



Update: February 2016

Getting Ahead: A new national study suggests that the program Getting Ahead in a Just-Gettin'-By World results in positive changes for participants. These positive changes may empower the investigators to overcome obstacles that keep them from moving out of poverty. The study finds that participants' mental health, social support, hope, goal-directed behavior, planning and knowledge about poverty increased while participating in the program. Additionally, their stress levels decreased. To learn more and see the full study, go to: <http://www.ahaprocess.com/blog/getting-ahead-study/>

On February 16th, we will begin the next Getting Ahead class. With support from Allegany College of Maryland's Foundation we plan to offer a second class on Thursdays from 3:30-6:00pm running from March 3 to June 23. Anyone interested should call 240-964-8422 to register.

Process to become an Ally Partner

1. Complete the application packet and submit by May 8th.
 2. Meet with workgroup member to discuss opportunity.
 3. Complete 6 hour training. Next class: June 7 & 9 (5:30-8:30pm)
 4. Be matched with a Getting Ahead graduate.
 5. Establish schedule to connect with your match.
 6. Participate in monthly networking sessions.
- For the application packet, email nforlifer@wmhs.com or call 240-964-8422

Resource Partner Training

- Overview of poverty and the underlying concept of 'not just getting by, getting ahead'
- Information about how you can be involved in *Bridges to Opportunity*
- Details about being a Resource Partner
Friday April 8, 2016 12-1pm
WMHS- Hospital Auditorium Rooms 1-2
Presenter: Sue Coyle

Youth Engagement: We plan to host discussions with youth and community organizations to explore strategies for addressing the needs and barriers identified through the survey and focus groups. If you would like to be included in these discussions, please call 240-964-8422.

Policy: Child care and early childhood education have been identified as needs in this community. Through numerous national studies, the following benefits have been associated with provision of early childhood education programs: tax revenue increases and transfer payment decreases, remedial education and education system savings, reduced involvement with the criminal justice system and improvements in health. Research suggests expanding early learning initiatives would provide benefits to society of roughly \$8.60 for every \$1 spent, about half of which comes from increased earnings for children when they grow up. (THE ECONOMICS OF EARLY CHILDHOOD INVESTMENTS, Dec 2014)

Resource Building: Our desire is to engage businesses that understand the impact of economic class on individuals and the community, and a willingness to offer resources which support development of a dependable workforce. Presentations (ranging from 15-60 minutes) are available for worksites that include strategies for applying the concepts of Getting Ahead and Bridges to Opportunity. For more information, call 240-964-8422.

Upcoming Meetings and Presentations

Feb 25	530-630pm	Partner Networking Session	WMRMC Auditorium
Mar 2	9-10am	Youth Engagement Workgroup	WOC-Wellness
Mar 7	12-130pm	Resource Building Workgroup	Chamber of Commerce
Mar 17	9-1030am	Policy Workgroup	WOC-Wellness
Mar 22	330-5pm	Ally Partner Workgroup	WMRMC Auditorium
Mar 22	530-7pm	Getting Ahead & Engagement of All Wkgrp	WOC Wellness

For more information contact Nancy Forlifer, Facilitator at 240-964-8422 or nforlifer@wmhs.com.

www.bridges2opportunity.com