

Community Heart & Soul®

— Guided by what matters most —

Praise for Community Heart & Soul

Here is what community volunteers, mayors, council members, planners, city managers and foundation leaders have to say about Community Heart & Soul®:

“Our foundation has been leading effective community engagement since 2005. We believe strongly that local decision making is key to building strong, sustainable communities. With Orton’s experience, support, and resources like the Community Heart & Soul Field Guide, **we see an opportunity to move our work from good to great.**”

» Nancy Van Milligen, president and chief executive officer, Community Foundation of Greater Dubuque
Dubuque, Iowa

“Our partnership with Orton to bring Heart & Soul® to small towns in Hancock County has changed the way the Community Foundation does business in a powerful way by making our **grant-making less transactional and more transformational.**”

» Julie Brown, program director, The Findlay-Hancock County Community Foundation
Findlay, Ohio

“In my 30 years of work with small towns, I have never seen a legacy effort shape and **build leaders as effectively as Heart & Soul does.**”

» Sherry Ristau, president and chief executive officer, Community Foundation of the Great River Bend in the Quad Cities of Illinois and Iowa, and trustee, Orton Family Foundation
Bittendorf, Iowa

“The power of Heart & Soul is that it **created a critical mass of positivity** that overcame old differences that had become obstacles in the community.”

» John Alden, planning commissioner
Essex Junction, Vermont



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“Heart and Soul helped us instill confidence in investors and secure grants. How did this happen? It starts with the first guiding principle of the Heart and Soul process: involve everyone. One of the things I see **the private sector...looks for is a level of certainty when they invest in a community,** and that level of certainty means something.”

» Daniel Stevenson, economic development director,
City of Biddeford, Maine

“You know what I love about Heart & Soul? People feel they can be proud of McComb. I’ve already seen so much good...and it’s just the start!

» Angela Crist
Findlay, Ohio

“The fabric of a community is built by its volunteers. By placing volunteers front and center, the Heart & Soul process has helped to weave the fabric of our community.”

» Mike Bestor, city manager
Golden, Colorado

“The Heart & Soul process really provides us with a framework for how to collect input from residents and how to use the input that we get from the town. It’s been great.”

» Robin Mayer, selectboard member
Damariscotta, Maine

“If you really want to take an in-depth look at what matters to the members of your community and create a stronger, more cohesive community, Heart & Soul’s the way to go.”

» Thom Harnett, mayor
Gardiner, Maine

Heart & Soul is a positive disruptive force in most communities. It causes residents to turn out for meetings and conversations...in ways that are outside traditional norms.

» Doug Easterling, Ph.D., Department of Social Sciences and Health Policy,
Wake Forest School of Medicine



“We are creating **successful economic development that pays tribute to...where we come from**. Without that base, we risk becoming "some revitalized city" instead of an evolving Biddeford with culture and flavor and strengths that need to be maintained while adding the new.”

» Delilah Poupore, executive director, Heart of Biddeford
Biddeford, Maine

“When the Montana Co-op was looking for Food Hub locations in Polson...we **looked at the values people presented during the Heart & Soul** program. The number one item mentioned...was that Polson needed **a place for the kids** to hang out; an activity and event center. We’re now fulfilling many other needs of the community, with exercise, education classes, and **getting our youth hooked on good things.**”

» Jason Moore, founder and president, Montana Co-op
Polson, Montana

