



Mercer County: Better Together

Success Through Collaboration. #MCBT

JOY

Joy is a village of 410 people, located seven miles west of Aledo on Illinois Highway 17. The village lies within Millersburg Township, which features a total population of 755. Within 40 miles of Muscatine, Iowa, Burlington, Iowa and the metro Quad Cities, Joy residents are offered commerce and employment opportunities in each of these locations. Half of all Joy residents are employed in construction, manufacturing and health care, and many contribute to the agriculturally-driven nature of their community. Home of the Mercer County Junior High, Joy also features a modern fire station and one of Mercer County's most popular restaurants. The Joy post office is renowned for its Christmas holiday postal cancellation.

Joy Community Heart & Soul Statements

"We value being a friendly, quiet community with family heritage where residents feel safe, have the ability to access village government and engage in church activities."

"We treasure our affordable, attractive quality of life that is made possible by continuous growth and improvements in the fire station, park and businesses that promote economic stability, with an appreciation of our historical past."

"We treasure education in our community by providing transformative educational opportunities through technology for our current youth and future generations of Mercer County."

"We envision investment in our transportation infrastructure as a way to attract additional people and support the agricultural base of our community."

Joy Area Community Representatives categorized each line of survey data on the following questions; then summarized survey responses into most common themes –

1) Why do you live in Mercer County?

- Born/raised here
- Farm/land here
- Moved here for job

2) Why did you stay here?

- Family here
- Quiet atmosphere
- Lower cost of living

3) What do you especially love about your community?

- Low crime
- Friendly atmosphere
- Peace & quiet
- Volunteers/helpfulness
- Close-knit

5) What do you think matters most to your neighbors?

- Roads
- Respect for property
- Knowledge of neighbors/community
- Connections with neighbors
- Code enforcement

6) Why is your community “home” to you?

- Family
- Friends
- Economic stability
- Safety
- ‘Raised here’

8) What are the most important places in your community? Why?

- School
- Churches
- Fire department
- Park
- Restaurant
- Gas station

10) What should stay the same in your community?

- Fire department
- Continued improvements
- School
- Safety/peace/quiet
- Post office

11) What should change in your community?

- Grow population
- More businesses/more jobs
- Teen center
- Road improvements
- Improve water system