

For Immediate Release
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Empathy Surplus Project

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**Empathy Surplus Project Charters
First Caring Citizens' Congress of Wilmington, OH**

Co-founders of the Empathy Surplus Project (ESP) gathered on the eve of our national Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday, with more than 30 Miami Valley caring citizens, at the demonstration farm of Anita Dobrzelecki, Sugarcreek Township, Ohio, to celebrate the charter of the First Caring Citizens' Congress of Wilmington, Ohio, December 2, 2014.

The delegates of the First Caring Citizens' Congress of Wilmington, Ohio, are: Anita Dobrzelecki, small business owner, Democratic Party, Sugarcreek Township; Gary Evans, small business owner, Republican Party, New Vienna; Kathryn Palmer, retired civil servant, Democratic Party, Wilmington; Miriam Speaight, small business owner, Democratic Party, Wilmington; Chuck Watts, financial advisor, Democratic Party, Wilmington; and Samantha Whisenhunt, financial advisor, unaffiliated, Clarksville.

"We have created a structure so caring citizens can have healthcare human rights conversations in their own neighborhood think-and-do tanks," said Dobrzelecki, ESP co-founder, in remarks introducing Chuck Watts, President and first co-founder of the ESP, who will serve as the Congress's charter President.

"Dr. King called us all to 'sing with new meaning let freedom ring,'" first co-founder Watts said. "And freedom can't ring for all of us without an empathy surplus in the public square. I look forward to working with my fellow caring citizen delegates to build trust for effective governance in our own spheres of influence."

Joining the gathering by Google Hangout, ESP co-founder Gary Evans, said, "Advancing friendly cooperation and healthcare human rights across party lines was what appealed to me."

Delegates to the Caring Citizens' Congress have four #OccupyEmpathy exercises. First, inwardly digest the daily need for empathy and responsibility for self and others in public life "in order to form a more perfect Union." Second, invest in our peaceable public assemblies and weekly pledge "our Lives, our Fortunes and our sacred Honor" to strengthen our occupation of empathy and identify caring policy directions. Third, implement our caring policy directions to fulfill our lives, secure our liberties, and perfect our pursuit of happiness. And fourth, invite our neighbors and public officials to do the same for the sake of freedom and human dignity now and forever.

The UN Global Compact accepted Empathy Surplus Project and its affiliates as a stakeholder participant in March 2014. The Global Compact is a voluntary initiative of the UN's Economic and Social Council inviting businesses of ten employees or more to align their operations around human rights.