



First Community Workshop Conducted by CCMC Staff and Volunteers Was Held in January

An all-day Bridges training workshop was held on January 27, from 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m., at Ouachita Behavioral Health & Wellness. All the presenters were local Bridges/CCMC people and included a Getting Ahead graduate. Other graduates also attended and participated in the discussions, adding valuable insight into how the Getting Ahead process has affected lives.

This marked the first such workshop conducted by our local people as CCMC has just recently been certified to do this training. Plans are to schedule several of these training sessions annually as efforts continue to increase community involvement.





Among the topics discussed were reducing the social costs of poverty, strengthening the workforce, and building a more prosperous and sustainable community for Hot Springs, Arkansas. Bridges was designed to bring people from all sectors and economic classes together to work to improve job retention rates, build resources, improve outcomes, and support those who are moving out of poverty.

The Bridges Out of Poverty community process helps communities:

- Move individuals from poverty to self-sufficiency
- Reduce social costs related to crime, poor health, and welfare
- Strengthen educational attainment and job skills
- Enhance economic development
- Improve on-the-job productivity
- Revitalize neighborhoods
- Build sustainable communities where everyone can live well



13th Annual Chocolate Festival a Hit!



The 13th Annual Chocolate Festival was held on February 5th at The Embassy Suites with approximately 700 people attending this year.

A very special thank you to all everyone involved in every phase of this event. We could not have done it without you!





There were sixteen vendors this year and they went above and beyond! There was a great showing with some delicious chocolate!

And the winners are:

Best of Show

- 1-Bliss Cupcakes
- 2-Spa Botanica
- 3-National Park College Hospitality

Best Taste

- 1-Fat Bottomed Girls Cupcakes
- 2-Bliss Cupcakes
- 3-Bleu Monkey Grill

People's Choice

- 1-NPC Hospitality & Fat Bottomed Girls Cupcakes
- 2-Dolce Gelato
- 3-Bleu Monkey



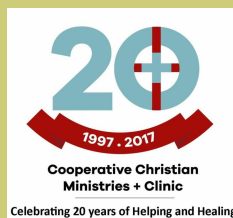
Bliss Cupcakes



Fat Bottomed Girls Cupcakes



National Park College Hospitality



Four New Members on CCMC's

Board of Directors 2017

At the February 9th meeting of the Cooperative Christian Ministries and Clinic Board of Directors; Morgan Golden, Ana Argueta, Dr. John Crenshaw, and Rick Williams were welcomed as new board members.

Those continuing on the board from 2016 are: Dr. Sally Carder, Brenda Hughes, Jill Johnson, Dr. Jack Porter, Jim Randall, Jim Smith, Dr. John Wayne Smith, Dr. Jack Sternberg, John Vines, and Christi Whatley.

CCMC is looking forward to a productive year...while celebrating 20 years of service to the Hot Springs/Garland County community!

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.

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.

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
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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. The 2nd Thursday of each month, from 10:00-11:00 a.m., Jill Johnson, Getting Ahead Coordinator, reviews the process and answers questions that attendees might have about the program.

The GA process is a 16-week self-discovery for participants...to learn about themselves, the 11 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, upcoming information meeting dates are:

March 9, 2017
April 13, 2017
May 11, 2017

Other Important Meetings Coming up in March 2017

Mentor Orientation

Thursday, March 9 11:00 a.m.-noon
CCMC

Bridge to Hope Breakfast Meeting

Wednesday, March 15 8:00-9:30 a.m.
Hot Springs Chamber of Commerce
Seating limited - RSVP requested to awilson@ccmchs.com



Cooperative Christian Ministries and Clinic
www.ccmchs.org



STAY CONNECTED:

