

# BELONGING BEGINS WITH US ROCKFORD

BUILDING A CULTURE OF BELONGING  
[www.belonging-rockford.com](http://www.belonging-rockford.com)

**Join the movement!**

*We envision a city that recognizes the shared humanity of all those who live, work in, and visit our community, that embraces differences, and works to build a culture where visitors feel welcome and everyone knows they belong.*

## What is Belonging?

**Belonging is a basic human need.** True belonging goes beyond inclusion; **it requires connection, full recognition, and agency** to shape and influence the social, political, and cultural structures that govern our lives. Belonging declares the kind of world we want to live in—a vibrant, interconnected, healthy world where everyone holds agency, responsibility, and power to co-create structures that serve the greater good. **All people belong, and deserve dignity and voice.**

## Why Belonging?

**We live in a time of othering**—the denial of a person or group’s humanity based on their identity, and the process of generating structural inequality and division found at every level of society. **Belonging is the antidote to othering;** It recognizes, celebrates, and reinforces that we are deeply connected.

## Who is Leading this Work?

People like you!

This movement is driven by more than 30 partners—individuals, groups, organizations, businesses and the City of Rockford, committed to fostering a culture of Belonging in Rockford.

We’ve met monthly since late 2019 to deepen our practice and shift local systems and structures to build belonging.

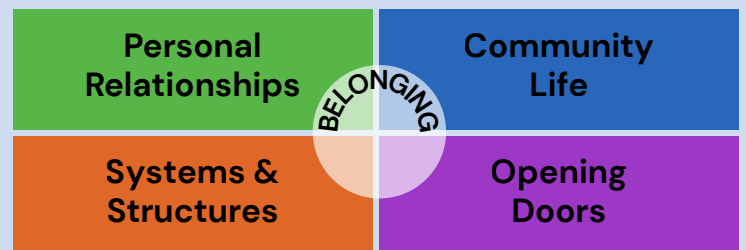
Join us! Share your work, join monthly gatherings, or tell your own belonging stories.



← Learn more here or at [belonging-rockford.com](http://belonging-rockford.com).  
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## Action Areas:

We can make a positive impact by focusing collectively on these four key priorities:



- \* **Co-creating Systems and Structures** so that all people prosper and thrive.
- \* **Strengthening Community Life** by uplifting and empowering all neighbors.
- \* **Opening Doors** by creating opportunities for diverse leadership and engagement.
- \* **Building Deeper Relationships** that are meaningful and trust-filled.

**ROCKFORD BELONGING BEGINS WITH US**