prohibit us from reaching those goals; lack of education, lack of a good support system, lack of that drive to want to be successful. Perhaps setting very low expectations and hoping that someone or something will come along and take care of us so that we don’t have to motivate ourselves to do what we should do.”

“There is always the unfortunate and disadvantaged or disabled that due to their circumstances are kind of stuck there. And there are groups born into that, but they aspire to do better one day. If given the right opportunities they would. And others, regardless of the opportunities you give, they have no desire to try to better themselves.”

“Some women won’t go to work. They’ll draw welfare because if they go to work, they’ll lose the insurance. They can’t afford to lose the insurance, so they’re stuck.”

“But then we have the other segment (of the population) who doesn’t seem to have that sense of pride, and they do feel like they’re just entitled to whatever handouts they can get.”

“You need to somehow connect the working poor with opportunities to advance themselves with those opportunities, you know, to education – further their education so they can get a job that provides a living wage.”

“You have to have decent paying jobs that pay more than the welfare pays to not work, but you also have to be qualified to do those jobs. So it’s part of a vicious cycle.”

PREVAILING THEMES AND SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

QUESTION # 4: “What do you need to help you reach your hopes, goals and dreams?”

The final segment of the dialogue was intended to really focus in on what the Henderson community needs to do, at the present, to help its residents achieve their goals, hopes and dreams. Unfortunately, many of the responses to this question were conclusive rather than strategic. By that we mean that many of the answers simply reflected the problems (or obstacles) that had been mentioned earlier, and suggested that we alleviate that problem; without much thought or suggestion regarding *how* that might best occur.

1. CREATION OF A STRONG ECONOMIC BASE TO ENSURE THE RETENTION OF CURRENT AND FUTURE GENERATIONS

Everyone seemed to recognize that without jobs, there is little upon which to build a future. While everyone recognizes how wonderful it would be to attract a major employer to Henderson County that would employ hundreds (or maybe thousands) of local people, the probability of such an occurrence is small. Even Henderson County residents seem ready to concede that neighboring cities like Evansville or Owensboro maintain such an advantage that there is little reason for Henderson to really try to attract such an employer. The elephant must surely be eaten one bite at a time, with Henderson County doing what it can – when it can – to create or retain every job possible.

2. PROVISION OF AFFORDABLE AND ACCESSIBLE EDUCATION FOR ALL HENDERSON COUNTY RESIDENTS

While everyone agrees that accessible education is vital for a healthy Henderson County, most also recognize that the issues surrounding education are far more complex than the cost of tuition and books. The great need right now regarding education has to be to instill at a much earlier age the need and desire for education within those who would be most affected by it. A truly great dream for Henderson County would be to have a student body who *expects* to continue their education after high school. It would be great to have the problem of trying to figure out how to accommodate everyone that wants to participate in post-secondary education.

3. AN ACTIVITY BASE TO STRENGTHEN AND PRESERVE FAMILIES

The remaining suggestions concerning what Henderson County needs include a wide variety of focus and involvement. The participants want strong parents who have good basic living skills. They want strong leadership in the community that can create a vision toward which all Henderson County residents can work. They want people who are willing to “step up” on an individual basis and become a mentor to someone in need of a good role model. They want their churches more active in influencing the young people with good values and morals. They want community agencies that are more interested in helping people than they are in building or protecting their own existence. These

participants want Henderson County residents to assume more accountability for their status and to be less dependent on someone else to “fix” their lives.

REPRESENTATIVE QUOTES

“I think that we need community leaders, not just governmental leaders, but educational leaders, business leaders, who are responsive to the needs of our community. And that we need more people to be willing to be community leaders.”

“I think the bottom line is we need compassion and caring. I think there’s too many people in the community that it’s not that they don’t care, but they don’t think about it. They don’t look around and see what is going on.”

“They are going to have to increase the education level, they are going to have to beautify the community, they are going to have to do those things to entice those companies to come in or it’s never going to happen. I think they have got the location. They are close to major highways and interstates. But they don’t, you know, use the benefits of that.”

“We need the entire community to help in raising children, directly or indirectly, because we are going to have parents who are not able to display the appropriate parenting skills.”

“I would like some of the jobs to be for the ones who weren’t able to go to any technical colleges or anything. So like factory work, that would help them be able to support themselves that also had benefits such as medical care, and things of that nature.”

“I think we need a focus of objectives. If anything’s going to happen significant, not just the government leaders and the business leaders and the church leaders and the school leaders and everybody has to at least have the same top short-list of what’s important and priorities.”

Community Data Survey

Overall Results

Various community members (including participants in the focus groups) were asked to respond to a written survey designed to identify some of the most pressing issues in the Henderson County community. The instructions read: Listed below are several issues that Henderson County could address. All of these issues are important. Which of these do you believe are the MOST important for the community to address? After reviewing the entire list, please check your “Top 5” choices.

The following report reflects the actual number of responses (or “checks”) for each issue and the corresponding percentage. A total of 1,130 surveys were useable and analyzed. NOTE: Focus group participants and community members filled out the same survey and demographic data sheet. These results pertain to both of those groups. The Voices Assessment Manager revised the survey several times. This report represents the final version of the survey and incorporates all usable data that was collected.

	#	%
Reducing the homeless population.	163	14.5%
Reducing drug & alcohol abuse.	552	48.9%
Promoting wellness, physical fitness, prevention of health problems and diseases.	215	19.1%
Assuring that children are safe, healthy, nurtured & ready to succeed in school by age 6.	417	37.0%
Meeting the basic needs of individuals & families for food, shelter, & other necessities.	510	45.2%
Citizen safety from violence & crime.	262	23.2%
Helping people with disabilities to live healthy, independent, fulfilling lives.	206	18.3%
Henderson Co. residents focusing on sharing common goals for the benefit of the county.	89	7.9%
Reducing teen pregnancies.	344	30.5%
People from different ethnic/racial/cultural backgrounds respect/value/enjoy working together.	146	12.9%
Conservation of natural resources & improve the environment of our county.	62	5.5%
Providing residents with the opportunities and skills to maintain meaningful living-wage employment.	366	32.4%
Affordable healthcare for Henderson County residents.	534	47.3%
Encouraging residents to actively participate in community life.	48	4.3%
Positive relationships with caring parents & other adult role models for the youth of Henderson County.	212	18.8%

Safety from emotional/physical abuse & neglect.	287	25.4%
Open and responsive local government to its citizens.	143	12.7%
Provision of the necessary resources to deal with local disasters.	63	5.6%
Services to enable Senior Citizens to live independently in their homes for as long as possible.	178	15.8%
Attracting and retaining businesses for Henderson County that provide good jobs.	367	32.5%
Provision of skills & resources to Henderson Co. residents to cope with emotional crisis.	80	7.1%
Affordable and accessible public transportation.	122	10.8%
Safe, affordable housing available for the residents of Henderson County.	317	28.1%
Other (see list below)	48	4.3%

During the past year, have you made a contribution to:

United Way of Henderson County.....	376	46.1%
Another Charitable Organization.....	492	60.1%

Other:

- Fix the roads right.
- Safe, effective public education where children not lost in the crowd.
- Safe & effective school system.
- Bring healthcare for children through CATCH or other type program.
- Smaller classrooms in high school, possibly 2 high schools, one is too lg. to secure.
- Family practice physicians who will receive new pts. & are available when you need to see them.
- Safe, fun and affordable entertainment for our youth.
- After school programs/childcare.
- Training/education for teens to adults.
- Better education for children/teens of Henderson County.
- 4) Prevent pregnant women from using alcohol, drugs, tobacco. 5) Teach public how to manage and save money (not to use bad checks, payday loans, etc.)
- Elimination of sub-standard housing.
- Teach financial responsibility.
- Education in handling finances – there too much gov. assistance.
- Prevention of flooding (Canoe Creek)
- Making Henderson a bigger place, put more things in it.
- More hunting grounds for rabbit hunter.
- Affordable & accessible place to teens to gather.
- More teen hangouts.
- Better activities for youth to do in Henderson.
- Making schools secure.

- Making child support a main issue to the court system.
- Caring for homeless (shelter, food, clothing, work needs).
- Child care.
- Preventing homelessness.
- Recreational opp. for dev. delay; transportation
- Keep a strict smoking ban in Hend. Co.
- Family activities needed.
- Something for youth to do.
- Adult daycare needed.
- Making Henderson Co. cleaner and more attractive.
- Daycare for kids.
- Youth centers.
- Day cares needed.
- Youth centers.
- Child care.
- Better conditions in detention center.
- Juvenile delinquency prevention.

Additional Comments:

- It is important to remember that not all of us are at the same place on the social, education or economic scale. All of us could use improvement, but not all of us want to improve. When trying to help, we must keep that in mind.
- “Homes” – less substandard housing. Less drugs/alcohol.
- My family. My relationships with friends, having fun, being safe and money.
- My personal life.
- Hard work, achievement, independence, equality, respect.
- That the community comes together at times of need, to keep parents involved in children’s lives instead of pulling parents away by way of incarceration for child support.
- Provides services to this area.

Community Data Survey Variances by Issue

ISSUE #1: Reducing drug and alcohol abuse..... 49%

Age:

17 or younger.....	52.5%
18-24.....	53.8%
25-34.....	43.0%
35-54.....	53.7%
55-64.....	46.5%
65-79.....	29.7%
80 or older.....	33.3%

Gender:

Male.....	45.8%
Female.....	50.1%

Education:

Less than high school.....	51.7%
High school graduate or GED.....	39.0%
Some college / Tech training.....	50.4%
Student.....	52.7%
Graduate with 4 year degree.....	45.3%
Post-graduate degree recipient.....	51.7%

Marital Status:

Married.....	49.5%
Single.....	50.8%
Widowed.....	21.6%
Divorced.....	55.9%
Separated.....	23.5%
Partner / Not married.....	56.3%

Disability:

Have a disability.....	46.0%
Do not have a disability.....	49.0%

ISSUE #1: Reducing drug and alcohol abuse..... 49%

Birthplace:

Born in Henderson County.....	50.4%
Born elsewhere in U.S.....	48.1%
Born outside U.S.....	23.8%

Length of Residence in Henderson County:

Less than 5 years.....	42.2%
More than 5 years.....	49.4%

Income Level:

\$14,999 or less.....	46.0%
\$15,000 – 24,999.....	44.9%
\$25,000 – 49,000.....	44.5%
\$50,000 – 99,999.....	46.7%
\$100,000 – 199,999.....	60.6%
\$200,000 or more.....	61.5%
Child living at home.....	51.1%

Community Data Survey Variances by Issue

ISSUE #2: Affordable healthcare for Henderson County residents... 47%

Age:

17 or younger.....	34.2%
18-24.....	41.0%
25-34.....	51.3%
35-54.....	48.9%
55-64.....	53.5%
65-79.....	60.9%
80 or older.....	100%

Gender:

Male.....	48.2%
Female.....	46.3%

Education:

Less than high school.....	50.0%
High school graduate or GED.....	59.2%
Some college / Tech training.....	56.4%
Student.....	32.1%
Graduate with 4 year degree.....	44.7%
Post-graduate degree recipient.....	39.5%

Marital Status:

Married.....	48.3%
Single.....	38.6%
Widowed.....	64.9%
Divorced.....	52.7%
Separated.....	70.6%
Partner / Not married.....	55.0%

Disability:

Have a disability.....	52.4%
Do not have a disability.....	46.6%

ISSUE #2: Affordable healthcare for Henderson County residents... 47%

Birthplace:

Born in Henderson County.....	49.1%
Born elsewhere in U.S.....	45.3%
Born outside U.S.....	47.6%

Length of Residence in Henderson County:

Less than 5 years.....	43.9%
More than 5 years.....	49.1%

Income Level:

\$14,999 or less.....	48.3%
\$15,000 – 24,999.....	61.2%
\$25,000 – 49,000.....	51.6%
\$50,000 – 99,999.....	48.2%
\$100,000 – 199,999.....	39.4%
\$200,000 or more.....	46.2%
Child living at home.....	33.3%

Community Data Survey Variances by Issue

ISSUE #3: Meeting the basic needs of individuals and families for food, shelter and other necessities..... 45%

Age:

17 or younger.....	35.8%
18-24.....	41.0%
25-34.....	54.8%
35-54.....	46.3%
55-64.....	45.3%
65-79.....	45.3%
80 or older.....	66.7%

Gender:

Male.....	44.1%
Female.....	45.5%

Education:

Less than high school.....	45.0%
High school graduate or GED.....	49.8%
Some college / Tech training.....	44.7%
Student.....	36.2%
Graduate with 4 year degree.....	52.9%
Post-graduate degree recipient.....	47.6%

Marital Status:

Married.....	47.5%
Single.....	39.8%
Widowed.....	43.2%
Divorced.....	51.6%
Separated.....	52.9%
Partner / Not married.....	40.0%

Disability:

Have a disability.....	52.4%
Do not have a disability.....	45.1%

**ISSUE #3: Meeting the basic needs of individuals and families for food,
shelter and other necessities..... 45%**

Birthplace:

Born in Henderson County.....	44.5%
Born elsewhere in U.S.....	45.7%
Born outside U.S.....	57.1%

Length of Residence in Henderson County:

Less than 5 years.....	50.0%
More than 5 years.....	45.3%

Income Level:

\$14,999 or less.....	44.8%
\$15,000 – 24,999.....	47.6%
\$25,000 – 49,000.....	49.8%
\$50,000 – 99,999.....	51.1%
\$100,000 – 199,999.....	35.4%
\$200,000 or more.....	23.1%
Child living at home.....	36.7%

Community Data Survey Variances by Issue

ISSUE #4: Assuring that children are safe, healthy, nurtured, and ready to succeed in school by age 6..... 37%

Age:

17 or younger.....	33.3%
18-24.....	39.7%
25-34.....	43.0%
35-54.....	39.4%
55-64.....	37.1%
65-79.....	15.6%
80 or older.....	16.7%

Gender:

Male.....	31.0%
Female.....	41.3%

Education:

Less than high school.....	26.7%
High school graduate or GED.....	32.9%
Some college / Tech training.....	35.0%
Student.....	35.8%
Graduate with 4 year degree.....	40.6%
Post-graduate degree recipient.....	46.9%

Marital Status:

Married.....	39.9%
Single.....	37.3%
Widowed.....	16.2%
Divorced.....	30.1%
Separated.....	41.2%
Partner / Not married.....	35.0%

Disability:

Have a disability.....	27.0%
Do not have a disability.....	37.9%

ISSUE #4: Assuring that children are safe, healthy, nurtured, and ready to succeed in school by age 6..... 37%

Birthplace:

Born in Henderson County.....	37.7%
Born elsewhere in U.S.....	36.5%
Born outside U.S.....	38.1%

Length of Residence in Henderson County:

Less than 5 years.....	37.2%
More than 5 years.....	36.4%

Income Level:

\$14,999 or less.....	25.3%
\$15,000 – 24,999.....	36.1%
\$25,000 – 49,000.....	37.4%
\$50,000 – 99,999.....	38.2%
\$100,000 – 199,999.....	49.5%
\$200,000 or more.....	23.1%
Child living at home.....	35.0%

Community Data Survey Variances by Issue

ISSUE #5: Providing residents with the opportunities and skills to maintain meaningful living-wage employment..... 32%

Age:

17 or younger.....	12.1%
18-24.....	29.5%
25-34.....	43.5%
35-54.....	35.1%
55-64.....	39.0%
65-79.....	40.6%
80 or older.....	33.3%

Gender:

Male.....	38.0%
Female.....	28.8%

Education:

Less than high school.....	31.7%
High school graduate or GED.....	48.8%
Some college / Tech training.....	37.6%
Student.....	13.2%
Graduate with 4 year degree.....	37.1%
Post-graduate degree recipient.....	30.6%

Marital Status:

Married.....	36.3%
Single.....	21.0%
Widowed.....	40.5%
Divorced.....	39.8%
Separated.....	41.2%
Partner / Not married.....	23.8%

Disability:

Have a disability.....	31.7%
Do not have a disability.....	32.1%

ISSUE #5: Providing residents with the opportunities and skills to maintain meaningful living-wage employment..... 32%

Birthplace:

Born in Henderson County.....	31.3%
Born elsewhere in U.S.....	33.5%
Born outside U.S.....	33.3%

Length of Residence in Henderson County:

Less than 5 years.....	38.3%
More than 5 years.....	32.2%

Income Level:

\$14,999 or less.....	33.3%
\$15,000 – 24,999.....	44.2%
\$25,000 – 49,000.....	44.1%
\$50,000 – 99,999.....	31.3%
\$100,000 – 199,999.....	25.3%
\$200,000 or more.....	38.5%
Child living at home.....	12.8%

Community Data Survey Variances by Issue

ISSUE #6: Attracting and retaining businesses for Henderson County that provide good jobs..... 32%

Age:

17 or younger.....	16.7%
18-24.....	15.4%
25-34.....	36.1%
35-54.....	41.1%
55-64.....	39.0%
65-79.....	34.4%
80 or older.....	50.0%

Gender:

Male.....	32.7%
Female.....	31.4%

Education:

Less than high school.....	25.0%
High school graduate or GED.....	32.4%
Some college / Tech training.....	40.2%
Student.....	17.7%
Graduate with 4 year degree.....	42.4%
Post-graduate degree recipient.....	36.7%

Marital Status:

Married.....	43.2%
Single.....	18.5%
Widowed.....	32.4%
Divorced.....	26.9%
Separated.....	41.2%
Partner / Not married.....	21.3%

Disability:

Have a disability.....	22.2%
Do not have a disability.....	32.8%

ISSUE #6: Attracting and retaining businesses for Henderson County

that provide good jobs..... 32%

Birthplace:

Born in Henderson County.....	29.8%
Born elsewhere in U.S.....	35.4%
Born outside U.S.....	33.3%

Length of Residence in Henderson County:

Less than 5 years.....	35.6%
More than 5 years.....	31.8%

Income Level:

\$14,999 or less.....	21.8%
\$15,000 – 24,999.....	34.0%
\$25,000 – 49,000.....	34.2%
\$50,000 – 99,999.....	37.9%
\$100,000 – 199,999.....	48.5%
\$200,000 or more.....	30.8%
Child living at home.....	15.6%

Focus Group Participant Groups and Locations

All “Voices” focus groups occurred during October, November, and December of 2006. Below is a list of the groups who were asked to participate in the “Voices” focus groups and the locations where they met.

Group

United Way Board
 Inmates
 African American Educators,
 professionals, and parents
 Direct Care Staff
 Retired Teachers
 Youth Group
 Early Childhood Educators and Day
 Care Providers
 Concerned Citizen Group
 Matthew 25 Staff and Patients,
 HIV/AIDS Clinic
 Provider Group
 Provider Group
 Direct Care Staff
 Professional Staff
 Student Group
 Citizen Group
 Henderson County Educators
 Parents receiving services
 United Way Campaign Chairs
 Staff of Hugh Edward Sandefur Training
 Center, Board Members, Parents,
 other service providers to HESTC
 Concerned Citizens in Business
 and Professions
 Youth Group
 City Commission
 African American Leadership Group
 Staff of St. Anthony’s Hospice
 County Officials
 Judges/Judicial Center Officials
 Industry Group
 Hispanic Group

Location

Wolfe’s
 Henderson County Detention Center

 First Missionary Baptist Church
 Methodist Hospital
 Citizen Home
 Citizen Home

 U.K. Extension Office
 Citizen Home

 Agency Office
 United Way Board Room
 U.K. Extension Office
 Methodist Hospital
 Community College
 Community College
 First Methodist Church
 Henderson County Youth Services
 Housing Authority
 United Way Board Room

 HESTC

 Jefferson Elementary
 Henderson County High School
 Henderson City Hall
 Housing Authority
 St. Anthony’s
 Henderson County Courthouse
 Henderson Judicial Building
 Kenergy
 Migrant Program

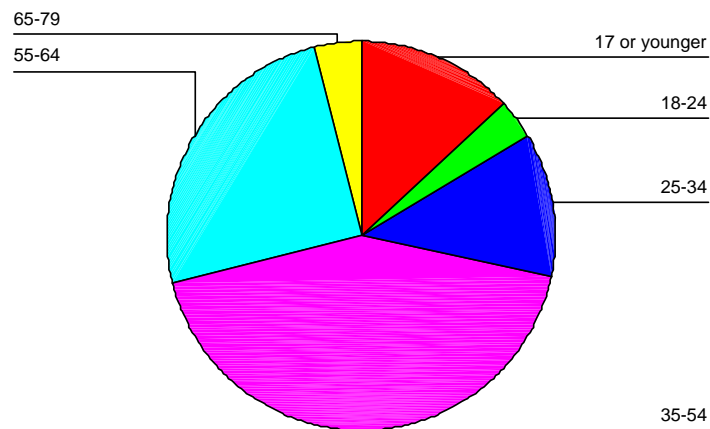
FOCUS GROUP PARTICIPANT SURVEYS DEMOGRAPHIC REPORT

At the beginning of every focus group, the facilitator gave each participant a written demographic survey to complete. This survey asked various questions to give United Way a better understanding of exactly who they were talking to. Below is a breakdown of each demographic question and the percentage of participants who responded in each of the answers. A total of 208 surveys were useable and analyzed. NOTE: These demographics only pertain to the participants in the “Voices” focus groups. The Voices Assessment Manager revised the survey several times. This report represents the final version of the survey and incorporates all usable data that was collected.

1. What is your age?

17 or younger.....	13.0%
18-24.....	3.4%
25-34.....	12.0%
35-54.....	42.8%
55-64.....	25.0%
65-79.....	3.8%
80 or older.....	0.0%

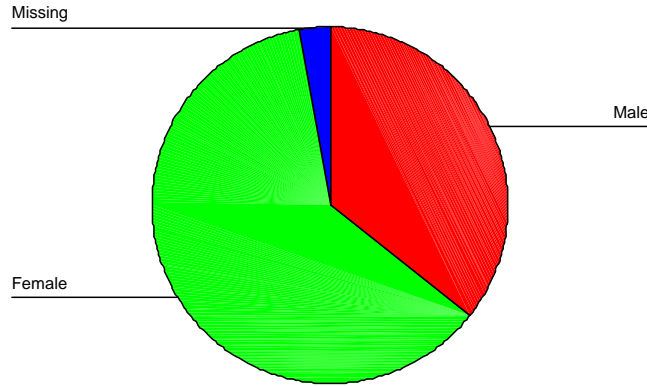
Age



2. Are you...

Male.....	36.6%
Female.....	63.4%

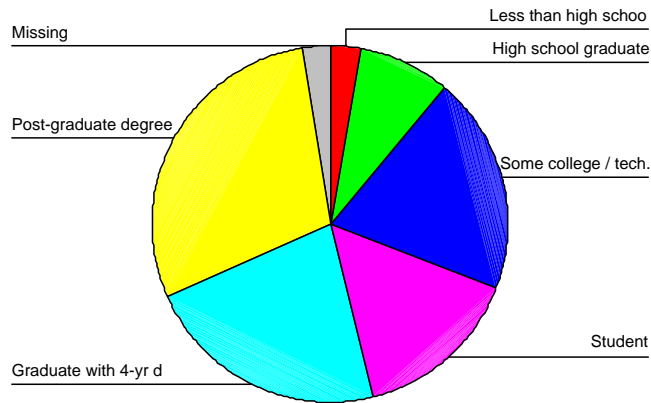
Gender



3. Did you...

Complete less than High School.....	3.0%
Graduate High School or GED.....	8.4%
Obtain some college or technical training after high school.....	20.2%
Student.....	15.8%
Graduate 4-year college.....	22.7%
Complete a post-graduate degree.....	30.0%

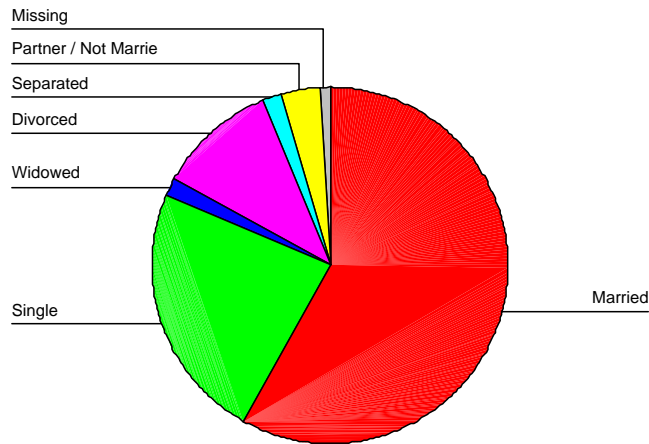
Education



4. Are you...

Married.....	58.7%
Single.....	23.3%
Widowed.....	1.9%
Divorced.....	10.7%
Separated.....	1.9%
Partnered/Not Married.....	3.4%

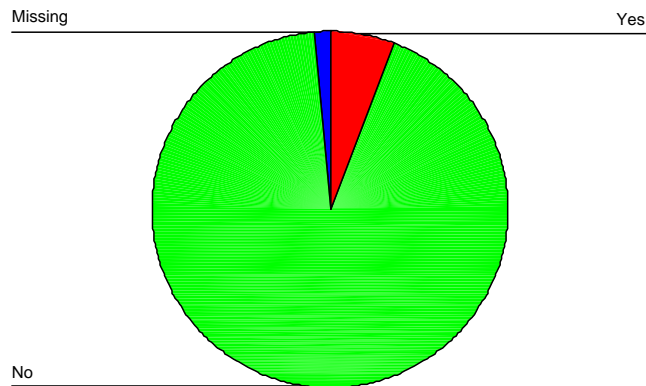
Marital Status



5. Are you a person with a disability?

Yes.....	5.9%
No.....	94.1%

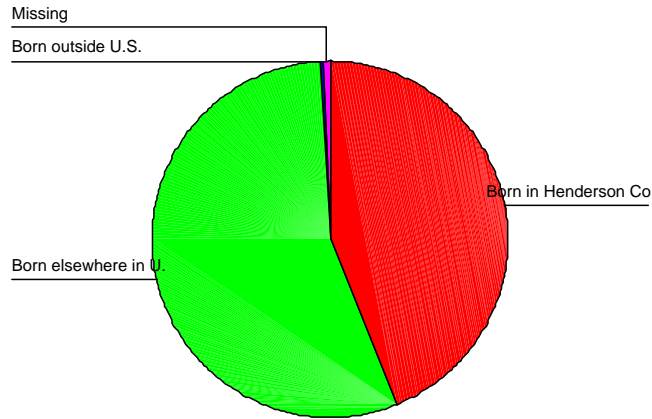
Disability?



6. Were you...

Born in Henderson County.....	44.0%
Born elsewhere in the U.S.....	55.6%
Born outside the U.S.....	0.5%

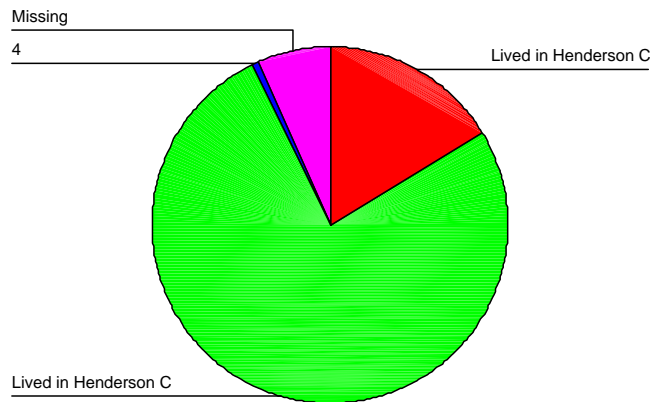
Birth Place



7. Have you...

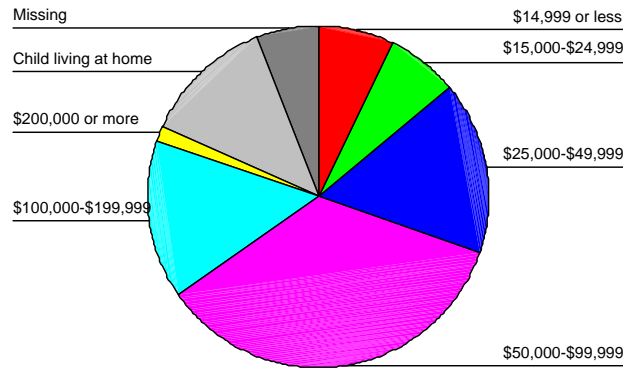
lived in Henderson County less than 5 years.....	17.5%
lived in Henderson County more than 5 years.....	82.0%

Length of Residence



8. What is your yearly household income?	
\$14,999 or less.....	7.7%
\$15,000 - \$24,999.....	7.1%
\$25,000 - \$49,999.....	17.3%
\$50,000 - \$99,999.....	37.2%
\$100,000 - \$199,999.....	15.8%
\$200,000 +.....	1.5%
Child living at home.....	13.3%

Income



9. Are you employed full-time?	
Yes.....	66.7%
No.....	33.3%

10. Are you employed part-time?	
Yes.....	8.7%
No.....	91.3%

11. Are you unemployed?	
Yes.....	5.3%
No.....	94.7%

12. Are you retired?	
Yes.....	11.1%
No.....	88.9%

13. Are you a student?	
Yes.....	15.5%
No.....	84.5%

14. Are you a seasonal employee?	
Yes.....	2.9%
No.....	97.1%

15. Are you...		
	White.....	84.5%
	Hispanic.....	1.9%
	African-American or Black.....	14.0%
	Asian.....	0.5%
	Native American.....	0.0%
	Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander.....	0.0%
	Other.....	0.5%
16. Do you live alone?		
	Yes.....	14.5%
	No.....	85.5%
17. Do you live with a spouse or partner?		
	Yes.....	60.4%
	No.....	39.6%
18. Do you live with minor children?		
	Yes.....	30.0%
	No.....	70.0%
19. Do you live with adult children?		
	Yes.....	10.1%
	No.....	89.9%
20. Do you live with parent(s)?		
	Yes.....	15.9%
	No.....	84.1%
21. Do you live with grandchildren?		
	Yes.....	3.4%
	No.....	96.6%
22. Do you live with other relatives?		
	Yes.....	2.9%
	No.....	97.1%
23. Do you live with...other?		
	Yes.....	1.0%
	No.....	99.0%
24. Where do you live?		
	In the city limits.....	65.2%
	Outside the city limits.....	34.8%

Community Survey Distribution Locations

In addition to the “Voices” focus groups, United Way desired to gather input from a larger number of community members. The Project Manager for the Voices Assessment took surveys to various populations and recruited reliable individuals to take surveys to their place of business, clients they served, families, and neighborhoods. The following list of places/groups was provided by the Project Manager in which survey participation was solicited.

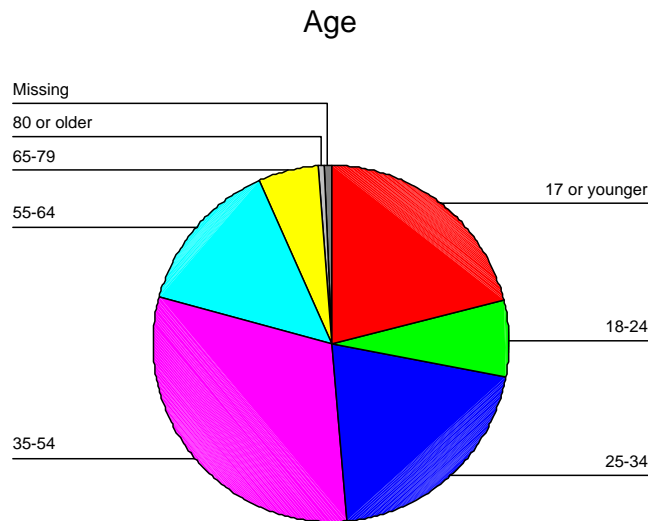
Civic Club Meetings
Community Gatherings
PTO, PTA, and Booster Club meetings
Law Enforcement Agencies
The Courthouse of Henderson County
Community Based Services for State of Kentucky, Cabinet for Families and Children
(staff and clients)
Department of Juvenile Justice
Community Mental Health Organizations
Local Churches in all neighborhoods including minorities and housing project areas
Community Health Organizations
Local Business and Industry
All providers of services for assistance in Henderson County
Henderson County Detention Center
Fire Departments
City of Henderson Employees
County of Henderson Employees
Migrant Worker Population
Providers and users of day care centers
Henderson County School System, educators, students, parents
Henderson County Judicial System
Henderson County Senior Citizen Center
Populations served by Federal and State government funded programs
CASA workers
Child Advocacy Center and populations served
The Henderson Housing Authority and citizens served by that organization
Home Health Agency
Assisted Living Facility
Medical personnel and Emergency Services
Health Fairs
School Fairs

COMMUNITY SURVEY GROUP DEMOGRAPHIC REPORT

Various community members (including participants in the focus groups) were asked to respond to a written survey designed to identify some of the most pressing issues in the Henderson County community. Below is a breakdown of each demographic question and the percentage of participants who responded in each of the answers. A total of 1,130 surveys were useable and analyzed. NOTE: Focus group participants and community members filled out the same survey and demographic data sheet. These results pertain to both of those groups. The Voices Assessment Manager revised the survey several times. This report represents the final version of the survey and incorporates all usable data that was collected.

1. What is your age?

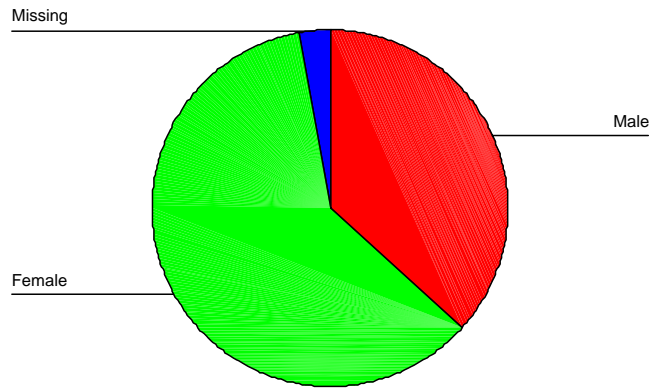
17 or younger.....	21.3%
18-24.....	6.9%
25-34.....	20.4%
35-54.....	30.9%
55-64.....	14.1%
65-79.....	5.7%
80 or older.....	0.5%



2. Are you...

Male.....	37.6%
Female.....	62.4%

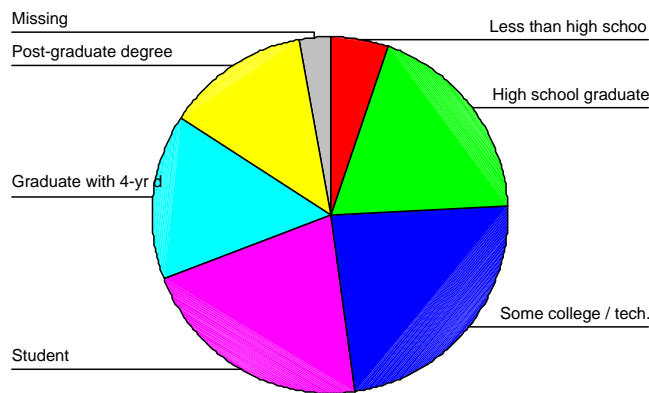
Gender



3. Did you...

Complete less than High School.....	5.5%
Graduate High School or GED.....	19.4%
Obtain some college or technical training after high school.....	24.2%
Student.....	22.1%
Graduate 4-year college.....	15.5%
Complete a post-graduate degree.....	13.4%

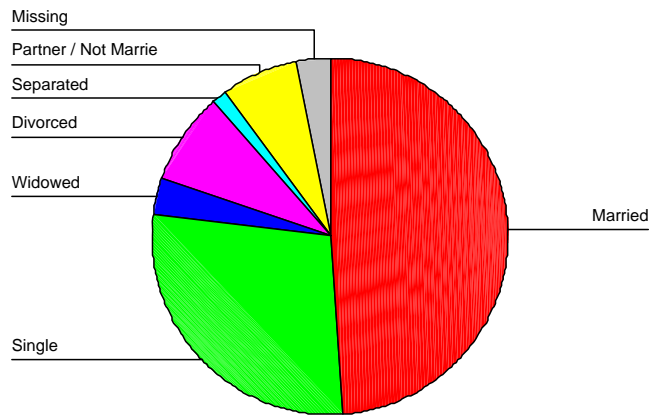
Education



4. Are you...

Married.....	50.2%
Single.....	29.1%
Widowed.....	3.4%
Divorced.....	8.5%
Separated.....	1.5%
Partnered/Not Married.....	7.3%

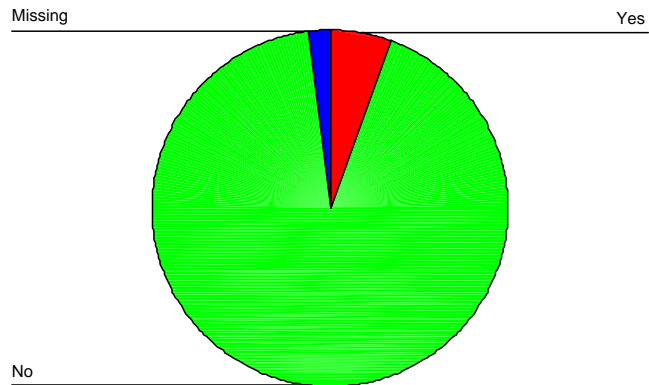
Marital Status



5. Are you a person with a disability?

Yes.....	5.7%
No.....	94.3%

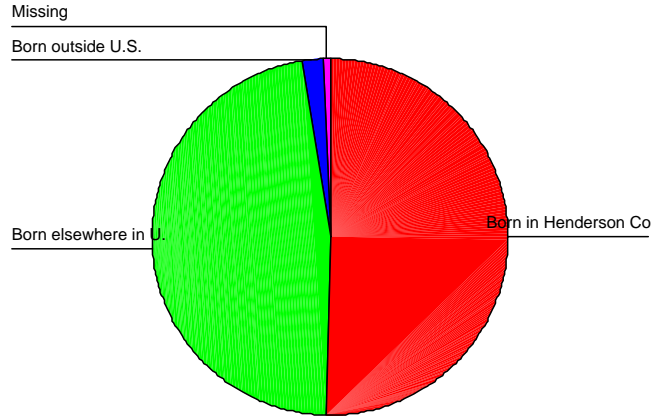
Disability?



6. Were you...

Born in Henderson County.....	50.6%
Born elsewhere in the U.S.....	47.6%
Born outside the U.S.....	1.9%

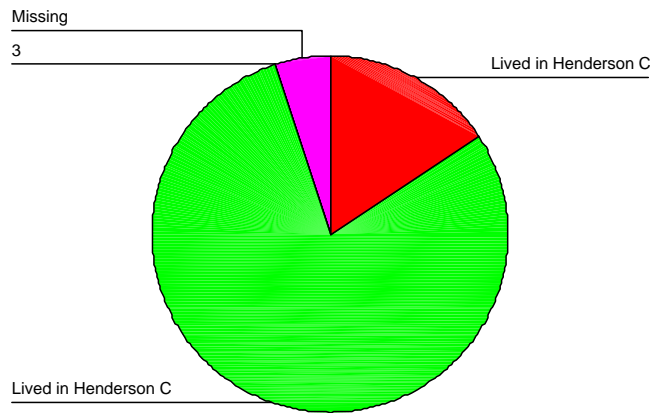
Birth Place



7. Have you...

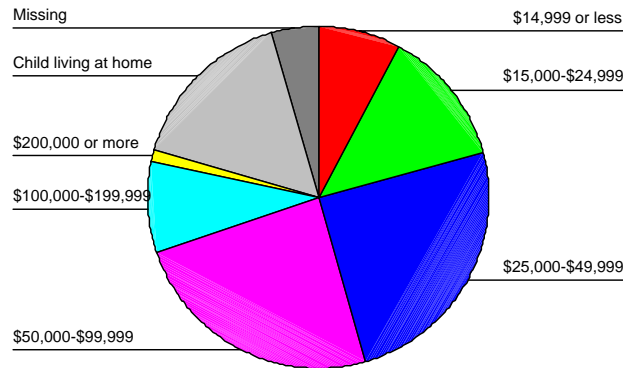
lived in Henderson County less than 5 years.....	16.8%
lived in Henderson County more than 5 years.....	83.1%

Length of Residence



8. What is your yearly household income?	
\$14,999 or less.....	8.1%
\$15,000 - \$24,999.....	13.6%
\$25,000 - \$49,999.....	26.0%
\$50,000 - \$99,999.....	25.2%
\$100,000 - \$199,999.....	9.2%
\$200,000 +.....	1.2%
Child living at home.....	16.7%

Income



9. Are you employed full-time?	
Yes.....	59.3%
No.....	40.7%

10. Are you employed part-time?	
Yes.....	10.2%
No.....	89.8%

11. Are you unemployed?	
Yes.....	8.1%
No.....	91.9%

12. Are you retired?	
Yes.....	8.7%
No.....	91.3%

13. Are you a student?	
Yes.....	26.2%
No.....	73.8%

14. Are you a seasonal employee?	
Yes.....	2.0%
No.....	98.0%

15. Are you...		
	White.....	79.2%
	Hispanic.....	3.7%
	African-American or Black.....	16.1%
	Asian.....	0.3%
	Native American.....	0.6%
	Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander.....	0.2%
	Other.....	1.1%
16. Do you live alone?		
	Yes.....	10.8%
	No.....	89.2%
17. Do you live with a spouse or partner?		
	Yes.....	54.9%
	No.....	45.1%
18. Do you live with minor children?		
	Yes.....	35.4%
	No.....	64.6%
19. Do you live with adult children?		
	Yes.....	6.7%
	No.....	93.3%
20. Do you live with parent(s)?		
	Yes.....	23.1%
	No.....	76.9%
21. Do you live with grandchildren?		
	Yes.....	1.5%
	No.....	98.5%
22. Do you live with other relatives?		
	Yes.....	4.5%
	No.....	95.5%
23. Do you live with...other?		
	Yes.....	4.5%
	No.....	95.5%
24. Where do you live?		
	In the city limits.....	59.8%
	Outside the city limits.....	40.2%

