

# THE OPENTABLE MODEL



**Relationship Transforms US.**

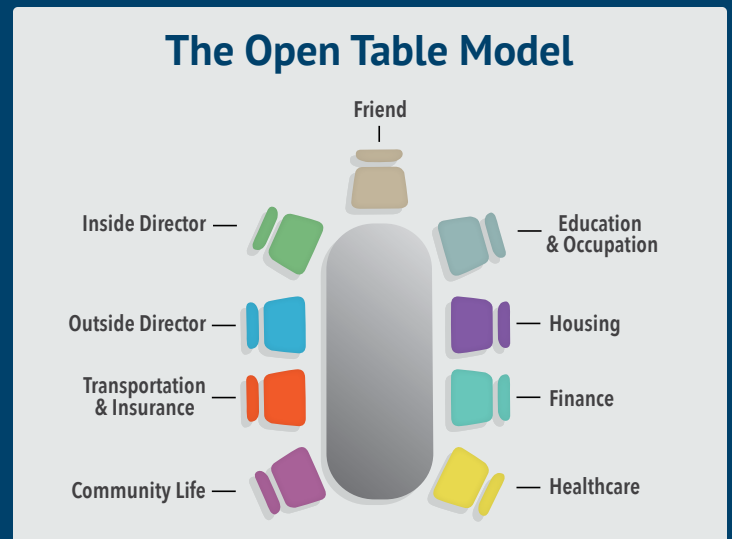
An Open Table in Ohio

The Open Table Model is a reflection of the human potential of every person. Through relationship and accessing social networks, a group of trained volunteers empowers an individual or family with complex challenges to implement their plans to develop the better lives they envision for themselves and their children.

# Open Table is a Trained, Structured Model

Now in existence since 2005 and trained in thirty states, organizations implementing the evidence-informed Open Table Model benefit from online training through Open Table University built on a theory of change, tools to measure fidelity, and ongoing support from Open Table.

☛ Read the Baylor University case study on Open Table [here](#).



## What Does the Research Show?

**2013 Graduates Studied in 2015**  
- two years after their Tables:

**95%** remained in relationship with Table members.

**85%** had a better job and/or were in college or technical school.

Two **Case Studies** show an **ROI** of **\$7.00 - \$20.00** for every dollar invested.

☛ Read the Evidence Base Summary [here](#).

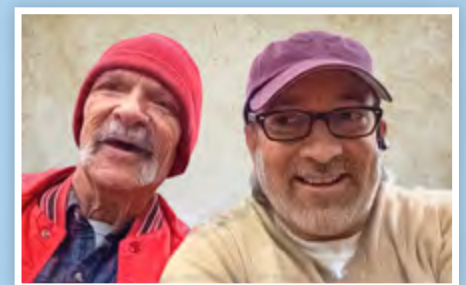
## What Is a Table?

Volunteers are trained to form a "Table" and develop long-term relationships with the "Friend" -- the individual or family they are serving. Guided by a Life Plan defined by the Friend, Table members and the friend access their social networks to support implementation of the Life Plan. Tables range from four to twelve volunteers based on needs and number of family members. Over the course of a year, Tables meet weekly for an hour and share friendship and activities outside of Table meetings. At the end of twelve months, Tables form an "After Plan" that defines the ongoing, supportive relationships developed through the Table.

## About Open Table

Relational and social capital are the source of human development. When they are freely accessible, everyone can flourish. When they are out of reach, human potential collapses. In Open Table, relational capital is a sustaining, reciprocal, social connectedness between people in which each party gives to and receives support from the other. Social capital is a person's own knowledge, skills, and networks.

Through the grassroots models of Open Table, organizations provide access to transformational resources for people with complex needs and communities working to create social change. These models have been trained to thousands of people, organizations and social entrepreneurs in more than 30 states to organize the relational and social capital of the community. Open Table believes that relational and social capital are not about win-win culture; rather, relational and social capital seek to build a society in which everyone wins.



Jon and Ernie, Open Table Founders

[www.theopentable.org](http://www.theopentable.org)

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