



**Change your thinking...and
it will change your life!**

CCMC Receives the Bridges Community of the Year Award

Cooperative Christian Ministries was recently selected as the Bridges Community of the Year by aha! Process, Inc. The award was announced formally at the 2017 Addressing the Challenges of Poverty conference, which just concluded in St. Louis. CCMC's Bridge to Hope initiative has been led by Dr. John Wayne Smith and Lynn Blankenship, and they are a licensed site with aha! Process. The award brings with it \$1,000 in products and online trainings from aha! Process.



Pictured from l to r: Lynn Jackson with Aha! Process, Inc., and Lynn Blankenship, Starla Bleifus, Tina McBride, Reyna Darden, Michelle Ratcliff, and Dr. John Wayne Smith, all representing CCMC at the 2017 Addressing the Challenges of Poverty conference.

aha! Process is an award-winning training and publishing company that works to help individuals, businesses, students, and communities build resources for a more successful, sustainable future. They do this by creating an understanding of the dynamics that cause and maintain poverty both on the individual and the systems level. Poverty, middle class, and wealth are about an abundance or lack of resources.

Cooperative Christian Ministries and Clinic expanded its mission in 2014 to work on roadblocks facing people in poverty. The clinic works directly with people in poverty and serves as a source of referrals to their Getting Ahead groups. Since they began to offer Getting Ahead in a Just-Gettin'-By World, CCMC has taken nine groups through the program and graduated 81 people. CCMC has also been a strong adopter of the Getting Ahead While Getting Out prison reentry program, with 13 groups completed and 90 graduates. Classes have been held at First Baptist Church, First United Methodist Church, the Garland County Detention Center, and the Housing Authority Community Center. There are two Getting Ahead in a Just-Gettin'-By World classes and two GAWGO classes currently meeting. The graduations for these groups will be held in December and October, respectively.

In addition to participants learning about resources to stabilize their lives, and their family's lives, input from these investigators shape the actions of the Bridge to Hope steering committee. Together they determined that jobs, transportation, education, case management, housing, and advocacy were the areas that needed the most attention. Then, for each issue, they formed a task force to focus on sustainable solutions that work for the whole community. They also hold monthly meetings, open to anyone in the community, at the Hot Springs Chamber of Commerce, in order to keep the community up to date on the progress being made.

In response to these awareness-raising efforts, one of the largest employers in the community, Oaklawn Racing, expressed an interest in hiring Getting Ahead graduates. Unfortunately, the application and licensing required for employment

with Oaklawn was another barrier for most Getting Ahead graduates. CCMC worked with Oaklawn and with the Arkansas State Racing Commission on a solution. The result was that changes to the hiring requirements for food/beverage and maintenance employees were made that removed the barriers.

After the changes, Oaklawn held two on-site job fairs for Getting Ahead graduates. The graduates were invited to tour the facilities and then to interview with management. An astounding 100% of the job fair attendees were offered positions, and of those who accepted the position, 75% are still employed. Graduates see increases in income, and they gain retirement, vacation, and health insurance benefits when they are hired full time. But the graduates aren't the only ones who make gains: The arrangement provides Oaklawn with employees who have proven they understand the hidden rules of middle class. As a result, they will have the tools to excel in their new environment.

The Getting Ahead While Getting Out program has the reputation of being the most popular program in the Garland County Detention Center. GAWGO offers concrete strategies and tactics to help reentering citizens avoid re-offending. The program is so valuable to the inmates that there is a waiting list to participate. At least one Getting Out investigator was so enthusiastic about the program that his spouse joined a Getting Ahead in a Just-Gettin'-By World group on the outside!

Plans are in place to offer the Workforce Stability education segment to management of local businesses and Getting Ahead in the Workplace for their employees, with a goal of beginning in early 2018. CCMC's goal is to continue to work with community stakeholders at all levels to make a positive difference in Hot Springs.

Upcoming CCMC events are the monthly Community Discussion held at the Hot Springs Chamber of Commerce on Wednesday, October 18, 8:00 a.m.-9:30 a.m. and a Workforce Stability Workshop scheduled for October 27, from 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. Call CCMC at 501.318.1153, ext. 303 for further information or email ccmc@ccmchs.com.

Reminder!!
CCMC Golf Classic 2017
Teeing Off on October 9

GOLF CLASSIC 2017

October 9, 2017 • Hot Springs Golf & Country Club

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES



Platinum Sponsor [\$10,000]
• Four complimentary teams of four
• Signage recognition at event
• Use of tournament logo in company advertising
• Company logo on all event materials and mailings
• Company recognition in all related media releases
• Opportunity for company representative to address tournament participants

Gold Sponsor [\$5,000]
• Two complimentary teams of four
• Signage recognition at event
• Use of tournament logo in company advertising
• Company recognition in all related media releases

Luncheon Sponsor [\$2,500 exclusive]
• One complimentary team of four
• Company will host the luncheon at the tournament and display company banner
• Identification in print advertising
• Use of tournament logo in company advertising
• Opportunity to have company representative at luncheon

Awards Sponsor [\$2,500 exclusive]
• One complimentary team of four
• Identification in print advertising
• Use of tournament logo in company advertising
• Opportunity to have company representative at the Awards presentation.

Silver Sponsor [\$1,250]
• One complimentary team of four
• Signage recognition at event
• Use of tournament logo in company advertising

Registration Sponsor [\$1,250 exclusive]
• One complimentary team of four
• Company signage positioned at registration table
• Company may supply banner for registration area
• Use of tournament logo in company advertising

Scoreboard Sponsor [\$1,250 exclusive]
• One complimentary team of four
• Company logo printed on scoreboards
• Signage recognition at registration and awards area
• Use of tournament logo in company advertising
• Company may provide banner for display

Driving Range [\$500 exclusive]
• Company will host contest
• Use of tournament logo in company advertising
• Company banner displayed at driving range

Closest to Pin [\$500]
• Company will host contest
• Company may provide banner to display at event
• Use of tournament logo in company advertising

Longest/Straightest Drive Contest [\$500]
• Company will host contest
• Company may provide banner to display at event
• Use of tournament logo in company advertising

Bronze [\$500]
• One sign recognizing all Par Sponsors displayed at the registration table and awards reception
• Use of tournament logo in company advertising
• Company logo or name prominently displayed at tee box

SCHEDULE

Four person
scramble

•
All flights begin at 1
p.m. with a shotgun
start

•
Awards presentation
following play

•
Luncheon:
11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

•
Prizes awarded to
top 3 teams

Cooperative Christian Ministries & Clinic is a 501(c)(3) Corporation

[For more information, contact: Lynn Blankenship, Executive Director, CCMC](#)

Our Spotlight on CCMC Staff and Volunteers

The spotlight this month shines on a CCMC employee -



Sonya Marhenke

Born: Williston, North Dakota and grew up in Minneapolis, Minnesota

Been in the Hot Springs area: Since May, 2015

Family: Sonya and her husband, Larry, are happily retired on Lake Pineda in Hot Springs Village.

Her role at CCMC: She translates Spanish for the patients, doctors, and staff.



Her favorite thing about CCMC: Sonya says she loves being able to use her Spanish in a meaningful way and "relating to the patients is very gratifying."

Hobbies: Photography, travel, and learning to quilt. Also, they oversee a mission project in Guatemala. Having previously completed a Mayan translation of the New Testament, they are now translating hymns into the Cunenec language and continuing other aspects of outreach in that area.

Sonya, thank you for utilizing your language skills here at CCMC every week and for your care and concern for our patients.

A Getting Ahead Graduate Update

Our graduate update for September is on Dalane Morgan, who graduated Getting Ahead this past May. She was born in Santa Cruz, California, has three sons, ages 17, 12, and 7, and a small dog. Her mom, dad, and younger sister live in Hot Springs also.

The most valuable things Dalane learned in Getting Ahead, she said, were to plan for the future, save, and invest.

She says she is still working on her successes and future goals...but we know she is concentrating right now on work objectives and that she has also recently gone through the process of getting dentures with the help of the Getting Ahead graduate/CCMC dental program.

Dalane, we hope you keep on working on your future goals and successes! We think you have accomplished a great deal since you began and completed Getting Ahead this year. We are looking forward to seeing what else your future holds for you!



Reminder!!

Ongoing Monthly Community Discussions Continue

The next meeting will be on Wednesday, October 18...please mark your calendars!

CCMC continues these important monthly Bridge to Hope Community Discussion meetings on the 3rd Wednesday each month, 8:00-9:30 a.m., at the Hot Springs Chamber of Commerce. The next discussion will be held October 18..

We hope you will plan to attend one of these sessions to learn more about how we can all help our community...and its citizens...move forward to sustainability. And encourage colleagues, friends, and family to attend. It will be 90 minutes well spent.

Please call 501.318.1153, ext. 303, to reserve your place or contact us at awilson@ccmchs.com.

We will save you a seat!



September meeting

Monthly Graduate/Mentor Meeting

The next meeting will be on Thursday, October 12...please mark your calendars!

We continue to meet monthly with the graduates and mentors. It is an opportunity to touch base with each other and to share both successes and experiences where words of encouragement are needed.

We want to urge graduates and mentors to attend and put these dates - the 2nd Thursday of each month, at 6:00 p.m., on their calendars. We have a nice meal/refreshments, interact as a group, and have time for one-on-one visits between graduates and mentors.

In September, the theme was "back to school" ...special school teachers and experiences were shared and the food brought back real memories.

Thank you, Marilyn Hurst, for your creativity, enthusiasm, and preparation of the food each month!



Need a Speaker at Your Organization's Upcoming Meeting?

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

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 her at 501.318.1153, ext. 103.

Getting Ahead 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.

Monthly Information Meetings for Prospective Getting Ahead Participants

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. Starla Bleifus, 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:

October 12, 2017
November 9, 2017
December 14, 2017

Important Meeting Times in October

Information Meeting for Getting Ahead Prospective Participants

Thursday, Oct. 12
10:00-11:00 a.m.
CCMC

Bridge to Hope Community Discussion

Wednesday, Oct. 18
8:00-9:30 a.m.
Hot Springs Chamber of Commerce
Seating limited - RSVP requested to awilson@ccmchs.com

Ongoing Needs at CCMC

CCMC has many 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 and Clinic
www.ccmchs.org



Like us on Facebook!
STAY CONNECTED