

▲What is Allen County Common Threads?

The case study of the Lima Senior High Dialogue project describes a major undertaking of Allen County Common Threads in partnership with Lima Senior. The program was a natural evolution of previous Common Threads efforts and of Senior High's ongoing experiences with arts-based civic dialogue.

Common Threads was introduced in Allen County in 2001 by professionals in civic dialogue. The mission of the organization is to promote conversation on questions that matter. Common Threads works to accomplish this by bringing together people of different perspectives to discuss difficult issues. Using a form of art or other catalyst, participants work with trained facilitators and engage in structured dialogue on issues of mutual concern.

Examples of Common Threads civic dialogue programs to date include:

- ◆ Common Threads conference and introduction of arts-based civic dialogue - 2001
- ◆ The full-length theatre piece by Sojourn Theatre Company, *Passing Glances: Mirrors and Windows in Allen County* and community dialogue on issues of trust among leaders and race – 2002
- ◆ Monthly public officials dialogues – 2003 to present
- ◆ Ongoing issue-based arts projects in the Lima City Schools including the Shelter Project in 2003
- ◆ Facilitated dialogues for area social workers conferences
- ◆ Facilitated dialogues for Lima Senior High School students on the small schools concept
- ◆ Facilitated dialogues for area neighborhood association meetings
- ◆ The Allen 2020 Visioning project 2006-2008
- ◆ Theatre monologues by Sojourn Theatre Company and arts-based civic dialogue among Lima Senior Students following a community and unrest -2008