

FAQs

General FAQs

What is *On The Table* and why should I participate?

By hosting a mealtime conversation as part of *On The Table* on **Wednesday, March 28, 2018**, you'll be part of an exciting, region-wide initiative to explore the ways in which we have the power to collaborate in order to make our communities stronger, safer, more generous and dynamic.

Last year, *On the Table* proved that Lexington residents share a desire to come together, collaborate more, become more civically involved and more committed to our communities.

Blue Grass Community Foundation is celebrating its golden anniversary – 50 years of inspiring generosity. The Community Foundation was created from the passion of a single couple, C.W. and Irene Sulier, who shared their vision with a group of friends gathered around a table over a shared meal. The Suliers made the first gift of \$1,000 in 1967. Fifty years later, through the individual and collective generosity of the Suliers and thousands of donors, the Community Foundation has awarded cumulative grants of more than \$81.4 million – all as the result of the idea and action of one couple.

We know big ideas can spring from small conversations and people invest in what they help create. When we come together as a community to listen to and learn from each other, we can make a powerful impact.

With C.W. and Irene as our inspiration, this year's *On The Table* will explore not only the most important issues and opportunities facing our communities, but how we can improve them through individual and collective civic activities like voting, volunteering, charitable giving and more. Your voice matters. Your actions do, too.

That's what *On The Table* is all about.

What is the goal of *On The Table*?

Our goal is to bring together the residents of our region to discuss how we can work together to strengthen our communities. We seek to create the space for civil and civic conversation that encourages each of us to do more – to contribute our time, talent and ideas. By agreeing to participate, you've already taken an important step to be part of this effort.

How can I get involved?

Right now, we're in the process of recruiting hosts and participants from across the region to be part of *On The Table*. To sign up, simply click the "Register Now" button at www.bgcf.org/onthetable.

What is Blue grass Community Foundation?

Neighborhoods energized and growing.

A community made healthy and strong.

A city that is engaged and connected from end to end. These are just a few of our goals.

We are a public charity established by local citizens 50 years ago to promote giving and improve the quality of life in Lexington and the many communities we serve across Central and Appalachia Kentucky. The Community Foundation is a starting place for people who have always wanted to give and those who never knew they could.

It's a place to bring ideas and to take them forward. By participating in the Community Foundation's efforts — whether it's *On The Table*, establishing a charitable fund, contributing to the GoodGiving Challenge or giving time to community efforts — your involvement can lead to a more generous, vibrant and engaged community. A community where everyone can give something.

Since 1967, the Community Foundation has awarded more than \$81.4 million in grant funding to thousands of organizations, including \$10.6

million in 2017. For more information, visit bgcf.org or call us at [859.225.3343](tel:859.225.3343).

Where can I find more information about *On the Table*?

New and updated information will be posted regularly at the *On The Table* website. You can also follow us on Twitter and Facebook with any of the following hashtags: #OnTheTable18, #OTTyouth18. Additionally, you can send us an e-mail at onthetable@bgcf.org to have one of our outreach team members contact you with more information or call the Community Foundation at 859.225.3343.

Host FAQs

What does a host need to do? What's involved?

It's really pretty simple: You determine a location for folks to meet on **March 28, 2018**, for a mealtime conversation share our experiences and hear about others'. We'll learn about what matters to each of us. We'll talk about ways to build and maintain the neighborhoods and community we desire. We'll connect. And, we'll ask ourselves how we can impact the future of Lexington and communities across the region through individual and collective civic action. You can have your breakfast, lunch or dinner wherever you want and serve whatever you like – from a catered or home-cooked meal to a picnic, barbecue or soup-and-salad meal.

How do I get started?

Visit www.bgcf.org/onthetable to register your event.

Who do I invite?

The invite list is up to you. Start with people you know – friends, family, colleagues and neighbors – or expand your circle. Consider co-hosting your event with a local place of worship or nonprofit, asking your guests to bring a friend or inviting people from your network who don't already know each other. Eight-to-twelve guests per table is ideal. *On The Table* is about giving everyone a chance to speak and be heard. If you want to host a

larger gathering, consider breaking into smaller groups and allowing time for each to discuss and report out to the larger group.

What should an *On The Table* gathering look like?

Hosts are encouraged to be creative. The priority is to create an atmosphere conducive to meaningful conversation – a potluck in your dining room, a picnic in a nearby park, a gathering at a neighborhood restaurant or a backyard barbecue are just some of the many possibilities.

What is expected of me during and after my *On The Table* gathering is over?

We look forward to hearing about the stories and commitments discussed at your gathering. We encourage all participants to share insights, photos and videos on social media throughout the day, using any of the following hashtags: #OnTheTable18 #OTTyouth18. At the conclusion of the *On The Table* events on **March 28**, we'll send every participant (hosts and guests) a short e-mail survey to learn more about their experiences and their commitments.