



on the table<sup>®</sup>  
greater akron



Family Discussion Guide

Thank you for participating in *On the Table Greater Akron* with your family. You will be part of an exciting, communitywide initiative in our region that brings diverse residents together at family dinner tables, local restaurants, church basements, community centers, classrooms and more. Community members of all ages will come together to discuss how we can make our neighborhoods stronger, safer and more dynamic.

We are so glad you have decided to join us!

# ABOUT *ON THE TABLE* GREATER AKRON

People coming together to discuss the issues that matter most to them has never been more important. When we listen, learn and work together, we can make a difference. *On the Table* will connect individuals and communities of diverse perspectives and backgrounds to do just that.

**What you do matters** – and at Akron Community Foundation, we believe your voice does, too. On Oct. 3, 2017, your family will join thousands of others throughout the region who are coming together to have conversations about what matters to them. By learning from and with each other, we have the power to impact both neighborhoods and lives.both neighborhoods and lives.

## Why participate in *On the Table*?

*On the Table Greater Akron* is also an excellent learning opportunity – a great way to learn about other perspectives, explore ways to become more engaged in your community and have fun as a family. *On the Table* can help your family:

- Make a difference in your community or for the causes you care about.
- Get to know your neighbors and others in the community.
- Have fun and learn together.

## Having the Conversation

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During your *On the Table* conversation, share what inspires you, the causes you care about, and the ways your family can play a role in strengthening our region. Your family's conversation will depend on your interests, the ages of the children involved, and your family situation. No matter the conversation, the goal is to give everyone a chance to voice their opinions about how to improve our community together.

Before your discussion, prepare your children for *On the Table* by letting them know you will be having a conversation about your community. You may even take a walk around your neighborhood to help them understand and define its boundaries and characteristics. Let your children know they are part of a special event where people across the region are gathering to discuss their hopes, dreams and desires for our community.

Here are some tips to guide the conversation:

**First: Please record the names and emails of each adult guest (age 18+). Make sure you have a count of the number of guests. This information will ONLY be used for the *On the Table* email survey.**

- **Share the reasons you care about your community.** Start by asking everyone to share one positive memory or story about your community coming together — such as a church picnic, family reunion in a local park, or a neighborhood festival. What are the key characteristics of a great neighborhood? What are the positive characteristics or qualities of your community? What are the needs of your community?

- **Develop your child's understanding of civic responsibility.** Ask your child to consider the duties and obligations that come with belonging to a community. What does it mean to work for the common good? What actions can a person take to help improve their community?
- **Ask your family members what they care about.** What cause does each family member care about — and why? Are there issues or problems in your neighborhood that worry or concern you? Do you have an idea to help your school, community or neighbors? What can you do alone or as a family to make a difference in your school, neighborhood or community?
- **Who is responsible for creating and sustaining great communities?** What is your role as a parent, child, student, teacher, etc.? What can you do to be more civically involved in your community? What is one thing you could do to help another person? What might you do to connect with people outside your community?

## Sharing Your Experiences

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### **Email or mail participants' names and emails to Akron Community Foundation after your conversation.**

We want to hear from you! We hope *On the Table* sparks more civic pride, more collaboration, and greater progress in our region. Share your success stories, challenges and ideas with us:

- At [www.OnTheTableAkron.com](http://www.OnTheTableAkron.com) or through social media (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram) using #OnTheTableAkron
- Leave a voicemail message with us at 330-376-8522
- Send us a note at:  
Akron Community Foundation  
345 W. Cedar St.  
Akron, OH 44307

## 5 Guidelines for Having an Open Dialogue

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1. Listen carefully and treat one another with respect.
2. Give each person a chance to talk without interruption.
3. Speak for yourself. Don't try to speak for others.
4. If you feel hurt by what someone says, speak up and explain why.
5. It's OK to disagree.

## Taking Action

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After your *On the Table* conversation, you may want to develop an action plan to address the ideas your family discussed. To get started, here are two ways you can focus your efforts on a specific cause or issue that everyone cares about:

### **What organizations are you involved with?**

Consider volunteering for or donating to a place where your family is already connected — like your child's school, your place of worship, or a favorite museum or park. This will allow your children to directly observe the real impact of your family's efforts.

### **What activities do you enjoy?**

Brainstorm activities your family already enjoys. There are many community service activities you can do together. For example, you may decide to volunteer at a community garden, participate in a charity walk or run, foster an animal from a local shelter, or sign up for a community service project.

## We want to hear from you!

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Be sure to visit [www.OnTheTableAkron.com](http://www.OnTheTableAkron.com) to **register your event**. Registered hosts will get a Host Toolkit and conversation guide.

**Following *On the Table*, please ask adult participants (age 18+) to complete a short survey.** The survey is available in both electronic and paper formats. Your responses will help us all better understand the needs, passions and opportunities in our community.



## *About Akron Community Foundation*

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Celebrating 62 years of building community philanthropy, Akron Community Foundation embraces and enhances the work of charitable people who make a permanent commitment to the good of the community. In 1955, a \$1 million bequest from the estate of Edwin Shaw established the community foundation. As of March 31, 2017, it is a philanthropic endowment of nearly \$202 million with a growing family of 560 funds established by charitable people and organizations

from all walks of life. The community foundation and its funds welcome gifts of all kinds, including cash, bequests, stock, real estate, life insurance and retirement assets, just to name a few. To date, the community foundation's funds have awarded more than \$139 million in grants to qualified nonprofit organizations. For more information about Akron Community Foundation or to learn more about creating your own charitable fund, call 330-376-8522 or visit [www.akroncf.org](http://www.akroncf.org).

### *For more information:*

[www.OnTheTableAkron.com](http://www.OnTheTableAkron.com)

**EMAIL:** [Info@OnTheTableAkron.com](mailto:Info@OnTheTableAkron.com)

**PHONE:** 330-376-8522

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**FACEBOOK:** [www.facebook.com/AkronCommunityFoundation](http://www.facebook.com/AkronCommunityFoundation)

**INSTAGRAM:** [@AkronCF](https://www.instagram.com/AkronCF)

**YOUTUBE:** [www.youtube.com/AkronCommunityFdn](http://www.youtube.com/AkronCommunityFdn)