

# **Community Data 2.0: A Community-Wide Rebooting**

March 15, 2012

## **THE HISTORY:**

Since our beginnings in 2001, SCOPE has devoted itself to bringing the community of Sarasota County together around data, through:

- Annual community report cards
- People Count reports of census data, and
- Study group reports on various community challenges.

Through these efforts, the people of Sarasota County have joined together to clarify and reflect upon local, present-day realities. In these ways, our community has been able to better identify next steps and take action for positive change.

## **THE CHALLENGE:**

Over time, we have come to appreciate that there are some central questions that, when considered, increase the likelihood that community data efforts will make a real difference in the life of our community.

- Are we generating and gathering data about the things we most care about?
- Are we considering various kinds of data?
- Are we examining data at the appropriate scale?
- Are we looking at the data at the appropriate frequency?
- Are we connecting data about community well-being to data about intentional efforts to bring about positive community change?
- Are we incorporating innovative technologies to collect and examine data?
- Are we clear about who the “we” is when we ask ourselves these questions?

## **THE OPPORTUNITY:**

In response to these questions, our approach to data has been evolving – both at SCOPE and elsewhere in the community. In March, we will be convening once again to examine the ways we generate, gather, and exchange data in order to understand ourselves better as a community. We hope that this will be another step toward forming a Sarasota County Community Data Collaborative.

We will gather together as people of North Port in Sarasota County who are living in various neighborhoods, working in various professions and sectors, and serving as stewards of various datasets.

Together, we aim to begin:

- Re-examining our community aspirations & anticipated community outcomes
- Refreshing some community indicators specific to this place
- Identifying preliminary steps for the formation of a local Community Data Collaborative

If you choose to attend -- and we hope you do-- you will have opportunities to:

- Reconnect with the rich history of data efforts in Sarasota County
- Contribute to the re-forming of questions and collaborations to advance community efforts
- Nominate others whose involvement will be important as efforts continue to develop

## **THE DETAILS:**

We will be convening on Thursday, March 15 from 8 a.m. to noon at the **Morgan Family Community Center** located at 6207 West Price Boulevard in North Port. To register, please contact Maureen Hadden at SCOPE by email at [mhadden@scopexcel.org](mailto:mhadden@scopexcel.org) or by phone at 941.365.8751.

You will find a copy of **Community Indicators** online at <http://www.planning.org/pas/reports/subscribers/pdf/PAS517.pdf>. This is a report by Rhonda Phillips issued by the American Planning Association. Reading it in advance will help to inform our discussions on March 15.

Also, do you know of others here in Sarasota County whose participation could make a meaningful difference in the effort? If so, please forward this message to them as well. We look forward to working together soon.