



**Collaboratory**<sup>SM</sup>

2031 Jackson Street  
Fort Myers, Florida 33901

16  
years to go.

This is the second 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.

## Progress Report #2

# Four thousand people...

gathered around tables in their barbershops, coffee shops, schools and at Collaboratory. All brainstorming one thing: how will we solve all of the social problems in this region in the next sixteen years?

Pie in the sky? No. It all really happened. On March 30th. Right here in our five counties in collaboration with our community foundation partners in Collier and Charlotte counties.

This is what happens when you declare that you are committed to coordinating the solving of all the social problems in our region on an urgent deadline. You start getting people thinking about it and talking about it in the most serious terms possible. Instead of talking about something less urgent, like a football game, they start engaging their intelligence to ponder how real change might happen...

Housing, homelessness, health—especially mental health and substance abuse—and economic development were on the top of peoples' lists.

When we started building the idea of Collaboratory five years ago, these are the kinds of conversations and the scale of conversations we dreamed about.

There will be more of these. Many more. And from these conversations plans are emerging. And from these plans we are coordinating action. And from that action we will begin to see a stronger Southwest Florida emerge. One that is marked by an authentic commitment to solving problems with wondrous new ideas for health, community vitality, buildings and spaces, and possibilities beyond this we have not yet even imagined.

We have five coalitions formed and forming that capture the universe of issues we are addressing: FutureMakers, Home, Health, Environment, and Place. This is our coordinating superstructure, and it covers all of the issues. Visit our new site—[16years.org](http://16years.org)—to see if one piques your interest, support these coalitions, and track the progress toward this historic effort. And every week, we host inspiring, online “Explanation Sessions” to explain what we’re up to and what we’d like you to be up to with us.