

## Economic Stability (Self-Sufficiency) Team – January 14, 2010

- The group wrestled with some tough issues.
- Do we need to change the name of the team? Is that name capturing the community's concerns about the number of young families having to work 2-3 jobs to make ends meet or the community's concern about whether aging citizens have the resources to make it and about young people having job opportunities here?
- What do we mean by self-sufficiency? The individual? The community?
- How do we articulate the outcome that would get us to where the community would like to go? Is it about increasing the number of livable wage jobs? Is it about young people staying or coming here? Is it about teaching people to cope with not having enough income?
- With Carroll County having the fewest livable wage jobs in the state, what does that mean for our families? How many families are living at a 'trauma' level (don't have a job that provides enough income to pay the bills)? Will Carroll County be able to achieve "live, work and thrive for all generations" without addressing this?
- Can another economic model such as bartering be part of the solution?
- Do we challenge ourselves to collaborate, cooperate, share, reach out, pay it forward?
- There is a cost pulled from the community when families are not earning a living wage [to fill the gap of not being self-sufficient]: is there another way to use those dollars to get a better result?

### Role of Action Team

- Bring your individual views & knowledge to the table, but the team is about your collective wisdom and serving the community – not one idea winning over another.
- The work will be about figuring out what we need to do differently in the community to get us to our desired goal. Our current ways of doing things get us to our present state. What do we need to do differently to reach our goals?

**Homework:** think about questions raised today. How do we articulate a goal for the families and individuals impacted by this action area?

**Next meeting: Thursday, February 11, 2010 at noon (time to be confirmed)**

- Continue conversation about goal
- Look at examples of how other communities have addressed this issue