



# Flourishing Canton

June 12 & 13, 2006

Timken Commons  
Canton, Ohio

Sponsored by:

Canton Young Leaders

Positive Change Corps

Stark Educational Service Center

## Welcome to our intergenerational conversation...

Canton Young Leaders and our adult partners are delighted to welcome you to our two-day conversation about our flourishing community and our flourishing citizens of every age!

We began planning this time together almost a year ago, when three of our youth were returning from a similar meeting at Georgian Court University in New Jersey last August. We decided to ask our group if they were interested in hosting a conversation in Canton, about Canton, for Canton. This conference is the result of our planning.

We are so pleased that other youth, many Canton and Stark County adults, and people from across the country and around the world are joining us. We choose to look at our community as a vital dot in the universe.

We see Canton, then Stark County, then Ohio, then the U.S., then the world, and then the universe. We know that we will flourish as we see expand our vision to see all our roles here, and around the world.

Welcome, and have a wonderful time! We plan to!

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## **FLOURISHING CANTON CONVERSATION ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

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**Canton Negro Oldtimers** -Cathy McAlpin- Centerpieces



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# FLOURISHING CANTON

## Core Assumptions

### Conversation Planning Team will:

- 1) Structure & facilitate a process that will enable us to discover our best moments and practices in our communities and with youth
- 2) Keep us informed of established parameters for Time and Tasks
- 3) Support and facilitate Large Group Discussions
- 4) Keep Purpose Front and Center
- 5) Create the environment that helps people to be at their best
- 6) Suggest and encourage new ways of thinking and doing
- 7) Keep us focused and on track
- 8) Start and stop on time

### Participants will:

- 1) Participate actively and share opinions in the conversation - engage fully in this process
- 2) Tell Stories, Provide Information, Make Meaning
- 3) Manage Own Small Groups
- 4) Experiment & take risks to share, while engaging in conversation with others
- 5) Contribute to the Creation of Future Scenarios/Action Steps
- 6) Listen Actively and attentively
- 7) Demonstrate Caring . . . about each other, our community and our dialogue
- 8) Take responsibility . . . for the conversation and the ideas developed here
- 9) Be here (for the entire process), Be on time, and Be *here* while you're here

### WE will be successful and have good conversation when:

- All voices are invited, respected and heard
- All experiences are treated as valid
- Notes are captured in writing, on flip charts
- We listen to each other
- We observe time frames
- We seek higher ground through individual and collective action
- Differences and new ideas are honored
- There is full and active attendance
- We make the time and space to connect with each other

## Desired Outcomes for FLOURISHING CANTON

*"Just what is the purpose of our gathering today?" . . .*

- ◆ To **facilitate** a powerful, positive dialogue among members of schools and youth groups with teachers, parents, students, community and business people.
- ◆ To **create** a "container" of expertise and space to catapult the Canton/Stark County positive core into sharper focus within two short days.
- ◆ To **establish** a relationship network that can become a springboard for Canton/Stark County innovation.
- ◆ To **build** new skills for imagining and co-creating the future that will be!
- ◆ To **initiate** the transformation you want to see in your Canton/Stark County community.

### AND TO DISCOVER:

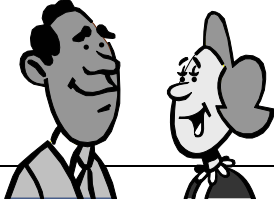



- ❖ What's **Best** for the FLOURISHING CANTON COMMUNITY, including its schools and youth programs?
- ❖ What's **Possible** for the FLOURISHING CANTON COMMUNITY, its schools and youth programming?
- ❖ How strengths-based whole systems approaches can **Transform** our FLOURISHING CANTON COMMUNITY and its schools and youth programs?
- ❖ What's **Next**?

The **goal** for our gathering is for us to combine our creative energies to:

- 1) Discover the best of Canton/Stark County's communities, schools and youth programs-past, present and future,
- 2) Dream bold new pictures of what we want the future to look like for every community member, and especially every young person
- 3) Design bold new visions grounded in our values-what we most prize and honor
- 4) Create a plan including five bold strategies for moving toward our Destiny.


# FLOURISHING CANTON

## DAY ONE - JUNE 12

Registration and Continental Breakfast		8:30
<b>Welcome</b> Mayor Janet Creighton Superintendent Dianne Talarico Welcome from <a href="#">Positive Change Corps</a> Team	James Jeter, Shuneka Skinner, Holly Wright, Tom Dague  Dr. Gina Hinrichs	9:00
<b>Two Days of Stories</b> - Overview of Two Days	James Jeter	9:30
Introduction to Appreciative Inquiry	Dr. Marjorie Schiller and James Jeter	9:45
<b>Chapter One- Discovery</b> <b>Featured Program: P.E.A.C.E TV- Mari Moss</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ One with one Interview (Activity #1)</li> <li>➤ Report at Tables (Activity #2)</li> <li>➤ Discover the Positive Core (Activity #3)</li> <li>➤ Theme Identification at Tables</li> </ul>	Joyce Lemke  	9:45-12:00  
<b>Lunch (Provided)</b> WALK Through the Sunflowers		12:15
➤ Where's the Energy (Activity #4)		
DeWitt Jones Video: "Celebrate What Is Right With the World."	Shuneka Skinner	1:00
<b>Chapter Two- Dream</b> <b>Featured Program: Canton Arts Academy-Lori Perry</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Images of the Preferred Future (Activity # 5)</li> <li>➤ Dreaming Bold Aspirations (Activity # 6)</li> </ul>	Anne Payton, Holly Wright, Karen Mercado	1:35  
Present your FLOURISHING CANTON DREAM	Holly Wright	3:00

*"All serious daring starts from within." - Eudora Welty*

**DAY TWO - JUNE 13**

Continental Breakfast and Reconnection		8:30
<i>Reflect on Chapters One and Two</i>	Joyce Lemke	9:00
<i>Chapter Three - Design</i>	Thomas West, Karlecia Wright	9:20
<p><b>Featured Program: Building Healthy Communities-</b> Dan Thompson</p> <p><i>How Do We Make It Happen?</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Identify Opportunities (Activity #7)</li> <li>➤ Join a "Do It" Group</li> </ul>		
"Do It" Groups (Activity #8)	Carol Lichtenwalter	11:00
<b>LUNCH</b>		11:45
<i>Chapter Four -Destiny</i>	Patti Fetzer, Susan Ross	12:30
<p><b>Featured Program: Stark County Mentoring Network</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Moving into the <i>Flourishing Canton</i> Future (Activity #9)</li> </ul>		
Review of Appreciative Inquiry Principles	Dr. Marjorie Schiller	1:45
Staying Connected	Joyce Lemke	2:45
Valuation	Participants	3:15
<p>Reflect and Closing <b>Celebration</b></p> <p>"The Flourishing Canton Story -A Book with Four Chapters, and MORE to come"</p>	Positive Change Corps Team and Storyteller	



*"In any relationship, trust is the first thing to leave and the last to return. When I realize that the most important relationship is with myself, I can begin to build trust close to home. Today let me make and KEEP a promise or a commitment to myself, however small - and notice how much I begin to trust myself."*

## Appreciative Inquiry OVERVIEW

**AI** has been described in many ways. Here is a practitioner-oriented definition:

**Appreciative Inquiry** (AI) is the cooperative co-evolutionary search for the best in people, their organizations, and the world around them. It involves the discovery of what gives "life" to a living system when it is most effective, alive and constructively capable in economic, ecological and human terms. AI involves the art and practice of asking questions that strengthen a system's capacity to apprehend, anticipate and heighten positive potential. The inquiry is mobilized through the crafting of the "unconditional positive question", often involving hundreds or thousands of people. The AI intervention focuses on the speed of imagination and innovation; instead of the negative, critical and spiraling diagnoses commonly used in organizations. The *discovery, dream, design, and destiny* model links the energy of the positive core to changes never thought possible.

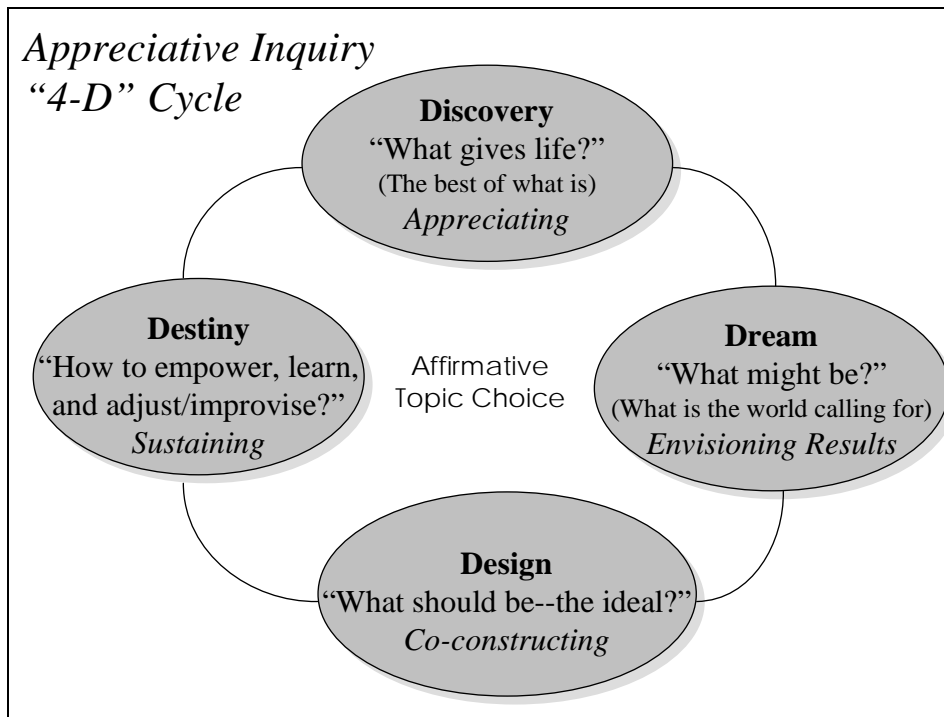
AI is based upon the simple assumption that every organization has something that works well, and by using this as a starting point positive change can be created. Allowing people to participate in dialogues and share stories about their past and present achievements, assets, unexplored potentials, innovations, strengths, elevated thoughts, opportunities, benchmarks, high point moments, lived values, traditions, core and distinctive competencies, expressions of wisdom, insights into the deeper corporate spirit and soul, and visions of valued and possible futures is the heart of AI. From those dialogues, a "positive change core" can be identified. From this, AI links the energy of the positive core directly to any change agenda. This creates energy, excitement and a desire to move towards a shared dream.

AI, an approach to organizational analysis and learning, is uniquely intended for discovering, understanding, and fostering innovations in social organizational arrangements and processes. In this context, AI refers to two things:

- A search for knowledge.
- A theory of collective action designed to evolve the vision and will of a group, organization or society as a whole.

Source: Cooperrider, D., Whitney, D., and Stavros, J., (2003). *Appreciative Inquiry Handbook: The First in a Series of AI Workbooks for Leaders of Change*, p.3.

## The Appreciative Inquiry 4-D cycle



**Discovery:** The best of the past and present, success, what works, and our images of the future

**Dream:** What is our highest purpose - vision? What are our most vivid images of the future? What do we want more of?

**Design:** What will make our dreams come alive? What is our strategy, our plan to get there?

**Destiny:** What are the individual and collective actions to best move us forward? What are our commitments?

## APPRECIATIVE INQUIRY PRINCIPLES



**What we choose to study makes a difference.**

Organizations are an endless source of study and learning.

Carefully choose what we will study; that will create our world.



**Positive change occurs when the process of change models the future.**

Gandhi said, "Be the change you wish to see in the world".

To make a change in a system it helps to model the change ourselves.



**Positive questions lead to positive change!**

The momentum for large-scale change requires positive energy and social effort: positive questions release that energy.

What we ask about actually determines what we bring about.



**Wholeness brings out the best.**

**Gathering stakeholders together stimulates creativity and builds collective capacity.**

Wholeness brings out the best in people and in organizations.



**The moment we ask a question, change begins.**

Inquiry itself is an intervention and it creates change.

The questions we ask drive what we find and how we change, so what we ask about determines the direction of the change.



**We move toward our images of the future.**

The more positive and hopeful the images, the more positive the present-day action.

The more clear the images the greater their power to attract.



**Diversity creates more robust imagining.**

We have unique points of view; we see the world through different lenses.

Difference gives us more perspectives and creates robust results.



**We grow toward that which gives us energy**

Like plants that grow toward the sun (their source of energy), we grow toward the things that give us energy.

Freedom to choose lets all of us maximize our energy.



**Words create our world.**

Reality is subjective, and socially created through our language. The more positive and hopeful the language, the more positive our current actions.

What we talk about becomes the focus of our energy.



**Free choice liberates individuals.**

People perform better and are more committed when they have freedom to choose how and what they contribute.

Choice releases energy and stimulates excellence.



**Relationships support our most creative work.**

Humans are social beings and innovation is encouraged by connection.

Connection with others fuels our own creativity.

# What to Expect From This **FLOURISHING CANTON** Gathering

## SELF-MANAGEMENT and GROUP LEADERSHIP ROLES

Each small group manages its own discussion, data, time, and reports. Here are useful roles for self-managing this work. **Leadership roles can be rotated.** Divide up the work as you wish:

- **CONVERSATION LEADER** - Assures that each person who wants to speak is heard within time available. Keeps group on track to finish on time.
- **TIMEKEEPER** - Keeps group aware of time parameters, monitors report-outs and signals time remaining to person talking.
- **RECORDER** - Writes group's output on flip charts, using speaker's words. Asks person to restate long ideas briefly.
- **REPORTER** - Delivers report to large group in time allotted.

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*Imagine what a harmonious world it could be if every single person, both young and old, shared a little of what he is good at doing.*

Quincy Jones

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### **Ground Rules**

- Everyone participates
- All ideas are valid and worthy of being heard
- Group reports are written on newsprint charts
- Listen, ask and be curious
- Observe time frames
- Seek higher ground and action
- 'Create "relationship-enhancing" conversations

# Writing the FLOURISHING CANTON Story Book

*Using an Appreciative Inquiry Approach*

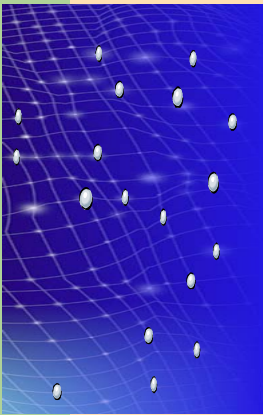
## CHAPTER ONE-DISCOVER

**It always begins with a story...**

- Bible
- Stories from grownups-how you came into the world
- Every family has stories-Grandma's birds' nest hat, Uncle Mike, Aunt Sara
  
- A story is a narrative-how we exchange information- around the campfire, dining room table, at a funeral
- Stories are how we discover
- Sometimes stories get a bad rap- like something that is not true
  
- Stories here are REAL, they are about feelings, smells, sounds, memories
- Stories are usually paragraphs of description, have a beginning, a middle, an end, and a point, or meaning
- Stories are usually not a list, or series of conclusions
  
- We are discovering the gold or talent in each of us- we are gold miners and talent scouts

***You are the creator of your world. The energy of your thoughts and feelings. Create your reality and shape your world. Whatever you focus on will grow. Use your power wisely.***

## The Power of AI Stories



- Stories stick like glue...
- Stories make information easier to remember... "Whole brain"
- Stories build identities and fosters relationships
- Stories are a medium for conveying values, visions
- Stories move the internal dialogue of the system
- Stories create Human Hope...

## Activity #1

### One-With-One Interview

#### Guidelines:

- Select an interview partner as instructed by your facilitator.
- Interview your partner using the interview guide on the following pages. Each person will have 30 minutes to interview his or her partner. Switch roles. *A interviews B and then B interviews A.*
- Encourage your partner to tell his or her story; draw him or her out with your positive energy and genuine interest. Probe to get the story and lots of details
- Take good notes and be listening for great quotes Listen and be prepared to retell the story yourself. You will share the results of your interview in the next session. (If your partner tells you something in confidence, it will not be shared with the others).
- The information you collect in this interview will be used to shape the strategic future of a Canton where everyone is *flourishing*.
- In the interview, wait for reflection time. After a period of time, if necessary, use prompts like:
  - ◆ What happened?
  - ◆ *What was going on?*
  - ◆ *Who was involved?*
  - ◆ *What were you thinking? Feeling?*
  - ◆ *What did you do?*
  - ◆ *What was the outcome?*
  - ◆ *Why was it a key experience?*
- As Lena says about these interviews, *"I want this to be about you. Think about it. I want you to go deep and get personal."*



*"Appreciation is a wonderful thing. It makes what is excellent in others belong to us as well."*

--Voltaire

## Flourishing Canton Conversation Guide

Today, we are all going to be Olympic champion listeners. One of the most important skills every successful person uses constantly is power listening. Using a paired interview format, we will begin to discover the powerful thoughts and beliefs that we hold about ourselves and others as leaders. We will explore the passions we share, and the leadership characteristics to which we most aspire.

This paired interview format is 60 minutes in length- 30 minutes for each participant.

This conversation guide is intended to help you have an energy filled conversation.

Please follow this guide, and keep detailed notes about what your partner is saying- like a "reporter" on the job. This is about power listening-listening to the 10<sup>th</sup> power (listening<sup>10</sup>) and listening with your heart as well as your head.

Please ask the questions and then take notes and listen. Do not give your ideas at this time.

You will have your turn to be interviewed.

## ***FLOURISHING CANTON***

Flourishing is always the result of cooperation and collaboration-plants cannot flourish without nourishment-water, minerals, and good air. People and communities cannot flourish without nourishment- friendship, love and opportunity.

What does flourishing look like? In Canton and Stark County, when we look around, we find it everywhere! More students are graduating than ever before in our history! Many districts have set a 100% graduation goal, and some are VERY close! Students are achieving at higher levels than ever before.

When you travel the streets of Canton, you see new construction, rehabilitation of historic buildings, new shops and restaurants, better streets and lighting, and a new spirit of optimism and hope! New businesses are looking to locate in Canton, and existing ones are expanding.

A community and people flourish when they have the physical, mental, emotional and financial resources they need.

Flourishing happens when people join hands and hearts to do what needs to be done. There is truly much flourishing to celebrate and to support in our communities!

### ***BEGIN HERE:***

- 1. Tell your interview partner who you are, where you live, where you work/go to school. What is your relationship/history experience with living/working/visiting Canton and Stark County? (\*Remember to take notes)*

*2. We are all leaders, after all, we all lead our own lives, and we formally or informally lead those around us. Please think of your role as a leader. In Canton (or your community), you, youth and the community are flourishing. How have your actions lead to the flourishing?*

*Key Ideas:*

*Quotable Quotes:*

3. When you think about your own life, and the leadership/growth opportunities you have been a part of, recall a time when you were part of a flourishing moment/experience. Think of a time when you were most excited, most effective, most influential, most helpful, most engaged and energized Tell me the story of that "flourishing" experience.

*Key Ideas:*

*Quotable Quotes:*

4. What do you value the most about yourself as a community member, young person, and/or leader? In your moments of effective and dynamic leadership, what assets/qualities do you possess that allowed you to flourish and be successful? Please do not be modest!

*Key Ideas:*

*Quotable Quotes:*

5. There are many leaders in Canton(or your community). They are in government, schools, business or communities and our families. What assets/characteristics do you look for in leaders you trust and support?

*Key Ideas:*

*Quotable Quotes:*

6. Who are some leaders you respect and admire in the Canton/Stark County (or your) community? Looking at the leaders who you admire, what values and qualities do they possess that make them effective, flourishing leaders?

*Key Ideas:*

*Quotable Quotes:*

7. It is 2011, five years have passed, and your dreams of a "Flourishing Canton"(or your community) are realized. What is happening in June 2111? What do you see in y/our city? What is different?

*Key Ideas:*

*Quotable Quotes:*

8. What have you contributed to a flourishing Canton/Stark County (or your community)? What are you most proud of? The Repository (or your community newspaper) is at the door to interview you. What will you say to them? What is your "Flourishing Canton" (or your community) story? What has been the role of the community's youth leadership? And, what has been your role?

*Key Ideas:*

*Quotable Quotes:*

## Activity #2

### Discovering: The Positive Core Part 1

#### Task 2: Groups of 8 with your Partner

45 minutes

**Purpose: To Begin Discovering What Helped Make Our Best Experiences Happen**

1. With your interview partner, gather with your table group.
2. Go around the circle, introduce your interview partner and share a couple of highlights from Questions 1-3 (2 minutes per person)
3. As you listen to the stories, what common themes do you hear? What seems to underpin the high-point experiences? What energizes you about what you are hearing? As you listen, begin to think about what you think is part of the positive core of this group, and of the Canton/Stark County community.
4. As a team, choose one story to share with the large group.

**Outcomes:** We are looking for meaningful stories, exciting images, inspirations, and quotable quotes.



### Activity #3

#### Discovery: The Positive Core Part 2

#### Task 3: Same Groups of 8 with your Partner

30 minutes

Post your posters by \_\_\_\_\_

**Purpose: To identify all of the energizing elements of the stories and best experiences.**

1. Based on all of the stories you have heard, identify what are the assets of this group and the Canton/Stark County community? What are the **8 or ten** things that are the very best (the positive core) about the people in this room and the Canton/Stark County community (schools, citizens, students, parents, business people, politicians, community leaders). What strengths, best practices, values, capabilities, etc. do we want to keep, even as things may change in the future?
2. Reduce your discussion to one Positive Core poster and add any great quotes you heard. Put your poster on the wall labeled "Flourishing Canton".

Note: Everything on your list should relate to an experience that at least one of you has had or heard, or a quality or life-giving force you shared. In other words, this is not a brainstorm of what **could** underpin success, but an exploration of what actually was **there** when the best experiences were happening.



## Activity #4

### Discovery: The Positive Core Part 3

#### Task 4 Walk through the Flowers

15 minutes

**Purpose:** Identify those themes, values, etc. that the group says generates the most energy.

1. Pick up 8 "sunflowers" each.
2. Walk around and visit all of the posters on "Flourishing Canton".
3. Put your sunflowers on the ideas, themes, etc. that give you the most energy; which you feel are the most important when you think about the Canton/Stark County community. You may put more than one dot per item.

Note: this is NOT about voting, or eliminating anything. It is getting a sense of where there is high energy.

**Positive Image - Positive Action**

**Images Inspire Action**



Human systems move in the direction of their images of the future.

The more positive and hopeful the image of the future, the more positive the present-day action.

Positive change occurs when the process used to create the change is a living model of the ideal future.

**Our Dreams become Our Reality**

## Chapter Two- Dream

**A dream is a wish your heart makes...**

- A dream is not about what is just possible, it is about what is BEST possible
- Dreams are fuzzy and fluffy ,and cloudy, and not easy to get your arms around
- A dream is more like a painting, and less like a photograph
- A dream is less like the picture on a driver's license, and more like a portrait
  
- Dreams reach us at our most emotional level- we call scary ones nightmares, but we find good ones full of hope
- Our purpose is to dream collectively and collaboratively- together
- Dream catchers
  
- A dream is like a stretch, "to infinity and beyond"
- The way dreams come to us is in many forms, and different for each of us, so we must make meaning of our dreams together, collectively, and find out what our dream means
  
- We are taking dreams and putting them into a picture, a dance, a song, a rap, or some form of expression



**"When I dream alone, it is just a dream.  
When we dream together, it is the beginning of reality.  
When we work together, following our dream, it is the Creation of Heaven on Earth "**

**- Adapted Brazilian Proverb**

## **Activity #5**

### **Dream: Images of Our Preferred Future**

1 Hour

**Purpose: To imagine a future you want to work toward - a future where everyone in Canton/Stark County is flourishing.**

1. Short guided imagery using the Flourishing Canton wall (5 minutes).
2. In your group, share the images, sounds and emotions you had in your mind when standing in the preferred future.
3. As a group, find a creative way to show those images and sounds: sketch, montage, song, dance or a rap. Use whatever approach and materials you choose.
4. Be prepared to share your creativity at \_\_\_\_\_. You will have 3-5 minutes to share your presentation.

## Activity #6

### Dreaming Bold Strategies

#### **Guidelines:**

1. Choose a Facilitator, timekeeper, recorder and reporter.
2. *Facilitator:* Begin the discussion by asking individuals to share their aspirations and dreams around you specific opportunity area.
  - Suggestion: Imagine that it is the year 2011. During the years 2006 to 2011, you and the others in this room and those they can influence have really made a difference! There are hundreds of examples of Flourishing Canton! What is happening? What strategies are the Canton/Stark County community engaged in? What are the results are we experiencing?
  - After everyone has had an opportunity to share, recall the "ingredients" you heard as others shared their aspirations and dreams.
  - Encourage group to begin to weave the threads of individual aspirations into a collective tapestry statement (in paragraph form), with a Canton Repository, New York Times or USA TODAY front page headline of 10 words or less, and the "photo" that accompanies the story. Strive for inclusion.
3. *Recorder:* Capture this work on newsprint as the group works on the aspiration statement. Once agreement is reached, transfer it to the laptop template.
4. *Reporter:* Be prepared to eloquently present the Headline/Aspiration Statement to the plenary group.

#### **Headline/Aspiration Statement: An Expression of Possibility**

As you develop your aspiration statement, make sure your statement is:

- Desired. Does it reflect what you really want?
- Bold and provocative. Is it a stretch that will attract and engage others?
- Affirmative. Is it stated as if it is happening now?
- Grounded. Is it grounded in reality and is it a real possibility?
- Unconditionally positive. Is it written in positive language? Will it bring out the best in people, the organization and the members it touches?

## Examples of Headlines/BOLD Aspiration Statements

- ◆ Utah absentee rates drop!
- ◆ Businesses beg to get into Ohio community!
- ◆ Joy of learning experienced by students-teachers can't keep them away!
- ◆ College graduates clamor for New Jersey jobs!
- ◆ New businesses flood Illinois community due to new programs!
- ◆ Ohio students in demand internationally!
- ◆ Nobel scientists visit Miami-asking, "How do they do it?"
- ◆ Ohio community partners create schools without walls!



## Chapter Three- Design

### If you can dream it, you can DO it...

- When you think of your first real house, what does it look like? You may have a dream house in your head
- How does the dream house happen? How does the picture in your mind (your dream) become the house you live in?
- What will it take to make your dream house actually exist in Canton/Stark County? What will it take to have a house with a kitchen and a closet where you put your clothes?
- Here is what needs to happen:
  - You need a lot of land with water and sewer and electric
  - You need a blue print
  - You need a contractor, carpenters, plumbers electricians, brick layers and, because it is a dream house, let's hire painters, wallpaper hangers AND designer/decorators and landscapers!
- How do we make "it" happen?
- "It" is finding out what people discover and dream that will become "Flourishing Canton"!



## Activity #7

### Design: How Do We Make It Happen?

(45 minutes plus report out)

**Purpose:** To take the Dream and identify project areas designs that would make it real.

1. At your tables, reflect on what emerged in Discovery and the images of our Dreams. Determine what Dream you connected with most.
2. Identify possible opportunities/initiatives that we could focus on to make it happen. Prioritize your top 3.
3. Prepare a 2- minute commercial to be announced to the group to encourage others to join you in a focused "Do It Group."
4. Listen to the commercials, join the "Do It" group that most interests you.

**Activity #8**  
**Do It Groups**

1. Identify the opportunity/initiative that this group has interest/passion about.
2. Conduct an Opportunity Plan Discussion.
3. Propose what you consider the key information and actions needed to begin your project.
4. Complete the Opportunity Next Steps form.

**Opportunity Next Steps**

Project Description/Vision (what): \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Case for Action (why): \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Tentative Timeline (when): \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Communications Plan: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Resources Needed/Offered: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## CHAPTER FOUR- DESTINY (DELIVERY)

**If you build it they will come...**

- Destiny is inventing a process that ensures we walk like we talk
- Destiny is figuring out how we will know we're doing our job- our job is really never quite done, because this AI approach mirrors life- it is a never-ending cycle
- It is a cycle like Lord of the Rings, Harry Potter, a soap opera, or the Olympics
- Each time something gets delivered, it generates more stories and aspirations, hopes and dreams
- Now we're at the checkout counter at the grocery store. What are we going to buy and take home with us?
- What ideas/strategies have we decided we can "stick our gum on"? What is the stuff we believe our "gum will stick to"?



Your vision will become clear only when you look into your heart. Who looks outside, dreams. Who looks inside, awakens.

-Carl Jung

## Activity #9

### Moving Into the Flourishing Canton Future

Creating our common flourishing future will happen with the commitment of everyone. Everyone's time is precious and we need everyone's involvement. Some opportunities interest you more than others. Many of you will have ideas on how you personally can move Canton/Stark County toward the Flourishing Place you envision. Please share.

Name: (optional) \_\_\_\_\_

Local: \_\_\_\_\_

1. What have you decided you need to go and do?  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. In the next week? \_\_\_\_\_
3. In the next three months? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. What about the "Flourishing Canton" Appreciative Inquiry strengths-based approach most enlivened you?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. What excites you most about introducing or using strengths-based approaches in your work, organization and/or personal life?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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6. What is one simple application idea or action you will do within the next 3 days?

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*"Don't ask yourself what the world needs;  
ask yourself what makes you come alive.  
And then go and do that.  
Because what the world needs is people who have come alive."*

-Harold Thurman Whitman

# FLOURISHING CANTON Conference

## Reflection and Valuation

Thinking back on the past three days and how we'll move forward, what:



Inspires you? \_\_\_\_\_

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Moves you? \_\_\_\_\_

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Surprises you? \_\_\_\_\_

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Challenges  
you? \_\_\_\_\_

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What aspects of the FLOURISHING CANTON Conference have you found most valuable?

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What wishes would you have to help make the next one even better?

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This workbook is based on materials developed and prepared by the Positive Change Corps. The Flourishing Canton workbook has been customized for the FLOURISHING CANTON Conversation by Joyce Lemke and Dr. Marge Schiller.