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The Johnson Foundation at Wingspread Unveils Inspiring Solutions Platform *On-line dialogue explores the subject of children's mental health as inaugural topic*

RACINE, Wis. (February 20, 2013) – Today The Johnson Foundation at Wingspread unveiled [Inspiring Solutions](#), a new web feature that mirrors the Foundation's work as a catalyst for innovative solutions through respectful and impactful dialogue.

Inspiring Solutions is a new online platform that the Foundation will use to expand important dialogue beyond the walls of Wingspread. The feature asks respected experts and leading authorities one question about a current topic of interest to the Foundation and the work it is doing. The answers are presented as short essays (or short videos in future installments), which present that individual's view of the issue at hand. This format allows for a more robust exchange of ideas and builds on the Foundation's long tradition of providing a place of neutrality and trust – whether at the Foundation's headquarters in Racine or online.

"Inspiring Solutions is a place where we can discuss difficult issues and tackle tough problems, but always with respect for one another and a resolve to find common ground that leads to real progress," said Roger C. Dower, President of The Johnson Foundation at Wingspread. "America today is at a crossroads. Our challenges are great, but these challenges can be met. To do so, we must move beyond the acrimonious debate and partisan rancor that characterizes much of today's national conversation."

The first *Inspiring Solutions* dialogue focuses on children's mental health. Contributors were invited to explore and offer insight into the question of how to ensure that every child in Racine, in Wisconsin and across America gets the mental health services they need to succeed in life. Recognizing the realities of limited resources, contributors were asked to share where they would begin.

Contributors to the dialogue include Art Howell, Chief of Police for the City of Racine; Ann Rolling of Children's Hospital of Wisconsin; Julie Hueller of Wheaton Franciscan Healthcare System and Alyson Eisch of the Racine Unified School District. All four contributors are members of a The Johnson Foundation's newest community initiative, The [Racine Collaborative for Children's Mental Health](#). The Collaborative was convened in September 2012 to bring together a group of individuals representing a broad spectrum of the Racine community to identify the challenges and find pathways forward to deliver quality, coordinated and comprehensive support services for children's mental health.

"Our children should not suffer because coordination of services is complex and difficult or because multiple hurdles to accessing care – from transportation to language barriers - stand in the way. It is imperative that root causes behind these barriers be identified and effective solutions developed," said Carole Johnson, Director of the Community Program at The Johnson Foundation. "Our hope is that the Collaborative for Children's Mental Health and the partners who have come

together will forge new connections and establish new approaches to strengthening the social emotional development and success of our children.”

The work of the Collaborative is informed and guided by a research project undertaken by The Johnson Foundation in 2011 on the issue of children’s mental health, which culminated in a Foundation report titled: “[Top of Mind: Children’s Mental Health in Racine – Highlighting facts and uncovering urgent needs.](#)”

To learn more about *Inspiring Solutions* or the Collaborative for Children’s Mental Health, visit: www.johnsonfdn.org.

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The Johnson Foundation at Wingspread is dedicated to serving as a catalyst for change by bringing together leading thinkers and inspiring new solutions on major environmental and regional issues. For additional information or to learn more about The Johnson Foundation at Wingspread, please visit www.johnsonfdn.org.