

Event title	Date of engagement	Description	Target audience	Purpose	Number of participants	Top 3–5 key themes or takeaways	Notable quotes or stories
Aging Gracefully Bingo	7-Jul-26	Joining or facilitating planned workshops, community pop-up events, or town halls	Older adults attending the YMCA Senior Bingo event.	To gather feedback from older adults and ensure their perspectives were included in the Harvest Foundation Community Visioning process.	30	Lack of transportation, cost of rentals and taxes for homeowners seemed to be the top topics.	N/A
Unicorn AF Salon	9-Jul-26	Joining or facilitating planned workshops, community pop-up events, or town halls	Attendees of QAF Meeting	Gather the thoughts and opinions of those attending the QAF meeting at Unicorn AF salon.	10	More support needed for LGBTQ community in schools. More supervision/life guards needed at our parks that offer swimming in the lakes.	N/A
Hillcrest Baptist Church Back2School Registration	11-Jul-26	Joining or facilitating planned workshops, community pop-up events, or town halls	Parents, caregivers, and school-aged children	To meet families where they already were and gather their feedback as part of the Harvest Foundation Community Visioning process. By participating in the Back-to-School registration event, we were able to intentionally reach families who were accessing community resources, many of whom may be experiencing financial barriers, and ensure their perspectives were included in shaping the future of Martinsville and Henry County.	20	- Jobs and livable wages was one of the biggest themes. People consistently said that while there are jobs available, there aren't enough jobs that pay a wage families can actually live on or provide stable, full-time employment. - Participants also talked about wanting more things to do in the community, especially activities and spaces for children, teenagers, and families. People felt there aren't enough opportunities for recreation and community engagement. - One theme that stood out because I hadn't heard it as often before was the need for more resources and support for children with disabilities, particularly children with autism. - Another recurring theme came from several of the older volunteers, who spoke about watching their adult children struggle to access benefits. They described a gap where families earn too much to qualify for assistance but not enough to be financially stable. A few shared stories about their children being told they might qualify for benefits if they divorced or had a child, expressing frustration that families feel pushed toward major life decisions simply to access basic support.	Several parents and caregivers shared personal experiences about raising children with disabilities, particularly autism. They spoke about the difficulty of finding appropriate services and affordable care that meets their children's needs, emphasizing that quality support for these families is limited in the community. Several older volunteers shared stories about their adult children struggling with what they described as the "benefits cliff"—earning too much to qualify for assistance but not enough to achieve financial stability. The stories reflected frustration with eligibility requirements that participants felt created barriers rather than supporting working families.

Pan Hellenic Council Cook Out	11-Jul-26	Joining or facilitating planned workshops, community pop-up events, or town halls	African American Sororities and Fraternities	Gather thoughts and opinions of the members of the Panhellenic Council at their cookout at Rob Lee Park.	20	More affordable childcare is needed. More affordable housing is needed. Our youth needs to be introduced to more culture. More local efforts that instill local pride need to be offered.	with me that the groups try to do something easy that everyone can participate in when they get together. The goal during this event was to provide laundry detergent to high school aged/college aged kids. When you feel fresh and clean you feel better and do better. In another conversation it was brought up about the lack of restaurants. The Soror expressed that we cannot keep unique or culturally different restaurants because our children are not introduced to these different staple cultural dishes. We conversated about the possibility of these being offered in the schools. (Greek, Italian, Mediteranean, Indian) Another conversation about childcare and with a Soror resulted with some great ideas about having early childcare (0-5) actually
Hillcrest Baptist Church Vacation Bible School	13-Jul-26	Joining or facilitating planned workshops, community pop-up events, or town halls	Local families attending VBS in Horsepasture VA	Gather community input from families attending Vacation Bible School through a SWOT analysis activity.	20	1. A lot of people talked about jobs. They said there are jobs available, but many of them don't pay a livable wage or only offer part-time hours. Several people felt that finding stable employment that allows families to make ends meet is still a challenge. 2. Many participants said they really value the small-town feel and sense of community in Martinsville and Henry County. At the same time, they felt there just aren't enough things to do, especially for families and young people. 3. One of the biggest concerns was the lack of activities for teenagers and children. 4. Parents also talked about wanting more support and funding for children with disabilities. They felt there should be more resources and opportunities available to help these children and their families. 5. Affordability came up in a lot of conversations. Participants shared that it's becoming increasingly difficult to afford to live in the community, and many also felt that better transportation would help people access jobs, services, and other opportunities more easily.	One participant shared that teenagers often end up gathering in the Sheetz parking lot because there are few safe, engaging places for them to spend time, highlighting the need for more activities and dedicated spaces for youth. Another participant, who receives disability benefits, spoke about the financial challenges of living in the community. He shared that affordability is a significant concern and explained that he only qualifies for Medicaid because he has a daughter, illustrating how difficult it can be for individuals with disabilities to access affordable healthcare and meet basic living expenses.

Just Call Granny Event	13-Jul-26	Joining or facilitating planned workshops, community pop-up events, or town halls	Those attending Conversations and Coffee hosted by Just Call Granny	To get feedback from the people attending the Conversations and Coffee hosted by Just Call Granny at West Piedmont Higher Education Center	1	N/A	N/A
Piedmont Arts Franks & Dranks	17-Jul-26	Joining or facilitating planned workshops, community pop-up events, or town halls	Attendees of the Piedmont Arts fundraiser 'Franks and Dranks'	Community outreach workshop to engage attendees of the Piedmont Arts fundraiser 'Franks and Dranks'	25	1. Attendees seemed more optimistic about MHC 2. Attendees kept coming back to give more input upon reflection and discussion 3. Attendees were excited to participate	
Henry County Food Pantry	20-Jul-26	Joining or facilitating planned workshops, community pop-up events, or town halls	Henry County Food Pantry and clothes closet recipients	To engage with MHC residents utilizing aide from the Bassett Food Pantry and Clothes Closet	40	1. Big disconnect between those that were very thankful and those that were angry with everything and everyone 2. Out of all events so far, this one had the most bleak responses	N/A
Housing & Neighborhoods Focus Group	27-Jul-26	Focus Group	Realtors and stakeholders involved in housing	To gain community input about different aspects of housing. What makes it hard, what is going well, what makes a good neighborhood, etc.	10	Lack of available houses in the area. Lack of professional construction companies to rehab older houses.	N/A
Collab & Trust Building Focus Group	29-Jul-26	Focus Group	Community leaders in the MHC area	This focus group was held to understand how people in Martinsville–Henry County experience connection, trust, and collaboration — and to identify the barriers and opportunities that should shape a stronger, more unified 25-year community vision. .	10	Connection requires intentionality, visibility, and access — especially transportation and information access. Trust in institutions is low, shaped by politics, class divides, and lack of transparency. Collaboration is possible but often hindered by territorialism, ego, and competition for credit/resources. MHC is both welcoming and unwelcoming depending on class, networks, religion, and geography. Youth-centered programs and mission-driven organizations are bright spots that give hope for the future.	N/A
Rudy's Girl Media	30-Jul-26	Joining or facilitating planned workshops, community pop-up events, or town halls	Youth	To gain input from youth and those involved in creator spaces.	80	Good neighbors, feeling safe, and affordability make a good neighborhood. Many didn't know where to look for activities and local happenings. Many really enjoyed the Christmas Parade and this Red Carpet event being hosted by Rudy's Girl Media.	N/A