

Chattahoochee Valley *On the Table* Participants: Hopeful and Motivated about the Future

2019 Community Foundation of the Chattahoochee Valley *On the Table* participants who completed the post-conversation survey feel positive about their community and hopeful about what the future holds. They are highly empowered to make change and motivated by wanting the community to be stronger for future generations.

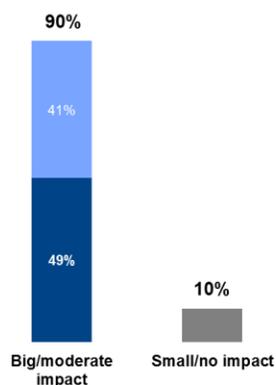
A Sense of Optimism: *On the Table* participants feel positive about their community and express hope for the future.

- ✓ Majorities of participants agree that their community is the perfect place for them (82%), that residents have shared goals and priorities (76%), and that their community provides opportunities for everyone (65%). Two in three (65%) believe that their community is more united than divided.
 - Perceptions of unity vary by race and region: white participants (72%) view their community as more united than do participants of color (54%), and South Muscogee County participants see their community as more divided (52%) than united (48%).
- ✓ A strong majority (76%) feel more hopeful than worried about what the future holds, and 71% believe their community will be a better place to live in five years.

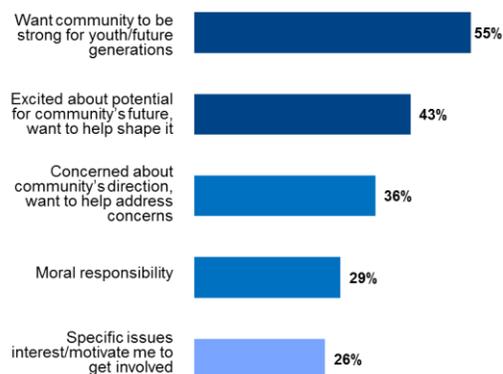
A Path to Change: Participants feel empowered to make positive change in their community, and they are motivated by their excitement rather than by concerns for the future.

- ✓ Nine in 10 (92%) say it is essential or very important that members from across the area come together to discuss solutions to community challenges, and equally high proportions (91%) are confident that residents can come together to address issues and challenges affecting the area in a positive way.
- ✓ Fully 90% of participants believe that people like them can have an impact on making their community a better place to live.
- ✓ Wanting their community to be stronger for future generations (55%) is the biggest motivator for community involvement; more participants feel motivated by their excitement about their community's future (43%) than their concerns about where the community is heading (36%).

Impact people like me can have in making my community a better place:



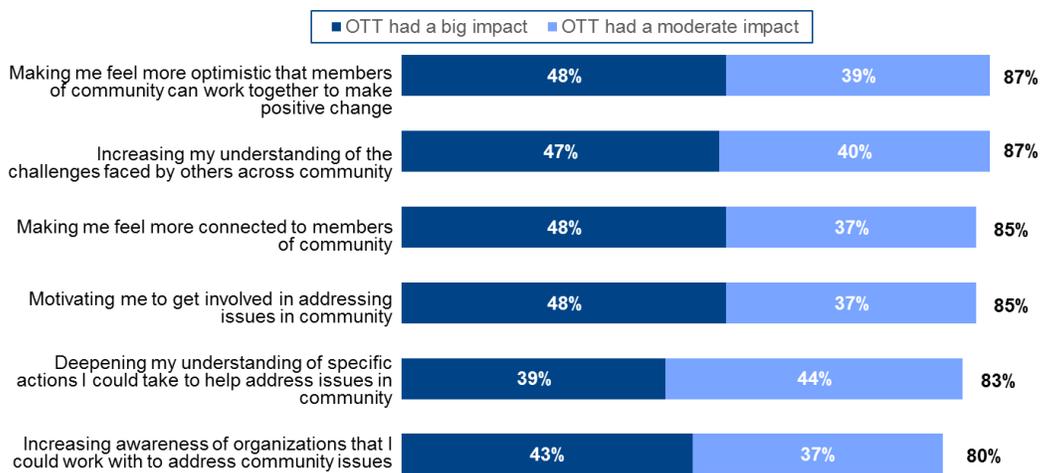
TWO most motivating reasons to be involved and engaged in my community



- ✓ Participants are most interested in volunteering in a service event (47%) and joining a small group that meets regularly to discuss important issues (39%) as ways to get involved in their community.
- ✓ Not having enough time is the most commonly cited barrier to greater involvement (38%). More than one in five (23%) say they are unsure how to get involved or where to find out about opportunities to be involved.

On The Table Impact: More than nine in 10 (92%) participants say they are likely to take a specific action regarding an issue or solution they discussed at *On the Table*. Significant majorities say *On the Table* has positive impacts in a variety of ways, including increased optimism about making positive change and a heightened understanding and sense of connection with fellow community members.

My participation in the *On the Table* conversation had a BIG/MODERATE IMPACT on:



About the participants: More than two in five (42%) 2019 participants also participated in 2018 *On the Table* conversations. A strong majority (83%) say they are very or somewhat involved in their community and neighborhood activities, and 57% have spoken with an elected official within the past year. About one in three (32%) have a connection to Fort Benning.

On October 22, 2019, the Community Foundation of the Chattahoochee Valley hosted its 2019 On the Table conversations with generous support from the Knight Foundation. Community Foundation of the Chattahoochee Valley estimates that approximately 6,000 adults participated in the conversations. This memo presents key findings among 816 adults who participated in On the Table conversations and completed the post-conversation survey. The survey was conducted online and via paper by Hart Research Associates and Public Opinion Strategies.