

And the Winner Is ...

Everyone!

Kudos and many thanks go to the **Sarasota Against Violence (SAVE)**, United Sarasota, the Sarasota Library System, the United Way of Manatee, the United Way of the Suncoast, SCOPE and Drug Free DeSoto teams.

At our [Aspirations to Actions](#) Innovation Space session in April, these teams "stood on the table" and shared what they have learned over the past 18 months while engaging their communities in the [Harwood](#) practice



Hannah Coval (L) presents for the SAVE - **Sarasota Against Violence** - Team, and Paul Sutton (R) provides additional support.

The presentations were rich in hope, thought, and learning, and great quotes emerged throughout the day.

"Our thinking about this work shifted from a linear process, to a circular practice: We do, learn, things change, and we try something new."

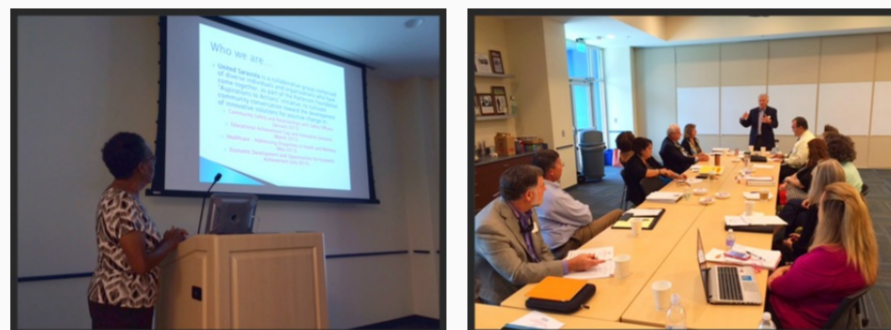
"We have lots of ways that we connect and work with each other, but this is different; we need to keep doing this."

"This work has broadened our definition of community."

"Focusing on people's aspirations helps people be engaged, have belief, and commitment."

"It's this thing that I DO...I don't call it Aspirations to Actions. I listen differently."

"It's a journey. In a nutshell, I like the awesome ride."



Mary Mack (L), leading the United Sarasota Team, shared a PowerPoint that provided an overview of how they have engaged the community. *Aspirations to Actions Guide* Bill Little (R) facilitates a discussion on "bringing it all together."

"It helps us focus on the road, not the windshield wipers."

"I've been all over the place looking at partnerships and challenged to bring people together. I have my roller skates on."

"It's embedded in your DNA."



Partnerships in action - *Aspirations to Actions Guide* Mike Mansfield works with the SCOPE and United Sarasota teams to plan for the future. Mike Mansfield (L) and our Harwood Coach Bill Booth (R) are all smiles after a great session.

"I've become a better listener."

"We don't track how many people we have had conversations with because it's just become what we do."

"The sky's the limit!"

We couldn't have said it better ourselves. Carry on!

WORD!

The Harwood practice - and we all know that practice makes perfect -- gives us a roadmap to travel and words to help us describe the trip.

1. **Intentionality** - Develop a mindset and ongoing practice of making decisions grounded in 3 foundational concepts:

- Turning Outward
- Aspirations
- The 3 A's of Public Life: Authority, Accountability and Authenticity

2. **Public Knowledge** - Talk to your community (Community Conversations) about what they want - their aspirations -- for their community. Share the knowledge to build community ownership and public will.

3. **Innovation Spaces** - Come together and learn from fellow innovators. Share, build networks, measure progress on community conditions.

4. **Strategies and Plans** that fit the community context - Drawing upon what you have learned, decide what actions you will take on your own and with others while factoring in the stage of community life and underlying conditions required for change to occur.

5. **Act on Issues and Community Conditions** - Take actions. Promote ripple effects: New pockets of action, new partners, new stories and narratives of change.

REPEAT!

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Blogosphere

In case you missed these ...

The [Aspirations to Actions Initiative blog](#) has been active! Read on ...

Bill Booth's [The Harwood Institute's approach becomes part of fabric of community](#)

Mary Mack's [Accepting the challenge to bring people together](#)

Hannah Coval's [Being a catalytic converter in our community](#)

Mary Mack's [United Sarasota looks to the future of aspirations to actions](#)

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