



Update: August 2016

Help pilot the Poverty Simulator: an interactive immersion experience that sensitizes participants to the realities of poverty on November 2nd from 5-8pm in the auditorium of the Western Maryland Regional Medical Center. *Bridges to Opportunity* has been selected as the 2017 Leadership Allegany Class Project, and additional poverty simulations will be planned. If you are interested in hosting a simulation or volunteering as a “staffer” during the simulations, please call 240-964-8422.

Policy issues- Upcoming advocacy efforts will include:

- Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) gives a much-deserved break to people who work but struggle to get by on low wages. Research finds that strengthening the EITC for single workers could not only help people make ends meet and boost the local economy, but also: encourage & support work, reduce incarceration rates, and foster high school & college completion. We have the opportunity to make the EITC work better for all eligible Marylanders. (www.mdcash.org)
- The Child Care Subsidy (CCS) program formerly “Purchase of Care” helps limited income families pay for child care while parents work or attend school or job training. A sliding scale, based on household income, is used. The amount of the voucher will vary based on the amount of co-payment which is what parents must pay. Parents purchase care directly from providers. (Maryland Family Network)

Getting Ahead

Spaces remain in the Getting Ahead class set to occur in Lonaconing. Anyone interested should call 240-964-8422.

Ally Partners are also being recruited to match with the pending graduates.

Resource Building

Pam Jan has been contracted to explore development of an Employer Resource Network (ERN) or similar structure. *ERN is an innovative, employer-based model that pulls together a consortium of small- to mid-size businesses to provide job retention services, work supports, and training opportunities for entry-level employees, many of whom are receiving public assistance.* To learn more, call 240-964-8422.

Upcoming Meetings and Events

Sept 7	9-10am	Youth Engagement	Wellness Conference Room
Sept. 12	12-1pm	Resource Building Workgroup	Chamber of Commerce
Sept. 20	3:30-5pm	Ally Partner Workgroup	WMRMC Auditorium
Sept. 20	5:30-7pm	Getting Ahead/Engagement of All	Wellness. Conference Room (WOC)
Sept. 22	9-10:30am	Policy Workgroup	County Office Building

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