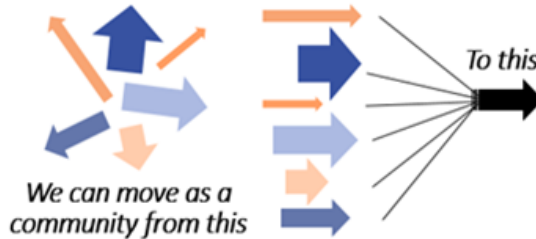




## DECEMBER 2021 NEWSLETTER



### *CRADLE TO CAREER MUNCIE ADOPTS NATIONAL MODEL OF COLLECTIVE IMPACT*

Collective Impact is needed when challenges are too complex for a single program or organization to move the needle. An example of a complex challenge is increasing economic mobility. Solutions to these challenges require effort that is community-wide, therefore keying in on the importance of collective impact.

The theory of collective impact involves having a common agenda, shared measurement system, mutually reinforcing activities, a backbone organization, and continuous communication. By putting all of these components together, a community can begin to make a larger impact that fits

the size of the complex problem.

Collaboration plays a key role in collective impact, but it is not the result. Collective Impact requires years of commitment to taking on the toughest work, silo-busting contributions, a new level of accountability, and a disciplined execution. This uses data for learning, continuous improvement and shared accountability, and focuses on the large-scale population-level results. To achieve collective impact, multiple sectors must contribute, and communities must measure their impact against national indicators in an effort to be accountable to themselves.

1. Focus on 10 results that make a big difference for low-income children
2. Measure progress on 15 indicators against baselines
3. Understand why the indicators are trending in the particular direction
4. Select partners for each indicator
5. Work with partners to develop selection criteria and identify solutions for each indicator

6. Entire team commits to population level targets by indicator
7. Select a mix of solutions for each indicator addressing families, programs, policies, and systems
8. Identify partner targets and performance measures, incorporate into action plans and begin implementation
9. Develop performance contracts with partners (if applicable)

#### *IN THIS ISSUE*

**CRADLE TO CAREER MUNCIE ADOPTS NATIONAL MODEL OF COLLECTIVE IMPACT**

**UPDATE: CRADLE TO CAREER INITIATIVE**

**PARTNER SPOTLIGHT: HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION CAN**

**PARTNER SPOTLIGHT: POSTSECONDARY SUCCESS CAN**



**RESULTS-BASED ACCOUNTABILITY PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATION CELEBRATION**

**IMPORTANT FOUNDATION DATES**

**FACILITATIVE LEADERSHIP**

**CHAMBER OF COMMERCE ANNUAL MEETING**

*Information on this page sourced from Promise Neighborhoods Institute at PolicyLink, Collective Impact in Action: Improving Results for Children from Cradle to Career*



## ***CRADLE TO CAREER: COLLABORATIVE ACTION NETWORK LEADERS WORK TOGETHER FOR COMMUNITY IMPACT***

The second Cradle to Career CAN Leader meeting took place at the Innovation Connector in October. At this meeting, the backbone shared key takeaways from the 2021 StriveTogether Network Annual Convening as well as shared the progress made by various CANs. In addition, CAN Leaders had the opportunity to share their experience with their peers, offering helpful tips and ideas. The meeting concluded with a brainstorming activity focused on identifying ways to gain community input.

CAN Leaders meet collectively bi-monthly, and individual CANs gather at a frequency defined by their group. In 2022, CAN Leaders will have the opportunity to learn from national experts at the StriveTogether Annual Convening, and potentially connect with the Harlem Children's Zone, which is a national model for equity and family-centered Cradle to Career community-building efforts.



## ***HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION COLLABORATIVE ACTION NETWORK KICKS OFF COLLECTIVE WORK TO RAISE GRADUATION RATES***

The High School Graduation Collaborative Action Network (CAN), led by Muncie Community Schools' Director of Public Education/CEO Dr. Lee Ann Kwiatkowski, met for the first time in September. During the CAN meeting, the group discussed the background and current state of Cradle to Career, discussed the importance of collective impact, set expectations, and mapped out a high school graduation ecosystem. The purpose of the ecosystem is to act as a living document that aims to build better understanding and helps to visualize current programs, initiatives, and organizations that contribute to improving high school graduation.

The current graduation rate data was shared, and the group began to take a deeper look into the story behind the data with school administrators. Next, the High School Graduation CAN will collect more data, set a major goal for high school graduation, as well as set contributing indicator goals that will guide the CAN in reaching their ultimate goal.

## ***IMPORTANT 2022 DATES FOR GFBF***

### **BOARD MEETINGS:**

**February 28, 2022**

Grant Deadline: January 28

**May 12, 2022**

Grant Deadline: April 12

**August 12, 2022**

Grant Deadline: July 12

**December 2, 2022**

Grant Deadline: November 2

\*Grant requests are reviewed the month between the deadline & corresponding Board Meeting. The Board makes final funding decisions at the meeting. Grant seekers should anticipate communication from GFBF within a month following the Board Meeting date.

### **COFFEE & CONVERSATION EVENTS:**

**January 14, 2022**

**April 1, 2022**

**July 1, 2022**

**October 21, 2022**

\*GFBF program staff hosts a quarterly meet and greet session that discusses upcoming grant deadlines and information, introduces types of data that grantees can access, and ways in which to use this data to demonstrate progress and impact for their organization.

## *CRADLE TO CAREER: POSTSECONDARY SUCCESS COLLABORATIVE ACTION NETWORK (CAN) BEGINS COLLECTIVE WORK*

The Postsecondary Success Collaborative Action Network (CAN), led by Ivy Tech Chancellor Jeff Scott, met in October for their first convening in a collective effort to raise the educational attainment level of Muncie residents. During the first meeting, the group discussed the background and current state of Cradle to Career, explored collective impact and the difference between non-essentialist and essentialist efforts. In understanding the baseline data surrounding educational attainment in the community, the group discussed the difference between being data informed versus data driven. The group is planning to move forward with the nationally-backed goal of 60%, but additional data is needed to inform the sub-goal locally. In addition, the group is gathering data to help inform the leading indicators they will ultimately measure in their efforts to turn the curve on their larger 60% educational attainment goal. The Postsecondary Success CAN convened again in November for their second CAN meeting.

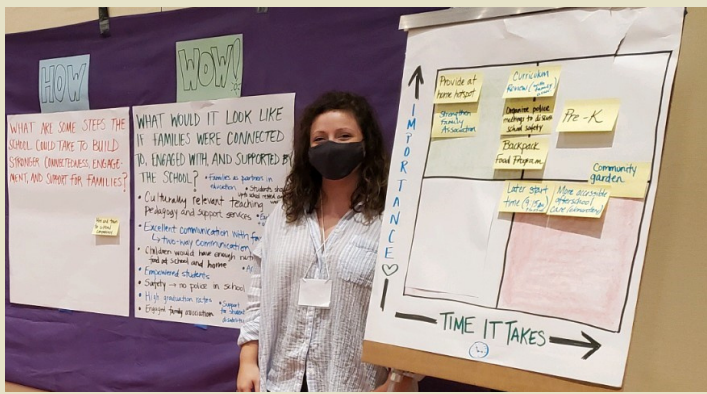


## *GFBF STAFF LEAD 51-PERSON GROUP THROUGH RESULTS-BASED ACCOUNTABILITY PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATION PROGRAM*

This summer, 51 nonprofit leaders representing 13 different organizations enrolled in Clear Impact's Results-Based Accountability (RBA) Professional Certification course online. This was an opportunity made possible by grants from the George and Frances Ball Foundation. In addition to completing the internationally recognized course, participants attended three collaborative learning sessions facilitated by GFBF staff. These sessions allowed partners to better understand the RBA program, and to meet and learn from peer nonprofit leaders from outside of their organization who were also participating in the course.

By the end of the program, the anticipated outcome was for each organization to have a shared language and better understanding of how to use data to evaluate and advance their work and mission. Clear Impact's Results-Based Accountability Professional Certification course was a major time commitment and all participants should be commended for their dedication. This commitment demonstrates that the understanding of RBA principles and the implementation of "turn the curve" thinking is a higher priority for local nonprofit leaders. In October, a celebration was held at Minnetrista to celebrate participants progress in or completion of the course. All 51 participants anticipate completing the RBA course by the end of 2021. Once completed, each individual will be officially certified in RBA, and have a finished "turn the curve" action plan that that can be implemented at their individual organizations.





## ***BROWN COUNTY, INDIANA: A SPECIAL PLACE FOR GEORGE AND FRANCES BALL AND A LEARNING OPPORTUNITY FOR GEORGE AND FRANCES BALL FOUNDATION STAFF***

Nashville, located in Brown County Indiana, is a popular destination for individuals and families to go and enjoy the beautiful scenery and quaint shops. It's an especially popular place during the fall when the trees' leaves are turning rich yellow, orange, and red colors. The G.A. Ball family also enjoyed this Hoosier treasure. However, George and Frances were better known for going in April to see the blooming dogwood trees.

This September, the George and Frances Ball Foundation staff had the opportunity to visit Brown County, Indiana for a three-day Facilitative Leadership training offered by Purdue University. Throughout the three-day

retreat-style workshop, the GFBF program staff was able to "practice leadership strategies using the tools, techniques, and verbal skills necessary to lead group discussions, reach consensus, set-outcome based goals and use recording tools. In addition, process tools for brainstorming, analyzing ideas, decision-making, and planning were shared."

Both Kortney and Kelsey had to plan and lead 10-minute and 45-minute small group facilitations and receive directed feedback for improvement from workshop instructors and colleagues. The GFBF team, equipped with these new skills, will continue to facilitate the forward progress of the Cradle to Career Muncie initiative.

**For more information about Purdue University's Facilitative Leadership Training, visit: ([purdue.edu](http://purdue.edu))** - Pictured : Kelsey Harrington, Program Associate and Kortney Zimmerman, Program Officer after both of their 45 minute facilitations

## ***MUNCIE DELAWARE COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE ANNUAL MEETING***

The George and Frances Ball Foundation staff and a number of Board Members attended the 2021 Chamber of Commerce Annual Meeting in October. Kelsey Harrington, Program Associate at GFBF, is one of four newly appointed members of the Muncie Delaware County Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors. Kelsey will also serve as Vice Chair of Image.

Kelsey had the honor to present Chancellor Jeff Scott and the Ivy Tech team with the Outstanding Contributions in Education Award. Ivy Tech continues to innovate and partner with the community to provide excellent and equitable educational opportunities for students across Delaware and Henry Counties.



For more information, please contact us at [admin@gfballdn.org](mailto:admin@gfballdn.org) or visit us at [www.gfballdn.org](http://www.gfballdn.org).

*George Ball*



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*Frances Ball*