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The county community is urged to attend Wednesday meeting.

BY KEVIN LILLY
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If preparation is key to growth and economic expansion, the people of Pulaski County are setting themselves up for a prosperous future.

Several Pulaski County organizations and community leaders have embarked on a vision-setting process with the intentions of accomplishing specific community-oriented goals. The county has received a \$25,000 planning grant called 4community from the Indiana Association of United Ways, from funding provided by Lilly Endowment, Inc.

"As our community continues to change, we feel a strong need to develop a consensus about the future," said Marita Grisel, president of the United Fund and chair of the 4community steering committee. "It is important to bring a variety of people together to identify and examine the issues we will be facing."

Grisel said she wants to use the money to promote a sense of community. The potential for growth throughout the county has sparked the interest of many of its residents. A series of studies and projects over the last two years as well as input from the public will all be brought together Wednesday to begin formulating a plan for the future.

The public is urged to attend the 6:30 p.m. meeting Wednesday at the Pulaski County Highway Garage at 1131 N. U.S. 35. It will be an open forum for exchanging ideas.

Jim Dittoe, president of Winning Communities, Inc., who has led goal-setting efforts in other communities throughout Indiana, will facilitate the process.

Dittoe said the county's assets, challenges and opportunities will be highlighted during the discussion.

After the meeting, the steering committee will make recommendations that will include a timetable, costs and resources needed, and the appropriate groups or organizations that will be responsible. Findings will be reported to the community. The steering committee hopes to have input from as many people as possible during the process. They anticipate that the endeavor will take four months.

"After we create the goals and objectives, it is very important to put into place an action plan to accomplish the findings," said Grisel. "This is not a study that will sit on the shelf. We will accomplish things!"

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