

## FROM VISIONING TO RESULTS

### We Can Do It

Since 1999, the year I began serving as Executive Director of Healthy Community Coalition, I have witnessed some dramatic changes in the Greater Franklin County Area. Committed community members have responded to the priorities from our Visionings over the years, with vastly expanded mental health and crisis services, access to care, prescription assistance programs, dental services, and many other services and programs. There are literally dozens of examples of major improvements in our community directly the result of our Visioning.

As people realize that Visioning brings results, more and more people in the community have begun to participate. At the Visioning 6 years ago, about 300 people participated; then two years ago, more than 800 contributed their perspective on priorities for health in the region. This year more than 1200 people have already participated in Visioning, not counting those of you joining our conference today.

The value of participation goes beyond its value to Visioning. The real value is that participation demonstrates and reinforces our community's belief in our inherent possibilities. By Visioning together, our community expresses the belief that "We can do it". We can work together to understand our problems and challenges, and we can work together to solve them. There is no substitute for the simple power of believing in ourselves as a community.

Today we will use our "We Can Do It" resolve for our newest priorities from this year's Visioning: **improving nutrition; expanding physical activity; improving economic stability; and helping people gain access to health care**. Today we will learn from our colleagues and neighbors who are making tremendous impact already in these areas. And we will encourage each other to think and contribute even more.

I encourage you to brainstorm creative and innovative ways to harness the enthusiasm of your family, friends, neighbors, and coworkers, to systematically address one of our four identified priorities. Healthy Community Coalition has put together a *Visioning Tool Kit* that we hope is helpful in this process. The *Visioning Tool Kit* takes you through a series of questions and activities that have proven successful in producing community-level outcomes. Before you leave here, I hope you will all make the commitment to take an idea you've heard about or thought of today and bring it back two years from now to report "WE DID IT!"

With Thanks To You All,  
Leah Binder  
Executive Director, Healthy Community Coalition  
Vice President, Franklin Community Health Network