



Update: October 2016

Ally Partners

Relationships and understanding the perspectives of others are keys to improving our community. The relationships between Getting Ahead Graduates and Ally Partners are key to the success of Bridges to Opportunity. Based on input from graduates and ally partners, additional training, support, and team building activities are being planned. Michele Brinsfield and Sue Coyle will be leading this component, and a ‘speed dating’ strategy may be used to match ally partners with graduates.

There are currently 19 investigators in Getting Ahead, and 6 more in the Investigations into Economic Class at Frostburg State University. Ally Partners are needed to support these individuals when they graduate. Training is scheduled for November 16th and 30th from 6-8pm. A make-up session is set for Saturday, December 3rd from 9-12noon. Ally partners can help graduates increase resources and become more stable. You do not need to have all the answers or lots of time. Listening and caring are more important. If interested in learning more, call 240-964-8422.

Youth Engagement

A survey was conducted with 123 middle and high school students during the Association of Student Council’s picnic. Information gathered included ways to reach teens via social media and student interest in civic engagement activities. As a result, Lenny Vega, AmeriCorps Member, has been meeting with student councils to create a City Clean-Up Challenge event. Local schools will compete for a \$250 prize by engaging the most youth and cleaning up neighborhoods around their school.

Efforts are also underway to reach disconnected youth in our community through a partnership with the GED program and the Allegany County Detention Center. Details are being finalized for a Getting Ahead class for 16-24 year olds who are not in school or work or have had some experience with the prison system.

Resources

Shelterforce is a community development magazine published by the National Housing Institute. *Shelterforce* examines the issues causing the crisis in housing and community in America. These issues include poverty and racism, disinvestment and lack of employment, safety, and high-quality education. NHI examines how these and other factors affect people as they try to build safe, viable neighborhoods. They are dedicated to providing the tools (information, analysis, resources) for advocates, activists, and community members to organize their communities, rebuild their neighborhoods, and create decent housing and living-wage jobs for the families who live there. For more details visit www.shelterforce.org

Upcoming Meetings and Events

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
December 5	530-630	Ally Partners	WMRMC (Hospital) Auditorium
December 8	8:30-10am	Bridges Steering Committee	WMRMC (Hospital) Auditorium

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

www.bridges2opportunity.com