

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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Ozark Mountain Legacy Initiative Begins with Local Citizens

In these changing times facing our nation, a team of local Ozark Mountain citizens is taking the future into their own hands. Members of area Catalyst Teams, comprised of community-minded citizens that are committed to be "Catalysts of Change" in the areas of Education, Healthcare, Employment and Healthy Families, have engaged local area leaders to form a Community Visioning Catalyst Team.

The "Ozark Mountain Legacy Initiative" is a grassroots initiative designed to identify and solidify the Core Values for the Ozark Mountain communities as we grow together toward a preferred future. Key Stakeholders and leaders from many area Ozark Mountain communities have been invited, including: Raeanne Presely (Branson Mayor); Dean Kruithof (Branson City Administrator); Rick Ziegenfuss (Hollister City Administrator); Chuck Pennell (Taney County Commissioner); Ross Summers (Branson Chamber President); Jack Herschend (Herschend Family Entertainment); Sue Head (College of the Ozarks – First Place); Gail Myer (Myer Hotels); John Baltus (Silver Dollar City Foundation); Doug Hayter (Branson City School Superintendent); Jory Rolf (AIM International); David Oliphant (Forsyth Mayor); Howard Boyd (Branson Hills Pastor); Larry Cline (Rockaway Beach Mayor); Mike Mason (Reed Springs Superintendent) and Steve Erixon (Skaggs Hospital).

The goal of this visioning process is to gather broad community input from area stakeholders and citizens, from different sectors and cities, to ensure that the Ozark Mountain Country's "reality" and "perception" are both driven and aligned with the same set of core values. An overall "Ozark Mountain Legacy" will be identified, as well as an individual and unique "Legacy" for each participating city.

Jory Rolf, who originally initiated this vision said, *"Just like in Hawaii where they promote the "Aloha Spirit" when you visit the Hawaiian Islands - we believe we have that same great opportunity to invite the whole world to come experience the "OZARK MOUNTAIN SPIRIT!" This great "Spirit" - the way of life around the Ozarks - has been positively influencing people for generations. We now have an opportunity to solidify these Core Values, for the common good, in a way that will preserve the Ozark Mountain culture for generations to come!"*

"Upon completion of this visioning process," Jory continued, "a cooperative effort will be made to effectively align these core values throughout our communities and to communicate the "Ozark Mountain Legacy" through a national campaign to the world."

This Ozark Mountain Community Visioning team meets every 2nd and 4th Friday from 11:30-1:00pm at the Akers and Arney Community Room. For more information or to participate in this community visioning process, please contact Jory Rolf at: 334-8001 or jory@aiminternational.org.