

COMMUNITY CONVERSATION

In 2014 there were 34 Community Conversations with over 500 citizens that resulted in 6 common themes.

Below is a brief overview of the public knowledge generated by Salina Area United Way from your conversations...

Themes	Aspirations	Barriers	What's Working
Local Leadership	Mature, representative leadership who are willing to communicate and work collaboratively.	Lack of engagement with citizens. Local leaders are not willing to listen to their constituents and act on their behalf. Poor decisions have resulted in negative media coverage for the community.	Grassroots efforts to make local change have been successful. Recent work to grow new, young leaders has been fruitful.
Community Connection	Neighbors and organizations are connected, and know and value all of the diverse activities that happen in Salina.	No "one-stop-shop" location for all things community. Too many media outlets for organizations to reasonably list events and information.	There are many activities and great events happening. Our local cultural arts and entertainment scene is well respected and has been extremely successful.
Vision for Salina Community	A general lack of a vision for Salina has led to slow economic, population, and local business growth.	Lack of cooperation and unwillingness to get along among local leaders, entities, organizations and agencies has slowed our growth.	New public leadership who are willing to listen. Local agencies are actively engaging citizens in a variety of ways to help bring their ideas to the public. City-Go mentioned as successful.
Stronger Family Supports	Resources which help families become stronger and more stable.	Community members who are interested in providing support do not know how to help.	There are new programs in the community including Circles, JAG, Partners 4 Success, and HOME at SATC.
Employers Value Families	Employers publicly and regularly support family activities of their employees	Employers are not engaged in the family lives of their employees. Too much focus on bottom-line rather than stable, productive employees.	There are a few employers who are known for their work/family balance policies. Employers are becoming more actively involved in promoting community service work in/through the workplace.
Safety	A safe place to live with activities for youth is very important.	Transportation to after-school activities. Drug activity and lack of coordinated mental health services mentioned repeatedly.	People feel that law enforcement and fire services are very high quality. There is a general need to feel safe, but most do not feel "unsafe" in our community.

Our work with Community Conversations continues in 2015. Mini Conversations are being held with Community Leaders and there are over 12 Community Conversations planned for 2015. For more details on the results, go to www.unitedwaysalina.org/communityconversation

