



Update: May 2016

Getting Ahead:

Getting Ahead was offered for the first time locally in September 2015 and 11 investigators (65%) graduated. At least two of these graduates have obtained full time jobs and one has enrolled in college. Responses from the 3 month follow up are still being collected, and soon there will be more resource building progress to share.

In June, the second pair of classes (co-facilitated by a graduate of the first class) will end, and it looks like 13 investigators will graduate. Thank you to all of the community partners that helped with the community assessment exercise. One investigator talked of how nice Stu treated her and showed he cared by asking her to check in with him later in the process.

Ally Partners: Six more individuals are needed to serve as Ally Partners for the Getting Ahead graduates in June. Application deadline extended to end of May. Go to www.bridges2opportunity.com for the application packet.

Policy Issues: Two new resource tips have been created about on-line schooling. An interesting comparison is shown between the graduation rates at for-profit on-line programs and non-profit on line programs. The other tip is focused on financial aid.

Resource Building: According to Ruth Weirich, entry-level and low-wage employees often live in a “tyranny of the moment” created by daily instability, which results in absenteeism, high turnover rates, and reduced productivity. Come to the free training session on June 8th and find out how to combat high turnover rates and other forms of business instability. Call 240-964-8422 for details.

Youth Engagement: The facilitated discussion we had on May 3rd with youth and organizational representatives was a success. When the group discussed what the barriers are to youth participation in community service, responses included: confrontational approach, peer pressure, lack of sponsorship, transportation, shyness- need icebreakers and public speaking classes, feeling judged and not respected, single parents, bureaucracy to volunteer, and time. Thank you to all that participated. More results and follow up actions coming soon.

Did you know... Savings of \$250 makes a positive difference in the percent of hardship, missed payments, and sought public benefits, according to US Census Bureau Survey of Income & Program Participation.

Upcoming Meetings and Presentations

June 8	8-10 or 11-1	Workplace Stability	WMRMC Auditorium/ ACM College Theatre
June 7 & 9	5:30-8:30pm	Ally Partner Training	WMRMC Auditorium
June 9	8:30-10am	Steering Committee	WMRMC Auditorium
June 13	5-6pm	Match Meeting	WOC-Wellness Conference Room
June 21	1-2pm	Housing Committee	WOC-Wellness Conference Room
July 5	4:30-6pm	Getting Ahead/Engagement Wkgrp	WOC-Wellness Conference Room
July 6	TBD	Youth Engagement Workgroup	WOC-Wellness Conference Room
July 11	12-1pm	Resource Building Workgroup	Chamber Office
July 14	9-10:30am	Policy Workgroup	WOC-Wellness Conference Room
July 26	330-5pm	Ally Partner Workgroup	WMRMC Auditorium
July 29	11-12noon	Transportation Committee	WOC-Wellness Conference Room

**For more information contact Nancy Forlifer, Facilitator at 240-964-8422 or nforlifer@wmhs.com.
www.bridges2opportunity.com**