

## AN INTRODUCTION TO COMMUNITY FOCUS 2013

---

**N**ine years ago, a Springfield Area Chamber of Commerce community leadership visit to Lexington, Ky., served as the catalyst for the first Springfield-Greene County Community Focus report. At that time, leaders from the Community Foundation of the Ozarks, Junior League of Springfield, Springfield Area Chamber of Commerce, Springfield-Greene County Library District, and United Way of the Ozarks pledged to support this community report card, which identifies both the strengths (blue ribbons) and weaknesses (red flags) within various sectors of our community. The 2013 Community Focus report maintains this tradition and is now recognized as a primary resource for guiding initiatives and decision-making within our community.

We have several blue ribbons to be proud of in our community. This year's report identifies the positive impact that collaboration, community engagement, innovation, and leadership initiatives are having in Springfield and Greene County. Our citizens have found creative ways to confront red flags acknowledged in past Community Focus reports and have repeatedly come together for the common good. We continue to face challenges, however, such as poverty, insufficient funding, concern for our children and youth, and the lack of investment in prevention efforts. Although these red flags exist, they can be addressed if we proactively commit our time and resources to initiatives focused on these issues.

Once again, thank you to the five organizations committed to supporting the Community Focus report every two years. Additionally, we would like to express our gratitude to the many individuals who contributed hundreds of hours towards the development of this year's report. They work on the frontlines of their respective sectors and, thus, live and breathe these blue ribbons and red flags every day. Therefore, they know the importance of both celebrating our successes and confronting the difficulties facing our community. It is our hope this report continues to help Springfield-Greene County organizations allocate and focus their scarce resources toward the greatest community needs.



Jill Reynolds

---



Cristina Gilstrap

---

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jill Reynolds".

Jill Reynolds, CFP  
Chair, Community Focus Steering Committee

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Cristina M. Gilstrap".

Cristina M. Gilstrap, Ph.D.  
Facilitator, Community Focus Report