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*Maximizing community resources to reduce poverty*

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## Workforce Stability - A Win-Win!

CCMC and volunteers are gearing up to make Getting Ahead in the Workplace available to businesses in Hot Springs. This program was developed by Philip E. DeVol and is similar to the other Getting Ahead programs being conducted in our community. This one, however, is focused on companies helping employees build stability and resources for a better life at work and home.

This program addresses the challenges in the workplace experienced by both employers and employees. **For the employer:** If policies and practices help employees establish control and stability in their lives...discover how that might affect engagement and turnover...and, consequently, the company's bottom line. **For the employee:** Learn how the realities of conditions at home, work, and the community impact stability, discover the "hidden rules" and special language of getting ahead in the workplace, find out how to acquire the resources and relationships that open doors and help keep them open...and more.

Coming soon...stay tuned!

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**Childhood Abuse Prevention &  
Intervention:  
Moving from Awareness to Action**



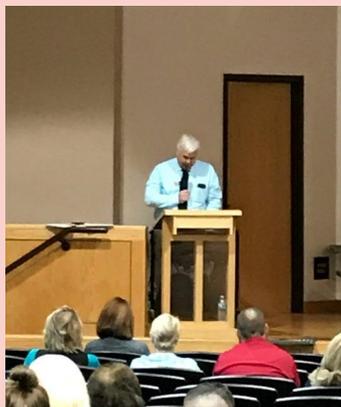
Pictured L to R: Speakers - Annette Humphreys, MDT Chair; Michelle Lawrence, Prosecuting Attorney; Kurt Meredith, attorney, Office of Chief Counsel, Arkansas Department of Health; Karen Wright, Executive Director, Cooper Anthony Child Assessment Center; Whitney Freeman, Garland County Assessment Supervisor; and Kathy Finney, Arkansas State Police.

In observance of April being Child Abuse Awareness and Prevention month, this free conference was held April 24 at the Roy Rowe Auditorium (HSSD). It was presented by Ouachita Area Youth Council, Cooperative Christian Ministries & Clinic, National Park College, Hot Springs School District, and Ouachita Children's Center. Lynn Blankenship attended representing CCMC.

The conference learning objectives were:

- Increase and deepen awareness of child abuse
- Learn to empower victims and witnesses to report abuse
- Become better informed on the process of intervention, reporting, investigating, and prosecution
- Raise awareness of protection and prevention initiatives that everyone should know and look for in all situations

Speakers were Phyllis Bell, Child Welfare Senior Advisor to Governor Asa Hutchinson, and Sherry Williamson - MPA, Child Abuse Awareness Coordinator with the Arkansas Commission on Child Abuse, Rape, and Domestic Violence. Additional presentations were made by Michelle Lawrence, Garland County Prosecuting Attorney, and other local child abuse responders and members of the Multi-Disciplinary Child Abuse Review Team.



Ouachita Children's Center's executive director, Mark Howard, opened the conference with a beautiful prayer for our children



Sherry Williamson, Child Abuse Project Coordinator - Arkansas Commission on Child Abuse, Rape, and Domestic Violence, concluded the conference sharing information about how to report suspected child abuse and imploring each attendee to take responsibility for keeping children safe.



## Volunteers Always Needed...and Appreciated... at CCMC

**Oops!** We failed to include the picture with the March article that included the Wright brothers who

volunteered for us earlier this year. So...we are including it now. We apologize for the oversight.

**The Wright Brothers** - Dustin and Dalton Wright, nephews of Linda Black, CCMC Certified Pharmacy Tech, helped us with storage organization for the new year...and we want to say thanks! These young men came to volunteer during their school break and provided the muscle needed for this task. Thanks, Linda, for arranging for this much needed help, and, thank you, Dustin and Dalton, for your time and cheerful service!



## Volunteer Spotlight

### Ann Felsted -

Ann was born in Washington, Iowa, and has lived in Hot Springs for 31 years. She has a daughter, who lives in St. Louis, one granddaughter, one grandson, and one great-granddaughter, who are all very busy with work and school.

She has been volunteering at CCMC for about 18 years; started helping in the pharmacy for night clinic and is now at the front desk on clinic days. Ann has helped with the Chocolate Festival for some time and was on the clinic's Board of Directors for a number of years.

Her favorite thing about CCMC is being able to help others who are less fortunate... in a friendly atmosphere.

Some of Ann's favorite past times, besides volunteering, are playing bridge, book club, traveling, and knitting.

We are happy Ann continues to be part of the CCMC family...her joy is contagious!



## Staying Ahead in April

Staying Ahead in April was held at the YMCA on April 12. This is our regular date, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday each month, and we encourage GA graduates and their mentors to attend. The food is always extra special - *with much appreciation to Ms. Marilyn* - and the time together, sharing and networking, is priceless.

The "food for thought" presentation was given by Paul Jacob and you can tell from the picture above that everyone was paying close attention!

It is always good to hear about the successes of the graduates and it is also an opportunity to let others know when some help might be needed.



Tina McBride, Michelle Ratcliff, and Starla Bleifus

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## Getting Ahead Graduate Update

### Ruby Dillard –

Ruby graduated Getting Ahead on May 8, 2017. She was born in Hot Springs, Arkansas and has one daughter. They have a family pet, a pit bull, that has been with them for 9 years.



Ruby volunteers with Karli's Home and also with the Hope Movement. She enjoys spending time with her daughter, likes to paint, and is active in church.

Ruby says she has a working budget and an emergency fund started. She has been accepted at Arkansas Rehabilitation Services for their Cosmetology School and is currently waiting for a start date.

An additional piece of good news is that Ruby has recently been accepted in the Habitat for Humanity program and will have a "home of her own" soon!

Congratulations, Ruby, on all your successes! We are proud of you!

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## Another New Resource Coordinated by CCMC

The R Rules, a guide to help middle and high school teens identify and build resources, is being introduced to area schools as part of a pilot program. This program is also from Aha Process, Inc! Plans are to begin classes this fall, with teacher training to be held this summer.

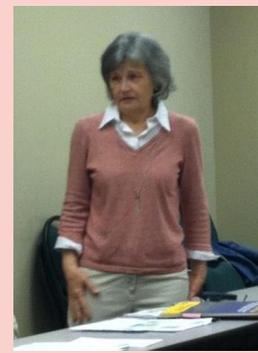
Resources explored in this program include education, relationships, connections, and opportunities in the community as well as problem-solving and communication skills.

We are excited to be a part of this venture that will help students in this age group answer the question...**What do you want to do, be, and have in the future?**

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# Community Discussions in April

CCMC's regularly scheduled monthly Community Discussion was held on April 18, 8:00-9:00 a.m., at the Hot Springs Chamber of Commerce building. Lynn Blankenship, CCMC Executive Director, opened the discussion with a brief outline of CCMC's mission and a brief PowerPoint picture of what poverty looks like in Garland County.



Lynn then introduced Denise Marion, Garland County Justice of the Peace District #03 and Chair for Project Hope Teen Pregnancy Prevention. Denise reviewed the statistics for Arkansas teen births. Her brochure notes that Garland County's rates are even higher than the state average. It also points out that two-thirds of teen mothers are below poverty level and on public assistance. The mission of Project Hope Teen Pregnancy Prevention is to reduce the incidence of teen pregnancies and sexually transmitted infections among Garland County youth by providing resources for evidence-based education.

The plan for the remaining Community Discussions this year is to invite a representative each month from another local nonprofit to share their information and how they are collaborating with CCMC in its mission...**Maximizing community resources to reduce poverty.**

**The next Community Discussion will be on May 16 at the Hot Springs Chamber of Commerce, 8:00-9:00 a.m.**

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## 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:

Michelle Ratcliff  
501.318.1153, ext. 102  
mratcliff@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:

- **May 10, 2018**
  - **June 14, 2018**
  - **July 12, 2018**
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## Important Meeting Times in May

### **Information Meeting for Prospective Getting Ahead Participants**

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

### **Staying Ahead Monthly Meeting (Graduates/Mentors)**

Thursday, May 10 6:00-7:00 p.m.  
YMCA  
130 Werner St.

### **CCMC Community Discussion**

Wednesday, May 16 8:00-9:00 a.m.  
Chamber of Commerce  
659 Ouachita Ave.

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## CCMC Speakers 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](mailto:lynn@ccmchs.com) or call 501.318.1153, ext. 103.

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## 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

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Cooperative Christian Ministries & Clinic  
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Hot Springs, AR 71901

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www.ccmchs.com

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See what's happening on Facebook:

