



Maximizing community resources to reduce poverty



**We can't change the beginning of our story,
but we can choose the rest of our story.
The direction we go is our choice!**

GRADUATION!

Two Getting Ahead in a Just-Gettin'-By World classes, pictured in the first two photographs below, graduated May 7 and 9. These two graduating classes, plus the two Getting Ahead While Getting Out groups that completed their classes later in the month and graduated on May 23, brought our total number of Getting Ahead graduated groups to 32. Fourteen people graduated from the group meeting at First Baptist Church and six graduated from the group meeting at First United Methodist Church.



**GA Graduation, First Baptist Church
May 7, 2018**



**GA Graduation, First United Methodist Church,
May 9, 2018**



A total of 17 graduated from the Garland County Detention Center groups,
May 23, 2018

We wish them all the best as they begin their new life stories!

Red Light Roastery, specializing in small batch, craft coffee roasted in Hot Springs National Park, Arkansas, has chosen Cooperative Christian Ministries & Clinic as their **Red Light Give Back** non-profit for June!

They will be donating their tips for the month to CCMC. So, please visit them at 1003 Park Avenue during June and buy some coffee... *and tip generously!*



New Staying Ahead Coordinator

Yes, this face will look familiar to most of you since she was our Getting Ahead coordinator from July 2017 through March 2018. Starla Bleifus left CCMC to become a grandmother and take care of her first grandchild, who...by the way...decided to come a little early. This "new to her" position as GA Staying Ahead Coordinator will be a perfect fit with her grandmother duties, as it is part time and will allow her to be a caregiver for the baby on the days she is needed. Due to her experience with Getting Ahead, Starla will be able to hit the ground running recruiting mentors for Getting Ahead graduates as well as other duties.



If you are interesting in being a part of this very important facet of Getting Ahead, please contact Starla at sbleifus@ccmchs.com or call 501.318.1153, ext. 102.

We hate to say goodbye to Michelle Ratcliff, who has accepted a new position with the Hot Springs Chamber of Commerce in the economic development division; however, we feel we aren't really losing her as we will be collaborating with her often in her new job.

New Equipment at CCMC

CCMC's newest equipment, a digital x-ray machine, recently made it's debut in the dental area during our May night clinic. Pictured with it (left to right) are Nikki Grisham, CCMC Pharmacy Coordinator, and Libby Willett and Kathryn Carson, CCMC volunteers.



CCMC Receives Donation from Brick House Grill

The Brick House Grill in Hot Springs donated a percentage of the profits from their beverage sales at the 2018 World's Shortest Parade celebration. Thank you, Brick House Grill for your generosity!

(Pictured L-R: Lynn Blankenship, CCMC Executive Director, and Scott Cates and Yvonne Cates, Brick House Grill)



CCMC Executive Director Teams Up with Garland County Habitat for Humanity

The fourth annual Garland County Habitat for Humanity event focusing on women building, this year named Heels to Hammers, took place during the week of May 15-19. Women in the community fastened their tool belts and got busy! CCMC's Executive Director, Lynn Blankenship, volunteered on May 16th after attending the CCMC Monthly Community Discussion from 8:00-9:00 a.m. at the Hot Springs Chamber of Commerce. Also participating that day was Rynne Belk, CCMC pharmacy volunteer.

(Pictured L-R: Rynne Belk and Lynn Blankenship)



Volunteer Spotlight

D.K. Edwards -

D.K. was born in Kansas City, Missouri, and has lived in Hot Springs Village for fourteen years. She says her family is scattered with a son in Arizona, two in Kansas City, and one in Hot Springs. She also has five stepchildren...and, between the nine children...she has sixteen grandchildren and ten great-grandchildren.

D.K. volunteers at the CCMC pharmacy window on clinic Wednesdays. She says her favorite thing about CCMC is the camaraderie and appreciation between staff and volunteers...and adds that the cookies aren't too bad either!

She stays very busy with many activities including cooking at her church, Holy Trinity Episcopal, and dancing. She Zumba's 2-3 days a week, tap dances on Mondays, and helps teach line dancing for two hours every Thursday.

D.K. has one pet, a 14-year-old dark brown "kitty". She said this cat talks to her all the time and never goes outside because she is afraid of the crows.

Getting Ahead Graduate Update

Gloria Villatoro -

Gloria was born in Texas. She graduated from Getting Ahead on December 13, 2017. Gloria has been helping at CCMC in the office this summer through National Park College's work study program. She will be starting the LPN class at NPC on May 29.



She has four children, two boys and two girls...ages 8 to 14 years old. In her free time she enjoys walking, swimming, and spending time with her family.

Gloria said the most valuable thing she learned in Getting Ahead was that we all have different voices. She acknowledged that her parent voice was very dominant.

We wish Gloria all the best as she begins her journey toward a new career and a new life.

CHI St. Vincent's Mobile Mammogram Unit Visits CCMC



Pictured L to R: Sonya Marhenke with CCMC and Melissa Rynders RT(R)(M) and Kathy Davidson RT(R)(M) with CHI St. Vincent.



Pictured L to R: Melissa Rynders RT(R)(M) and Kathy Davidson RT(R)(M) with CHI St. Vincent; Sonya Marhenke and Sharon Morel with CCMC.

On Wednesday, May 23, CHI St. Vincent's Mobile Mammogram Unit was at CCMC serving the clinic's clients scheduled for the testing procedure that day. Sharon Morel, CCMC's Clinic Director, arranged to have the unit here to make it easier for CCMC's patients to receive this very important screening. A big thank you to CHI St. Vincent and to Melissa and Kathy...and, as always, to Sharon!

CCMC's Community Discussion in May

The collaborative partner in May for the Community Discussion was Dolly Parton's Imagination Library. Representatives from Imagination Library of the Ouachitas were present to provide information about their program.

Information reviewed in their presentation and in their handouts included:

- Their areas of service are Garland and Montgomery Counties.

- Their objective is to provide children from birth to five years of age in this service area a monthly gift of their own age-appropriate book delivered to them at their home. The child's name is on the envelope when it arrives at the home.

- If children are enrolled in this program for four months or more:

Parent reading to child increases from 29% to 59%
Reading three times a week or more rose from 59% to 85%
Children asking to be read to increased 90%
Children reading on their own increased 90%

- If a child gets what they need in their first five years of life, they are:

50% less likely to need special education
40% less likely to be retained in a grade
25% less likely to be involved in drug use
70% less likely to be arrested for violent crime
40% less likely to become a teen parent, and there is a 2-year delay for those who do get pregnant

The message conveyed is that investing in the life of a child is an investment in the kind of community in which we all hope to live.

It is good to learn about the resources that are available in the Hot Springs area and of all the good work being done to make our community a better place to live and work.

The next Community Discussion will be on June 20 at the Hot Springs Chamber of Commerce, 8:00-9:00 a.m.



Pictured L to R: Amy Thomason; volunteer with Library of the Ouachitas and CCMC, and Dr. Jack Porter, Chairman, CCMC Board of Directors

Interested in Being a Mentor for a Getting Ahead Graduate?

If you are interested in getting more information about mentoring a Getting Ahead graduate, please contact:

Starla Bleifus, Staying Ahead Coordinator
501.318.1153, ext. 102
sbleifus@ccmchs.com

We are always looking for volunteers to fill this vital role...to walk alongside a GA

graduate as they continue to work to improve and stabilize their lives and their families lives!

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Monthly Information Meetings for Prospective Getting Ahead Participants

Please remember that we hold monthly information meetings for prospective participants for Getting Ahead on the second Thursday of each month, from 10:00-11:00 a.m. Dian Glover, Getting Ahead Coordinator, reviews the process and answers questions that attendees might have about the program.

The GA process is a sixteen-week self discovery process for participants...to learn about themselves, the eleven resources the material outlines, and the journey from poverty to sustainability.

If you know anyone who would be interested in learning more about Getting Ahead, please encourage them to attend one of these important meetings.

Upcoming information meeting dates are:

- **June 14, 2018**
 - **July 12, 2018**
 - **August 9, 2018**
-

Important Meeting Times in June

Information Meeting for Prospective Getting Ahead Participants

Thursday, June 14 10:00-11:00 a.m.
CCMC
133 Arbor St.

Staying Ahead Monthly Meeting (Graduates/Mentors)

Thursday, June 14 6:00-7:00 p.m.
The Garage Church
122 Sanford St.

CCMC Community Discussion

Wednesday, June 20 8:00-9:00 a.m.
Chamber of Commerce
659 Ouachita Ave.

CCMC Speakers Are Always Ready to Share the Bridge to Hope and Getting Ahead Stories

Lynn Blankenship, Executive Director for CCMC, has been busy in 2018 speaking to organizations and churches. Opportunities to share the Bridge to Hope message are always welcomed.

The Getting Ahead story is about building resources, removing barriers, and supporting the journey from poverty to sustainability for those in our community who want to benefit from this process. The results: a better workforce, a new group of people to contribute to the community...and stronger families.

If you would like to have a CCMC representative come to your business or organization to talk about Bridge to Hope in Hot Springs and the Getting Ahead stories, please contact Lynn Blankenship at lynn@ccmchs.com or call 501.318.1153, ext. 103.

New and Ongoing Needs at CCMC

CCMC also has ongoing needs. In addition to volunteer help, which is always needed and appreciated, other needs are:

- Prayer support
- Financial support for overhead costs (utilities, medication, etc.)
- Office supplies (paper, pens, notepads, etc.)
- Paper towels, napkins
- Paper plates, cups
- Disinfectant wipes

Costs involved with Getting Ahead include:

- Classroom supplies for an entire class (16 participants) - \$200
- Workbooks for a full class - \$300
- Food for a 16-member class session - \$150
- Price per class participant - \$600

Cooperative Christian Ministries & Clinic
133 Arbor St.
Hot Springs, AR 71901

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www.ccmchs.com

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