Collaboratory℠

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16

years to go.

This is the first of our new quarterly reports on our progress toward our eighteen-year deadline for coordinating the solving of all of the social problems in our region. We want to keep you informed and hold ourselves accountable to our promise. You'll receive four of these updates each year. They'll be short, sweet, no-nonsense, purposeful and inspiring.

Progress Report #1

The end of silos.

When we launched Collaboratory, we said two things were needed to solve big social problems: 1) a deadline, and 2) massive coordination—on a scale never before conceived or attempted in social change. A year into addressing these two needs, leaders in our community are understanding the importance of large-scale coordination—not monthly breakfasts for a few big players, but real-time, consistent, coordination of people in the trenches, like the coordination NASA employed to get to the moon.

This is immediately evident in our approach to recovery from the devastation of Hurricane Ian. Problems like housing that were a crisis before are now even worse. Traditional approaches to solving problems were not working before, and certainly won't work now. But we have begun doing things differently. What was once siloed and piecemeal is for the first time becoming comprehensive and strategic. For starters, Collaboratory has been asked to coordinate the "Lee County Recovery Task Force." Eight teams will deliver a plan for recovery by December. These teams cover every category we need to rebuild, from economy to education, housing to health, infrastructure to future-planning, and social services to natural and cultural resources. In some cases, our FutureMakers Coalition—already coordinating solutions and getting results—will add additional benefit.

These teams will recruit public suggestions through civic dialogues that began March 30th. Then the Task Force will make recommendations to state and federal government for the allocation of hundreds of millions of dollars in recovery funding by year-end to rebuild and create a far more resilient community, so none of us will ever again have to experience this level of loss and displacement.

Collaboratory is committed to solving all of our region's social problems on an eighteen-year deadline. Hurricane Ian threw an existential challenge at us, mocking our resolve. But out of it has come an immediate opportunity to experiment with the kind of large-scale coordination that will ultimately make that eighteen-year dream come true.

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