Greetings to you,                                        December 12, 2024

The Human Community Network has been working through 15 years of research in which we asked hundreds of people hundreds of questions to get their views on the reality of the world we live in, the underlying situation we face, and the new directions required to address the suffering and injustices in the human community. Many of you have been a part of that from time to time.

In that context we shifted from research alone to the services necessary to heal, connect, and prepare the human community for the transition happening now. We also sought various ways to demonstrate authentic community in practical forms for our time of history. NOW is the time and circumstance for a bold experiment in working with caring people in Oklahoma to create a pilot for how these things can be done here. We are calling it the “OKLAHOMA CONGRESS”: a new form of deliberation, and a new form of working together to change the social systems of care.

Why do we think this is a plausible direction for that type of change? We have worked over the years with about 30 or so statewide networks, directly or indirectly, who are already caring for the human community by addressing specific issues. We are supporting those essential social networks by connecting them to each other through the Regional Conferences and the Oklahoma Congress. This connection enables them to more effectively address suffering and injustices found in the 24 bio-geographic regions in the State of Oklahoma. These regions were defined by geographic size to enable everyone in each region to be within close travel distance and share something of a bio-geographic commonality.

We wanted to share with you work the Human Community Network is doing to address these questions and concerns. It is clear we must take the long view to bring about the changes needed to care for the human community in Oklahoma, but it is also clear there is an immediate urgency about the situation. What we have outlined here can only happen if we work together now to make it happen in Oklahoma. How would things look should we do this in other states as well? What would be different if the human community and its environment were the basis of economic, cultural and political decisions?

More information can be provided to you about this work if you are interested, but allow us, for now, to sketch out the picture of how we **can** care for the human community. We can do this by working with people like you, as well as others, who are involved in many social networks and organizations caring for different aspects of suffering and injustices in Oklahoma.

When told about one statewide network of 120,000 people we asked: “What would Oklahoma be like if those 120,000 people were connected at a deeper and more profound level than their membership in that network?” The immediate answer that came back was: “Oklahoma would be transformed!”

This process enables these social networks to expand their capability and power in caring for the human community. It is an on-going process happening annually that incorporates more and more input from the local communities ultimately building a healthy relationship for working together to address all of the problems of suffering and injustice in the State of Oklahoma.

**The Realistic Timeframe of Work Flow is:**

**2025: PREP**

In working with the social networks mentioned above we found they all need more money, more time, more people, and more power to be successful. They are already concerned with human suffering and injustices in every region of the state. Our service enables and empowers these networks by connecting them to each other and expanding their reach in all of the regions of Oklahoma.

These social networks include:

\* Non-Profit Organizations

           \* Civic Engagement Organizations

           \* Political Organizations

\* Coalition Organizations and Associations addressing

- systemic issues related to food distribution,

- voter participation,

- poverty, etc.

\* Faith-based community outreach efforts

\* Legislative, Policy and Advocacy coalitions

 **2025-2026: 24 REGIONAL CONFERENCES**

The work with the social networks is to prepare for a Regional Conference in all 24 bio-geographical regions of the State. The Regional Conference brings these networks together in each region. Not all networks will necessarily have people in all regions, but enough of them will be able to bring together a core of people from their respective networks to do a Regional Conference. The format for the Regional Conference is one that has been well tested in many different nations, economies, political systems, and cultural situations.

**2026-2027: THE OKLAHOMA CONGRESS**

The beneficial outcomes of these Regional Conferences will be in four directions: 1) expanding this deliberative process to more local communities within that region; 2) constructing together a common understanding of the human situation in that region, discerning the underlying reality that prevents change in that situation, and new directions necessary to address those underlying realities; 3) connecting local people in that region to one or more of the social networks; 4) preparing the region for the Oklahoma Congress where all 24 regions come together. The Oklahoma Congress is our name for the convergence of all the networks and the twenty-four regions at a statewide level to deliberate how best to shape the Oklahoma future.

The purpose of the Oklahoma Congress is to discern the critical decisions and actions based on the results of the Regional Conferences and Local Conferences. This would take the form of 1) a call for required new laws; 2) a call for required new policies; 3) a call for necessary administrative changes; 4) resolving to repeal detrimental old laws; 5) resolving to repeal harmful old policies; 6) validating the new deliberation process of the Regional Conferences; 7) establishing a new narrative for the future of Oklahoma. The Oklahoma Congress empowers all of the social networks in their own mission, expands the number of involved people, develops more sources of financial support, and projects more power as a statewide network connected and organized in all regions of the State.

**2025-2030**

These Regional Conferences continue to monthly engage more local communities in their region, yet always pointing to the annual Oklahoma Congress. Together this will produce a sustainable movement capable of effectively dealing with suffering and injustices present in each region of the State of Oklahoma and the State as a whole.

This process is replicable for any state. Rather than focusing on the “public form” the focus is on connecting those who are already caring for the human community and empowering their capacity. Many of these social networks are also nationwide and along with many other national networks could play a crucial role in doing this in other states.

 Based upon our experience of the people and networks with whom we work, we know people care about the whole human community. We know people are very concerned about so many things at so many different levels. We know people care deeply about suffering and injustices happening to people close by and far away. We see how complex it is to get anything done that is more than just a band-aid. It is very difficult to know exactly what to do or how to even begin to do something that would make a difference. The needed changes seem so vast to deal with the suffering. This situation is why we are embarking upon this experiment.

Perhaps this gives you an idea of what we are doing and why. If you are interested in being a part of this effort let us know. Volunteers are needed from all walks of life, all ages, and all disciplines. Financial commitments are needed to cover the costs of training, materials, travel, communication, and technology.  The declaration of a new narrative for the human community needs to be passed on to all people. In addition to all of that, we need to connect you with all the others who are signing on. THIS CAN BE DONE!

Let’s get this done for the sake of our children and grandchildren and the world in which they will be living!

Email us: humancommunitynetwork@gmail.com; text or call us if you want to come to the “Gathering of Care,” be involved, or want to support this effort:

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