



Update: September 2016

Getting Ahead

There are currently two community classes of Getting Ahead underway with 19 investigators engaged. Terri Jesse, Getting Ahead graduate has joined the team as a co-facilitator. There is also an Investigation into Economic Class being held with 8 students at Frostburg State University. The following quote from one of the investigators demonstrates, the classes are off to a good start.

This class is great! It's nothing like any class I've ever been to. I came because I was ordered to come, but I'm glad that I am here. I'll definitely come back.

Engagement of all continues to be a goal. Danyial, a recent Getting Ahead graduate, supported this goal by attending several recent workgroup meetings and agreeing to join. Other graduates have been invited to participate and some expressed an interest.

Help us spread the word: Do you know of a community group or institution that would be interested in a presentation about Bridges to Opportunity? We have a 15 minute overview presentation that can be shared when recruiting Ally Partners. We also have a new presentation (1 hour or more) specifically designed to explore the impact of poverty on institutions, their employees and boards. Please share your connections.

Resource Building

Letters have been sent to seven area businesses asking them to consider participation in the Employer Resource Network pilot. The goal of the ERN is to help you develop and retain a dependable workforce, reduce employee turnover, and be a win/win for our community. As the Resource Coordinator, Pam Jan will provide coaching and community resource coordination at the selected businesses, allowing employees to solve issues while staying on the job. Reception of the concept by businesses has been positive.

The Small Dollar Loan Fund is fully operational and has been sought out by two Getting Ahead graduates so far.

Youth Engagement

Lenny Vega is now serving as an AmeriCorps Member with Bridges to Opportunity thanks to Frostburg State University, and Michele Brinsfield has been hired as Youth Engagement Director with grant funding from the Local Management Board. Both will be focused on service learning and civic engagement activities to enhance academic success, career development and community building, especially with disconnected youth. With support from Kara Kennell, ACPS and leaders in Student Council, they will implement an Income Inequity race and gain youth input on a communication network and engagement activities at an upcoming event.

Don't miss out, call to reserve a space in the Poverty Simulation on November 2nd. If you are not a 'staffer', please join as a participant. It is essential that individuals involved in Bridges to Opportunity share in this experience before we expand to other community venues. Call 240-964-8422 or email nforlifer@wmhs.com.

Upcoming Meetings and Events

October 3	5:30-630pm	Ally Partner Networking Session	WMRMC (Hospital) Auditorium 3-4
October 13	8:30-10am	Steering Committee Meeting	ACM Board Room
October 26	5:30-7pm	Training for Simulation Staffers	WMRMC (Hospital) Auditorium
November 2	9-10am	Youth Engagement	WOC- Wellness Conference Room
November 2	5-8pm	Poverty Simulation (Registration Required-240-964-8422)	WMRMC (Hospital) Auditorium 1-6
November 7	12-1:30pm	Resource Building Workgroup	Chamber Office
November 14	3:30-5pm	Getting Ahead & Ally Partner Workgroups Combined	WOC- Wellness Conference Room
November 17	9-10:30am	Policy Workgroup	WOC- Wellness Conference Room

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

www.bridges2opportunity.com