

COMMUNITY VOICES

BEVERLY BRAXTON AND WE THE PEOPLE WARWICK

Beverly Braxton is a former teacher, mediator, advocate for families, and active member of the Warwick, New York community for 50+ years. She is also the founder of [We The People Warwick](#), an emerging “grassroots movement with the goal of addressing the civic health and complex divisions in the Warwick community.”

Beverly was inspired to launch WTPW in the aftermath of the January 6th riots in Washington, D.C. Shocked by the political violence and the breakdown of civic trust, Beverly believed a local initiative to build relationships across polarizing differences might keep Warwick strong by “ensuring every person feels welcomed, heard, and supported in the town we all love.”

Beverly has been a dialogue facilitator and community advocate for 40+ years, but this challenge felt new. She needed more support to establish a group that could foster healthier dialogue, encourage people to solve problems, and help them invest in building a more engaged community together.

“My goal was to go deeper in my conversations—to learn more skills for encouraging people to talk more deeply about the civic health of our country. I was guided by a question: Do we, the people of Warwick, have it in ourselves to invest in working together on the complex issues we face in our community?” Beverly said.

“When I found Essential Partners, I was amazed. They had exactly what I needed—the skills to facilitate dialogues at the level of community problem-solving, and a network of other people working together at that level.”



***Beverly Braxton**, a long-time resident, civic leader, and founder of **We The People Warwick (WTPW)**. WTPW is a grassroots movement to address civic health and complex divisions in Warwick, NY.*

EP offered Beverly a training scholarship, which she used to hone her skills and build out her vision for We The People Warwick. “Everything I needed to think about to make for a successful outcome was there—well-developed and thought through.”

When it came time to launch the initiative, Beverly started by placing an invitation to sign up in her local newspaper. “In just 30 days, 90 people signed up!” She began leading facilitator trainings and dialogue sessions, each of which culminated in participants outlining action steps.

Thanks to the generosity of EP’s donors, we continue to support Beverly and We The People Warwick in their second year of action. One of Beverly’s tasks this year is to create a Youth Engagement Team by recruiting student leaders with visions for “building communities of hope and belonging”.

“I want WTPW to be a seed of inspiration for other communities. I’m not doing anything other people can’t also do. People in other communities might be inspired to have these conversations, but still lack the skills. When I look at EP’s resources, they enhance what I’m doing.”