# Making the Invisible Visible:

## The Indefinable "Community Partner"

Making Essential Community Assets More Visible

> "You can't partner with 'community' without really understanding what community is."
>
> *- Karen Pittman,*
> *Forum for Youth Investment*

**Read These Blog Posts from The Readiness Projects**
- When Everything is Different: Act Different
- Warm Spots: Addressing the Relationship Divide

**Connect Back to the Work of the SEAD Commission**
- Building Partnerships in Support of Where, When, & How Learning Happens

**Learn About Bright Spots**
- About the Bright Spots Database
- Bright Spot: FAST INITIATIVE, North Carolina

Across the country, families and schools have sent the clear message: "We are stretched!"

Meanwhile, community organizations are saying "We are here! We can help!" but they frequently report feeling invisible – not only to the schools that are seeking partners, but to each other.

## The Readiness Projects are working to address this challenge by grappling with the question:

**If the quality, quantity and consistency of community experiences and relationships are so important to youth success, why are they so invisible to systems and decision-makers charged with supporting learning and development and, in many cases, to families and youth?**

## How can you take action?

### Commit to engaging your network

- Host a discussion for your network about how you can make partners visible
- Consider discussing as a group:
    - Who are the programs and partners in your community that are invested in young people and have assets to bring?
    - How have they been engaged in partnership? What barriers have they faced in partnering?
    - How can you share the nimbleness that partner organizations can bring to begin conversations about Building Forward Together?
    - Who in your partner school districts are poised to listen and learn?

### Comment & Contribute

- Share your feedback on ideas, tools, and resource material or contribute materials and tools from your network or organization
- Nominate the great work of your network or organization related to making community partners more visible to the Bright Spots Database, or nominate other organizations.

To learn more about The Readiness Projects, visit: forumfyi.org/the-readiness-projects/