

91 Commitment Sheets were returned (~76% of the estimated 120 participants)

I am most passionate about the following issues or projects:

Answers to #1 Passion

Jobs/Employment Issues	making sure no community citizen is left behind as Merced moves ahead	At risk youth
Preventing child abuse	Youth engagement in the community, staying in school--going to college or getting a job	Health education
Economic Development	increasing jobs	Community downtown events
quality preschool for all 3 and 4 year olds	Literacy	Early education
Sending communications to community through Chorch Rotary	Education	helping motivate folks to serve in their neighborhoods/community
High School prevention	safe and inviting downtown/Merced	Engaging youth and grass roots
Business promotion, jobs, economic development	helping develop start up businesses	high speed rail
Unity	Youth development	improve biking paths across Bear Creek
Entrepreneurship activities	southside/beachwood	stimulating economic growth in Merced
Economic Development	integration/empowerment	safety
high speed rail	families/preschool	family
youth/education	Strategic planning, budgeting	substance abuse within the community--youth and adults
having families stay together when homeless regardless of age	Inter-generational care--facilities and services	youth development
economic/community development	helping small businesses	employment for youth and adults
Pride in ownership/promotion	UC medical school/Public Health School	educating/training multi generational approaches
coordinating and focusing the community's resources	culinary arts school	Quality preschool opportunity expansion
civic involvement--volunteering to voting	buy local	youth and helping them become good citizens
Communication	65+ people	leadership within the community
Arts/Culture	Youth--youth development	going green--getting involved with the education of this project
Roller coasters	develop and grow businesses, help them to be more successful	energizing motivating leading and connecting others to the overall vision for Merced
What our community will do and make happen in our community to be successful (a place to go)	Resources available	Economic Development
Renovating or moving the county fairground, creating a state of the art meeting place for the community	graffitti abatement and redirection	High quality early care and education that is available to all children
Healthcare	Kids	I would like to see Merced progress
activities to make children and other interested in	Early childhood education	education issues
Helping people by the Loughborough area or local into sports	economic development	green projects
Cycling as a form of transportation	the community conversation	breaking poverty
Improving roads	Participation and inclusion	education--get parents involved, reward parent for involvement
Media--positive communication (Merced county times)	Youth development	youth activity/education
	Public health projects--meeting basic needs for everyone	youth
	Jobs	youth
	Safe Neighborhoods	
	high speed rail	
	Assist with a community information board	
	children	

Answers to #2 Passion

educating high-risk youth to prevent further child abuse
Education
promoting Merced in the media
volunteer organization for high school--interact
empowering people to take charge of their health
partnership with UC Merced
Education
increased industrial jobs with little to no loss of AG
economic development/business and health success
knowing where to direct them for assistance
youth sports/community centers
creating jobs for tomorrow's generation
effort to develop community based preschool program
beautification and attractive Merced
Youth Activities
go carts
making our neighborhoods and community a safer place to live and enjoy
community education projects--changing negative mindsets
educational improvement projects and after school programs
helping teenagers staying off the streets, gangs, drugs, etc
sustainable growth
Increasing community safety
the fact that Gresham said we already have the tools. Lets use them and today was a good start
connecting businesses with growing employers (underserved) to meet future needs, taking these diamonds in the rough and growing them. Motivating all Merced County residents to feel compelled to get involved willing

to speak at various venues regarding growing merced education--collaboration with families, business and non-profits to improve
reducing poverty
Youth Education
Economic development
education advocacy
brining industry to Merced to build upon
community safety
can we/how can we use the arts to inspire homeless community schools as community centers for agriculture community
credit counseling
economic development--jobs
networking--I would like to work on the websites
high speed rail
UC Merced inturn program
high speed rail
regional collaborative
economic development--growing small busniess
youth development
training programs--let community know what is available
parks and beautification projects
business
economic development
education
youth engagement
education self and others
gardening
education
medical school
assist small businesses and youth
Hmong community
mentoring youth
youth jobs
family support and education
using a significant amount of expertise/effort already going on at

Gateway to help out community more effectively
expanding arts and humanities
building middle class industry
improve educational level and reading level
beautifying Merced and promoting growth in Downtown Merced
downtown life
opportunity for children
mentoring the youth for college/university level education
paths
brining culture appreciation to all of Merced
re-entry for ex-felons (employment, education, housing, health)
economic business development
promoting Pre-K through university student success
elderly and allowing them to be valued and supported
mentoring our young community members
focusing on educating children in common goals for themselves and family
facilitating groups
education--get children started early to begin continuing to graduate from high school and college
safe communities
to have merced economy improve valley air quality
resource conservation
helping people to become self sufficient
job creation--bring low tech jobs in from hitech companies
high speed rail issues (station and maintenance facility)
mentors
international gap

Answers to #3 Passion

Quality of Life
education and development of youth
homeless population/advocating for them
Promote positive media image
Violence
arts
public health
removing bright
facilitating inclusion of other segments of community
Support Local businesses and assets
Neighborhood alliances, neighborhood building
water slides
helping our community with funds that need it: finding homes for less fortunate, low-income families and homeless
providing resources for all Merced children to have access to sports/music activities
safety
hands on, going out to supervise also to train others
Help clean the community by painting over graffiti
education
Business--jobs, jobs, jobs!
Economic stability and opportunity
Volunteering Promotion
neighborhood organization

developing the work force, from youth on up to adults
economic development
"shop local" program
affordable housing
job placement/training
medical/trade school
improving teaching and learning
more schools
community
ensuring people (youth/adults) take pride in themselves, their surrounding
art and education
government
community involvement
education--especially promoting health and wellness
broken windows
help with financial information
Improving Merced for all
preventative health
helping families get out of poverty
helping individuals and the community access and live into life as God intended with all the wholeness that involves
small business
development/engagement
major airport for central California
improve communication
reaching out to the youth--better
education
diversity

cleanliness
empowering those youth that do with for positive change
community events, choir, play, theatre
creating community resource centers that service the whole community
communications and identification of existing
assets/resources/activities going on
encouraging local business success
training for strong work ethic and public service
holding our citizens accountable
public safety--people will get out and participate
creating program to help merced economic development/community improvement--expanded use of forum CAFB
solar installations in all city and county buildings
prison reform
make merced a place where families feel safe, have the #1 list the merceds successes vs. failures
Homeless issues in community
community centers
cultural differences

Today, I made these commitments to make "Merced Ahead" happen:

Commitment #1

Legal expertise in civil area--non-profits
 help organize programs to reduce child abuse
 Time
 Time
 Organize with the community
 Keep the conversation going
 Time
 Give my time
 help build a "business club" that connects to the UC Merced entrepreneurship center and management school
 work with the chamber on improving downtown
 Talk about it
 taking/conducting Merced Ahead survey on facilities in junior high schools
 expertise
 help where I can with data analysis/research
 increase personal networks
 I will commit time and some outside perspective
 Hosting a meeting/block gathering for my neighborhood
 Foster/support communication
 Time
 water slides
 sharing my thoughts, ideas, information and opinions with others
 I will volunteer time to meetings like this one and will do what I can to positively influence those around me
 time for volunteering in areas of healthcare, education, and safety
 Making life easier by having every child have an education
 Sharing ideas, opinions, and thoughts with others
 stay involved in the city bicycling advisory commission
 I can provide time to work on projects

make a presence (attend)
 helping businesses and the unemployed to bridge the disconnect of unemployables
 collaborate and connect. Stay involved and get motivated
 facilitate community development events
 Contact high school and others to educate about Merced Ahead
 show-up
 bring a person to next meeting as available, my time
 cooperate with Merced Ahead leadership where needed
 gathering resources (research and writing and teachers) from the Merritt writing program at UCM
 and the Merced writers center
 phone tree calling and connecting
 assist with organization leadership
 advocate for inter-generational care
 time
 volunteer in after school programs
 unity
 offer my communication expertise
 my facilities are available for small meetings
 time--money
 to facilitate groups of business owners/decision makers to discuss issues/opportunities to help each business group
 attend future meetings--my time
 publicize needs
 continue on committee
 Time
 continue with events
 communication, conversation who is on the website team?
 time (personal time)
 volunteering time that I can involve my children
 time need help; someone to direct
 can contribute in variety of roles
 Time--volunteer my time after work
 technical expertise

come to the next meeting
 I will help in any way I can
 Time and commitment
 pursue my education/career goals to better equip myself to give back
 4th of July parade or craft fair
 volunteer my time
 Information and openness to have folks join an effort to work and volunteer
 translate
 Time
 donate more time
 be active in SIFE team at UCM for real business solutions
 encourage positive thinking
 give of my time
 attend more meetings whenever possible
 expertise--administration
 be present for all meetings
 assisting in
 communication/facilitation/support with government
 increase MCOE staff involvement in community improvement
 commit to participating in future meetings/planning events
 be more proactive
 I will try to donate my time
 always be willing to work with others to make things happen
 time, facility, product
 time
 supporting the group
 option to use space at challenger learning center in Atwater
 no up front cost to install solar panels on county and city buildings
 facility--catholic charities
 downtown
 work with families to connect parents with education
 opportunities
 political support and city of Merced support
 time
 made commitment to be here

Commitment #2

Facilities

spread word of Merced Ahead
be aware of community projects
and let as many people know
about it
Expertise
Experience
work with it
commit time for coaching low/no
cost youth sports
time/expertise
I will work to bring other people
representing the broader
community to meetings
conduit for UC Merced resources,
facilities, students, research
Networks (media, UCM, local
business owners)
fair carnivals, amusement parks
my time being here, meeting new
faces and new people
I will be accessible to participate in
"hands-on" projects i.e. painting,
planting, etc
money donation
all others that could make
decisions to make in life
making the communities safer by
all our ideas
participate in growth and
development decisions by both the
city and county
I will talk to people about Merced
Ahead to try to get more people to
get involved
introduce other to Mark
Hendrickson (Castle)
bridges out of poverty training
throughout the county. (certified by
authors to train in this area) to help
all community participants

understand economic class
distinctions and bridge gaps
Spread the word about this project
shop locally--as much as possible
talked about the event
Join association
encourage others
assist with youth related, data
correction
im in a rock band that would
donate a performance for a
fundraiser
grass roots connections in the area
of children and families
community out reach
expertise--architect
contribution to website
political direction
look for connections that I can
facilitate
attend meetings
expertise
offer my expertise and time in
business planning, team building,
etc
expertise
support through alignment of
city/RDA programs
facility (boys and girls club)
hosting smaller meetings and the
alliance
typing and website skills--can help
in typing and website
help with getting the high speed
rail maintenance here
Knowledge
participation in discussions
ROPC youth training
volunteer my voice (public
speaking)

facility availability (Gateway
Church) in the community on 4
service sundays/year
share networks
facility
communicate with students at
UCM about local issues and
opinions
what are you doing to address
your issues?
support projects to revive Merced
(consumer)
engage in discussion with my
circle of friends
facilitate for whatever group
meeting assistance
willingness to work with other on
specific economic development
projects
volunteer for projects
to work with MUHSD to support
efforts/programs
be the role model I want other to
be
get involved with multi cultural
activities
provide a positive inspirational
focus when energy starts to wane
I am happy to become part of
Merced Ahead
expertise
advocating the merced ahead plan
participation in on going activities
expertise (time and labor of
installations)
conducting job finding obtaining
workshops
help parents get ahead--tutoring
GEDs
participation in merced ahead
expertise

Commitment #3

make the facilities of Shiloh Baptist Church available
Expertise
link people and resources together
Administration--typing, writing
to be involved in community
talk with others about successes and failures in their communities and report back
resources--facilities
continue participating in the process
Skills in media/communication
arcade for all ages
my experiences, training, education, skills, abilities, knowledge
I will spread the word and gather support for Merced Ahead projects
to provide everyone to get along with other in the neighborhood
my experience, talking, skills, abilities, knowledge
motivate others to get involved

donate space and product
offering resume and business writing workshops to unemployed underemployed
planning and connection sharing resources
meet once a month with community members to discuss issues and concerns
training
outreach at UC merced and at merced college
development of castle product
Host a world café
expertise in public health
help with youth services
share my strengths
Openness with on-going work of staff at Gateway Church with programs/work going on from early childhood through teens through adults
facilitate, host café, talk it up
ideas

talk to locals and constantly update on what the real issues are
encourage all to take accountability for your community
support local policies that promote more volunteering
identification of possible opportunities for networking
advise MA group about education issues
to be involved as an individual, not just as a member of the job force
learning more about community projects
do whatever it takes to help out
Expertise--workforce development, leadership team, business advisory
product (solar equipment)
participate in programs that MA initiates to make a better place to live
expertise/experience
training

How can we improve the gathering we had today?

Need to "drill down" to a focused project
Do one with youth
How do we follow through? Whats next?
more youth
more community engagement (more citizens here, I think there were a lot of agency people here)
Green Jobs
Have young people present and involved
more focus on specific issues
more positive news coverage by "all media"
bring more high school/junior high school people
include youth input
involve more younger people to gain their perspective
expand and include other segments of community
start to focus on addressing one significant issue
more young people--consider a series of similar efforts as this with youth/partner with BHC efforts?
replicate
bring in even more diverse people, who aren't typically involved
make every price cheaper
save gas money to travel
nothing, keep up the great work! I enjoyed it
I was pleased with the format
more access to more people
diversifying population--age, ethnic background, more programs
to make a lot of people to join in more gatherings
making this meeting to everyones likings
talk to friend that are interested or neighbors
put information on internet
we need more diversity at the next meeting

more outreach to other areas of the county
Gathering was good--keep it going (more of them)
perhaps stagger the day of week these world café's
have more of these county wide-- in other communities
get more citizens involved
awesome event
we are missing more disadvantaged citizens
Advertise in Sun Star
it was a great first step
to stay focused on the questions to be discussed
no suggestion--this was great well organized
good job--food was perfect--flow and organization smooth
set meetings far enough in advance to avoid conflicts
more press/media coverage prior to meeting
a very good start
would like to know more on the role of steering committee
gather more individuals
develop committees to focus on a common cause
it was very good groups
more specific in nature
get sunstar to do an expose
following this group
message in the city water bills or PGE bills
good session for the most part-- put this into action?
great day like the variety of people in attendance and format of the day
was very well organized--but what is the next step?
very well organized
continue to focus more and refine
introduce ideas of structures and collaboratives
more people

more venues and conversations
vegetable breakfast option
invite more people or advertise the next meeting
very little--extremely well directed
focus on actual projects
meet regularly with short term goals and accomplishments
well done
possible focus groups on specific topics
great meeting
overview of Tupelo Model in writing
This worked well
have the same type of meetings with the young people of Merced
Have meeting with young and old people
maybe hold the meeting at UCM-- better connection with the university
was great. Have tables talk in circle only so people talk if shy
diversity awareness education
what is white privilage?
great gathering--could improve by involving more regular community members
bring more diversity i.e. south merced community leaders, high school students youth and teachers
volunteer, lead mentor groups
use my skills
offer excerpts from Tupelo--have copies to sell over regular price to build a little revenue
invite high school, community college, and university students
invite faith based groups
make sure participants get quick meaningful feedback about follow up activities
offer participants continued involmnet

start developing specific project/program and start building steps to make it happen
I thought objectives were kinda vague
great job and beginning---keep the momentum going and let me know how I can help connect the dots
just have more meetings-- continuation
nice job today! Everyone was engaged

help to have more participants
increase focus to specific projects
I thought the meeting today was great
I thought today's gathering was excellent the world café communication process was a positive way of communicating
bring more people who are generally invisible into these meetings
reach out to the faith based leaders in the southside and get

those people to these meetings.
Meet with the various services and business groups
find specific short term projects for group to work on
invite pastors from churches and youth leaders
youth
invite south merced, low income community members
diversity/distribution list

Would you like to help with the next Merced Ahead gathering? 63% Yes

Which of the following ways do you like for communicating with others? (check all that apply)

68% In person 52% By Telephone 85% Email 20% Regular mail 11% Other way

Other Questions or Comments

Great Job
Whats Next? Missing youth and Agricultural community or educators
Written on back: youth, UC students, Hmong Population, Community members (not just "agencies")
Written on back: Youth in Forum
Who is missing? Other Merced county/cities planning/economic development managers. Family support, non-profits
Missing: Hispanic community, African American community, South East Asian Community
How can we create links between other broad-based efforts: BEAM, Leadership Merced, Building Healthy Communities, CCROP, etc
Missing: teens/college students/seniors (retired)
What do we do next?
Can we make this happen?
When is the next meeting?

Who is missing: the Merced County Fair Director, Merced County Library Personnel, representatives from Los Banos, Dos Palos, El Nido, Planada, Livingston
Who is missing: South Merced residents, more Hmong and Latino population, agriculture, youth, outlying areas, planada, Los Banos, etc
Written on back: we are missing non-merced city residents. We need to get county residents and business people involved
mheppner@goodneighborrealtors.com
Missing: youth, other communities, non-profits, service clubs, more citizens
209-233-1807
You might want to invite Oscar Torres and Janna Rodriguez who own J&R Tacos and are very involved and interested in community development

Will there be a website/forum set up?
Written on back: list of talents available among the group: Merced needs to support their own needs and not look for handouts from big brother
Written on back: westside individuals politicos of each community incorporated and incorporated nonprofits for each community police/fire, more people of color
missing groups: Southeast Asian, Hispanics, surrounding communities: Los Banos, Atwater, etc
contact Lori Gallo: lgallo@josephfarms.com
set specific goals for Merced Ahead
Written on back: who is missing: young people
Written on back: who needs to be here? Law enforcement and more community members

Written on back: who's not here?
Spanish speaking, hispanic
business owners, soccer families,
punjabi residents
Written on back: who is missing:
south Merced
how do we get local government
to change some of their policies to
allow more opportunity for events
that attract tourists
thank you for taking the one of a
million steps toward progress--go
ahead

written on back: representatives
needed: teachers--prek-university,
neighborhood representatives,
service club representatives
other: great gatherin of people,
very organized, thank you for the
treats, informative and skilled
facilitators. Written on back: whos
missing: youth/teens, teachers,
neighborhood representatives
nancy.young@asm.ca.gov
Who's missing: latino chamber
outreach to latino community

do we need to have policy change
advocates?
we can offer out of town --visiting
family--casual travel interested in
assissting when available
when and what other meetings
are being planned? How is this
concept being translated to the
county?
Missing: faith based (church)
organizations, more cultural
diversity, westside, lower income
members, youth