

# the proven model

An 18 month evaluation with Fetzer Institute, beginning in April 2019, was conducted to examine Living Room Conversations' (LRC) impact on the people and communities who participate in the practice.

## Methods:

- Eight foundational interviews
- A survey deployed to the full LRC mailing list
- 37 in-depth interviews
- 3 Case Studies



## Evidence of individual impacts:

- Immediate – improved mindset, listening skills
- Immediate – learned something new every time
- Longer-term – application of tools to other parts of life
- Longer-term – interest in systemic change spurred by mutual understanding and “humanizing the other”

## Evidence of community impacts:

- LRCs counter the narrative of the US being “hopelessly divided.”
- LRCs are a useful tool for building potential allies and understanding differences.
- LRCs are a promising method for bringing together community perspective on community-level issues.
- LRCs can shift the power dynamic (‘us vs them,’ ‘powerful vs. powerless’) of different groups, community roles, etc.

impacts

“

... Living Room Conversations brings us together. Anyone can join any conversation. This is what we want to encourage.

- Chris C.

A Novel Experience Bookstore Owner

## high-level findings

- **Now is the time for bridge building in service of civic healing** - people are seeking to counter the narrative of being “hopelessly divided.”
- **The model works** - A set of shared agreements that emphasize sharing stories, not opinions, both drives success and is recognized as the distinguishing feature of LRC.
- **Conversations can be had anywhere** - There were no significant differences between the impact of online and in-person conversations.
- **Regularity of participation is essential** - Individuals experience increased impacts when practicing consistently and repeatedly.
- **Bridge-building is well-suited to partnership and collaboration** (with libraries, faith communities, schools, businesses, etc.)