



**Update: March 2016**

**Getting Ahead:** All the recent Getting Ahead graduates stated the class was worthwhile, and would recommend it to others. When asked what the best part was, most said it was a learning experience that provided support, tools, and the belief that they can get ahead. Two groups of 12 have started the next Getting Ahead classes, and efforts are underway to do a class for college students in the fall.

Thanks to support from the Local Management Board of Allegany County, 6 more people will be trained as facilitators in Bridges and Getting Ahead, and a poverty simulator will soon be available for ongoing training.

**Brainfuse HelpNow** eLearning is for all ages and levels. All you need is a library card and you can access tutoring and adult learning support. Go to <http://allegany.washcolibrary.ga.brainfuse.com/authenticate.asp>

**Youth Engagement:** Service opportunities develop support networks and relationships created through civic engagement strengthen social capital and a youth’s potential for success. Service effectively develops hard and soft skill sets that enable success in higher education and careers. (Civic Pathways Out of Poverty and into Opportunity, PACE) A meeting of youth and organization representatives has been scheduled for May 3<sup>rd</sup> to discuss how to improve the opportunities available in our community.

**Policy Issues:** Research shows 80% of brain development happens before age 5. Addressing child care means a payoff later with a future workforce that has had a better start in life. Four ways businesses support early childhood are: increasing access to quality child care, supporting affordable child care, developing child friendly policies and procedures, and optimizing tax benefits.

**Help Needed:**

- Refreshment Sponsors are needed for the Tuesday morning Getting Ahead class (weeks 5-16) and the monthly networking sessions (April-June). Interested volunteers should contact Nancy.
- Matt Shipway has agreed to help plan the picnic/celebration for everyone involved with Bridges to Opportunity. A few more people are needed to help Matt and Nancy plan the event. If interested, please call 240-964-8422.

**Upcoming Meetings and Presentations**

Mar 17	9-1030am	Policy Workgroup	WOC-Wellness
Mar 18	12-1pm	Networking Session-Legal Matters	S. Cumberland Library
Mar 22	2-3pm	Housing Committee	WMRMC Auditorium
Mar 22	330-5pm	Ally Partner Workgroup	WMRMC Auditorium
Mar 22	530-7pm	Getting Ahead & Engagement of All Wkgrp	WOC Wellness
April 8	12-1pm	Bridges Presentation	Physician Meeting Room
April 21	8:30-10am	Steering Committee	WMRMC Auditorium
May 3	630-8pm	Connecting with Youth	WMRMC Auditorium

**For more information contact Nancy Forlifer, Facilitator at 240-964-8422 or [nforlifer@wmhs.com](mailto:nforlifer@wmhs.com).**

**[www.bridges2opportunity.com](http://www.bridges2opportunity.com)**