



People Building New Lives

...with Bridge to Hope in Hot Springs, Arkansas!

WHAT DOES GETTING AHEAD IN A JUST-GETTIN'-BY WORLD MEAN FOR HOT SPRINGS, ARKANSAS?

If you go to the aha! Process website, the first information you will see about this award-winning training includes:

"Getting Ahead in a Just-Gettin'-By World is a book and a 45-hour workshop that helps individuals in poverty build their resources for a more prosperous life for themselves, their families, and their communities. The Getting Ahead curriculum:

- *Involves rigorous work done in a safe learning environment with the support of an experienced facilitator and co-facilitator.*
- *Enables participants, called "investigators," to examine their own experience of poverty as well as explore issues in the community that impact poverty – banking, housing, jobs, transportation – providing critical information the community can use to take action to end poverty.*
- *Guides investigators through an assessment of their own resources and how to build those resources as part of their move to self-sufficiency.*
- *Puts the concepts, tools, and relationships in the hands of people in poverty to make a difference in their own lives and in the life of their community."*

This summarizes, in certainly an excellent way, the Getting Ahead process...but we can add to that on a personal level. Most involved in this process in Hot Springs, Arkansas have seen participants/graduates put plans to work that have changed their life...and their family's lives...and ours! Things have happened like new jobs, job

promotions, new healthy lifestyles, new positive friendships, new financial plans...new directions. These all speak to the success of the program, the efforts of the volunteers, the efforts of participants...and the community support.

A new program, by Philip E. DeVol, is coming soon - Getting Ahead in the Workplace, Building Stability and Resources for a Better Life at Work and Home. A quote from the back cover really brings our community's involvement in this process to the front.

"I just met a graduate of the first Getting Ahead class. She told me how getting a financial plan together had made a big difference in her ability to focus at work. Instead of worrying about how she would make ends meet she could focus on her work. As a result, she was recognized by her supervisor as employee of the month because of the positive changes she was making. (This by a major retailer in our community.) I hope many more of these stories will be written as a result of this Getting Ahead training. I know the value of retaining employees, rather than having to retrain new ones, so I can see the very positive economic impact this could have for the whole community." James K. Smith II, CEO, Keith Smith Company, Inc., Hot Springs, Arkansas

We don't think it can be said better than this!



Please mark your calendar for April 7th as a special day for an opportunity to make

a donation to Cooperative Christian Ministries and Clinic...online through ArkansasGives. It's a simple, easy, and fast way to make that donation you've been wanting and meaning to make.

Here's how it works:

CCMC is one of the nonprofits - statewide - registered to benefit from this event. It is a day to raise money and stretch charitable dollars. Bonus dollars are given from a \$400,000 pool provided by Arkansas Community Foundation...one day...one easy way to give!

Donations can be made online from smartphones, tablets, or personal computers by going to ArkansasGives.org, choosing Cooperative Christian Ministries and Clinic, and making a credit card donation on this date. Please help us get the word out.

NEW CASEWORKER AT CCMC



Tina McBride began work as a caseworker at CCMC on February 15. She is an ordained minister with an educational background in social work and has served with The Salvation Army for 23 years as an active officer; most recently assigned to the Hot Springs command. She received her BSW from Northeastern Oklahoma State University in Tahlequah.

Tina, along with her husband, has served in large and small communities including: Hattiesburg and Laurel, Mississippi; Kenner, Louisiana; Mobile and Dothan, Alabama; and Montgomery County, Maryland.

She has spent many years serving the poor and marginalized and she, herself, has overcome great personal obstacles from her family of origin. Her personal philosophy is that "everyone has a story...and every story matters."

She said, "I am excited to be joining the team at CCMC!"

And...we are happy to have her here!

MENTOR COORDINATOR NOW ONBOARD FOR GETTING AHEAD IN A JUST-GETTIN'-BY WORLD

Terry Lawler recently retired after 41 years working as a teacher, counselor, and administrator in the Lake Hamilton; Lakeside; and, most recently, the Hot Springs school districts. She is an active member of St. Luke's Episcopal Church and is involved in community service through her church. Terry also is a volunteer with the Garland County Jail Ministry. Her passion is to work with families who are struggling to make a better life for themselves and their children.

Welcome aboard, Terry!

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES and TRAINING ACTIVITY

There are many opportunities to help with this important process, **Getting Ahead in a Just-Gettin'-By World**, and one of our greatest needs, at this point is still for **facilitators** and **mentors**.

Future mentor training sessions are being planned.

If you would like more information about Getting Ahead in a Just-Gettin'-By World, please contact Jill Johnson, Program Director, at jjohnson@ccmchs.com or call 501.318.1153, ext. 302.

If you would like information about the mentoring program, please contact Terry Lawler at terryl@cablelynx.com or call 501.620.6051.

INFORMATIONAL MEETINGS FOR POTENTIAL GA PARTICIPANTS ARE ONGOING!

Please keep in mind that on the **2nd Thursday of each month, from 10:00-11:00 a.m.**, informational meetings are held for people to learn more about the Getting Ahead process. These meetings are opportunities for prospective "investigators" to learn more about the process, get questions answered, and discover how the Getting Ahead process can change their lives. The GA process is a self-discovery for each person participating...but it can be comforting to learn it is experienced with others...on a journey that can result in life-long friendships.

Upcoming dates are: March 10

April 14

May 12

Meetings are held at CCMC, 133 Arbor Street. For more information, call 318-1153, ext. 302.

Know someone who would like to get involved? [Forward Email](#)

Not yet signed up to receive our emails? [Join Now](#)

SEE WHAT'S HAPPENING ON OUR SOCIAL SITE

