

The Community Foundation of Southern Indiana surveyed Clark and Floyd county residents, nonprofit community service organizations, business and community leaders, and our own fund holders to develop strategic community goals based on needs and priorities. Information from the needs assessment report will be used to guide the Community Foundation in its grant making to support the community’s greatest needs and highest priorities. Basic human needs, education and workforce development, healthful living, economy, arts and culture, and community building were the areas highlighted in the report. While respondents shared that they are proud of this community, its history and culture and they feel safe and enjoy opportunities to engage in the community, they also recognize that more needs to be done to better meet the needs of local residents and build an educated workforce and a strong economy.

Community Perceptions of Needs and Priorities

Community Building Priorities for Southern Indiana

- 1 – Mentoring programs for adults to mentor children
- 2 – Opportunities for youth to engage in voluntary associations (for example: 4-H, Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts)
- 3 – Neighborhood activities
- 4 – Peer mentoring programs for youth
- 5 – Group activities for seniors

When people speak about “feeling a sense of community” they are referring to a sense of shared identity and values that makes them feel like the group is working together to achieve shared goals.

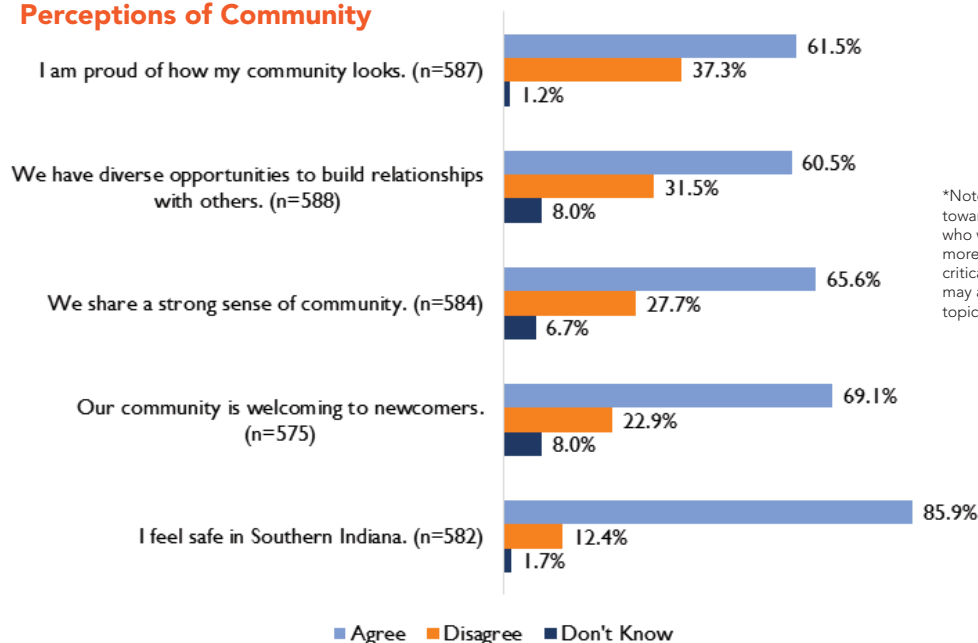
- Elements that define community or social capital appear to be strong among respondents in Clark and Floyd counties.
- Both counties have a slightly lower voluntary association rate than the state as whole, but respondents still see opportunity for building relationships with others.

When asked to prioritize specific relationship or social capital building priorities, a strong focus on youth emerged.

- Middle to older age adults support youth development and may be excellent candidates for volunteering in such programs.
- Among seniors, 52.3% indicate group activities for seniors should be a priority.

Clark and Floyd counties are strong communities with a number of opportunities for youth and adults to engage and build relationships. Building on these strengths to support youth development, neighborhood communities, and group activities for senior citizens will improve quality of life and ensure that strong social ties and local commitment remain strong.

Perceptions of Community



*Note: The high levels of social capital and positive feelings toward the community may reflect some self-selection. People who were willing to complete the survey may be people who have more positive feelings about the community. That said, we found critical responses on a number of items and know that surveys may also attract those with strong negative feelings about the topic of the survey.

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