



Community Heart & Soul®

**Cedar Lake
Heart & Soul**
Guided by what matters most
www.CedarLakeHeart.org

Community Heart & Soul is a resident-driven process that engages those who live, work, and play in Cedar Lake to identify what they love most about the community, what future they want for it, and how to achieve it. Our project is being facilitated locally by:



Heart & Soul was founded by Lyman Orton, Proprietor The Vermont Country Store

Developed and field-tested over a decade in partnership with over 100 small cities and towns across the United States, Community Heart & Soul is a proven process for engaging a community in shaping its future.

Based on three powerful principles – involve everyone, focus on what matters most, and play the long game – Community Heart & Soul helps towns move toward a brighter, more prosperous future by bringing community residents closer together.

Community Heart & Soul is unique in how it engages residents. It is a highly inclusive process that reaches deep into communities to ensure all voices are represented in determining a town's future. Instead of bringing residents to the table, Community Heart & Soul brings the table to residents at community events, neighborhood block parties, schools, businesses, and virtual gatherings.

Heart & Soul communities experience a range of social and economic benefits:

- Pride and confidence grow in the town
- Civility and respect increase
- Residents feel more connected to one another
- Volunteerism increases
- New young leaders emerge
- More residents run for local office
- Economic conditions improve
- Investment in the town increases
- New local businesses open
- Town officials gain a deeper understanding of what matters to residents
- Towns are better prepared to respond to emergency situations

How Community Heart & Soul Works

Community Heart & Soul begins with a four-phase, step-by-step process that brings residents together to identify and honor the unique character of their town and the emotional connection of the people who live there.

Phase 1: Imagine

Heart & Soul teams are formed to build awareness, interest, and commitment in all segments of the Cedar Lake community.

Phase 3: Plan

Residents develop action plans to guide future Cedar Lake town planning based on their Heart & Soul Statements.

Phase 2: Connect

Stories are gathered from residents, leading to the development of Heart & Soul Statements that identify what matters most and reflect what they love about Cedar Lake.

Phase 4: Act

Heart & Soul Statements are officially adopted by the Cedar Lake Town Council, incorporated into comprehensive and other plans, and are used to guide future policies and decisions.

Legacy Foundation launched the Community Heart & Soul program to help Lake County towns build community through this resident-driven process and take action on what matters most to its residents.

Through an application process, Cedar Lake was chosen as the inaugural recipient community in Lake County (and the first in the state of Indiana) to complete the Community Heart & Soul planning process.

The Cedar Lake Historical Association's The Museum at Lassen's Resort will coordinate the program and receive training, technical assistance, and supporting funds to implement the Community Heart & Soul process for the Town of Cedar Lake over a two-year period.

GENERAL TIMELINE

- Phase 1: Imagine (December 2024 - May 2025)
- Phase 2: Connect (May 2025 - December 2025)
- Phase 3: Plan & Phase 4: Act (Throughout 2026)

Scan the QR Code or visit www.cedarlakeheart.org to learn more!



HAVE A MINUTE, A MORNING, A MONTH, OR MORE?

Volunteerism is at the core of the Heart & Soul process. Our citizen volunteers function across several teams: Core, Events, Communications, Story Gathering, Story Listening, & Data Management.

Learn more about each team in our volunteer inquiry form on our website and follow us online: <https://www.facebook.com/cedarlakeheart>

For questions, please contact:

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