On May 10, 2016, The Chicago Community Trust convened residents across the Chicago area for the 3rd Annual “On the Table” conversations.

The Fathers Families & Healthy Communities (FFHC) organization were invited to host a number of these conversations. The FFHC reached out to the Jane Addams Resource Corporation (JARC) as one of the partnering organizations to host participants. JARC prepares workers for jobs in the manufacturing sector, people that were unemployed or need to be retrained to get back into the workforce.

What follows, are comments from a facilitated meeting with participants in a series of discussions held on January 27, 2017.
**Discussion 1: What are the most important challenges you face daily?**

**What the Jane Addams Resource Corporation Trainees said...**

**SOCIAL EMOTIONAL WELL BEING (Emotions)**
- Lack of sleep and money for food
- Understanding the difficulty of switching fields and careers
- Open—Exit/Open Entry… falling behind
- Not setting clear expectations
- Not knowing where my new skills might take me
  (just a factory job or a career)
- Determining the choices that have to be made
- Accepting the unknown

**SOCIAL ENVIRONMENT (Relationships/Community)**
- Elder care (Family) Medical, Doctor appointments

**EMPLOYMENT/EDUCATION**
- Balancing training and the need to get immediate income to cover basic expenses
- Lack of proper training
- Not enough employers/jobs
- Managing conflicting priorities (getting a job immediately to live vs training)
- Not just production jobs

**BUILT ENVIRONMENT**
- Transportation (making it on time)—sick days
- Location—getting to the Training Center

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**Discussion 2: If JARC is successful, how will that success IMPACT YOU?**

**What the Jane Addams Resource Corporation Trainees said...**

**JARC’s Impact**
- Seeing others succeed is a motivation and they can help you—role model
- Help getting a better job and reach personal goals
- Becoming independent and stable financially
- Good reputation = help getting a job
- Importance of the first job out of the program
- Trickle down effect
- On-going resource
- Reaching personal goals
- Relationships w/employers affects me directly and indirectly
- Me being a role model for my community
- Expansion and adding other careers
- If I do better > family > community
- Become an alumni and help others
- JARC successful = more funding = fix machines
- Number of folks employed from training—number of employers using JARC students

**JARC goals for itself to get “eye-to-eye” within achieving JARC’s goals (common ground and student goal)—review**
- Immediate recognition of JARC as an organization
- Measure student success as a measure of JARC’s success
- Student in JARC = JARC’s success—Belief, student feels they are in a better place than before (JARC needs to understand where students have been and where they are going)
- My bank account
- Get and maintain a steady job
- Being able to complete personal short term goals because of “said” employment
- How much and to what level at which horizon expands
- Are skills/ knowledge expanding
- Happy!!! Less struggle in life
- Being able to (easier) help family members
Discussion 3: How can we measure JARC’s success? How can YOU measure YOUR success?

What the Jane Addams Resource Corporation Trainees said...

- We see increasing number of job placements
- See folks who went through the program come back to do teaching
- Number of certificates of completion
- Being able to move from entry-level to advanced opportunities (capturing from JARC former participants experiencing moving to advanced positions)
- Good recommendations
- Being able to easily find a job after training
- Personal Development—meeting personal goals as a result of good/stable employment and career
- Getting the right kind of comprehensive training that allows for job everywhere in the particular field
- When moving from one module of training to another clearly understanding what has been learned
- Good instruction and guidance
- Salary/wages
Discussion 4: Let’s Prioritize our CHALLENGES, our IMPACT and our SUCCESSES…

What the Jane Addams Resource Corporation Trainees said:

Discussion 1: What are the most important challenges you face daily?

Employment/Education
• Balancing training and the need to get immediate income to cover basic expenses
• Managing conflicting priorities (Job vs Training)

Built Environment
• Location—getting to the Training Center

Social Environment (relationship, community)
• Elder care (Family) Medical, Doctor appointments

Social Emotional/Well being (emotions)
• Not knowing where my new skills might take me (just a factory job or a career)

Discussion 2: If JARC is successful, how will that success IMPACT YOU?

• Seeing others succeed is a motivation and they can help you—role model
• Good reputation = help getting a job
• Relationships w/employers affects me directly and indirectly
• Student in JARC = JARC’s success—Belief, student feels they are in a better place than before
  (JARC needs to understand where students have been and where they are going)
• Are skills/ knowledge expanding
• Happy!!! Less struggle in life

Discussion 3: How can we measure JARC’s success? How can YOU measure YOUR success?

• We see increasing number of job placements
• Being able to move from entry-level to advanced opportunities
  (capturing from JARC former participants experiencing moving to advanced positions)
• Getting the right kind of comprehensive training that allows for job everywhere in the particular field

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS:

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Our Business is Public Participation

Fathers Families & Healthy Communities