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Survey Results Summary and Going Forward

All seven Priority Areas are important. Many of the Priority Areas are linked to each other.

Family Well-Being was the top priority in the survey our website readers participated in. For most people who responded, the choices and opportunities their family (spouses, children, parents, sisters, brothers, etc.) have are what first come to mind when talking about hope for the future. Educational opportunities and affordability were the subject of a number of comments of survey responses under this priority area. But as the survey and individual comments and suggestions from survey responders indicated, family well-being cannot be achieved on its own.

Racism, Sexism, and the Equal Rights of all people, the second highest priority area, are important in their own right, and they very much affect the choices and opportunities that people and their families have to improve the quality of their lives and the lives of their families.

The Economy is the third highest priority. The current state of our economy, where the abundant wealth of our country is concentrated among a small portion of our population, needs to be made more equitable. We need to re-imagine and re-invent an economic structure which will support family well-being.

Health Care is the fourth highest priority. A lack of access to affordable health care for about 43,000,000 Americans is a very big factor in determining the well-being of our families. Health costs are the #1 cause of individual (and, consequentially family) bankruptcies, in our country. And for those without health care, life expectancy is reduced.

The Environment is the fifth highest priority. All of the survey respondents agreed that stopping environmental deterioration and increasing sustainability in all aspects of the environment, is very important. But their general perceptions and comments are that the other issues are of higher priority in the immediate future. If someone is hungry, has no health care, works two jobs and can't make ends meet, and are discriminated against because of race or gender, getting those matters turned around now are more important to them than addressing environmental issues, as important as they are.

Democracy 2.0 is the sixth highest priority. Making democracy work better is very important. Of particular interest to survey respondents are issues involving improving access to and eliminating barriers to voting. Increasing civic education and promoting citizen participation in all levels of our democratic governments is a goal of many survey participants, particularly for young people so they can help address some of the longer term and non-immediate issues in our country.

Big Data is the seventh highest priority. Survey respondents saw this as an important issue, particularly as it causes diminishment of sharing the truth about what is real and what is not real. But similar to the to the Environment and Democracy 2.0, the first four priorities affect people's lives every day. Survey respondents say they need to be addressed first before combatting the challenges and negative impacts of Big Data.

Going Forward - The Future

Starting with this March Newsletter, I will present some ideas about how each of the seven priorities can be addressed. These ideas will be presented in **The Future** section of the Hope From the Bottom Up website. <https://hopefromthebottomup.com/future> If you have some reactions to what I propose and/or ideas of your own to propose, I would very much like to receive them and share them with our readers. Thank you.