



## SJC Bridges Big Picture: 2009

### **Building the Base:** Laying the foundation for sustainability

1. Effective and supportive 20 member Board with founding community leaders and four Getting Ahead graduates
2. Launched with **free office** from YWCA
3. Renovated and located to **new 1400 sq. foot office**. Donations of space, renovation materials, volunteer hours, supplies and furniture.
4. Hired first program **staff:** Employment Specialist Leah Zimmer
5. Gained **receptionist** through Catholic Charities
6. Gained **AmeriCorps** volunteers through Scott County Partnership
7. Gained wonderful **volunteers**, including Mayadene Paysoure
8. Integrated **interns** from IUSB, ND, Ivy Tech and Saint Mary's
9. Integrating **software** to assist with membership, volunteers and donors
10. **New grants** through Florence Carroll Charitable Trust, Community Foundation of St. Joseph County, OFBCI, Cressy Foundation, and Memorial Community Health Enhancement
11. Became **Licensed Site** for Bridges and Getting Ahead

### **Getting Ahead:** Creating a dynamic network of agencies

**Active committee** meets regularly to review grant applications, share best practices, give critical feedback to Bridges.

**Meeting with Getting Ahead classes** to connect students to Bridges and next steps. Currently 200 graduates (269 enrolled and 200 graduated = 75% graduation rate).

**New Partners:** Developing new partners, including more connection with schools and parents, and seeking additional funding.

- **Getting Ahead Facilitator Training** planned – sign up if you are interested.

### **New designs for next year:**

1. Hope week-long retreat; 2. Work-site based Getting Ahead classes; 3. Getting Ahead College Edition

### **Future Story Project 2009:** Connecting to jobs and employers

1. **June 9th event:** Goodwill Industries hosted. About 120 participants with 20 businesses represented.

**Presenters:** Phil DeVol, Nancy King, Vice President and Trust Officer of the Indiana Trust, and Bonnie Bazata.

**Speakers** who endorsed the project included: Mayor Stephen Luecke, Mayor Jeffrey Rea, Andy Kostielney, St. Joseph County Commissioner; Greg Downes, Board Chairman of the St. Joseph Chamber of Commerce; and Jacqueline Barton, CEO and President of Specialized Staffing Solutions; and Linda Baechle, Ex. Director YWCA.

**Support and donations** from St. Joseph Regional Med Center, Memorial, Specialized Staffing, and St. Joseph County Chamber of Commerce.

2. **Met with five area businesses** to present Future Story Project and develop partnerships. (Memorial, 1<sup>st</sup> Source, Holy Cross, Notre Dame, Mosaic)
3. **Researched six best practice models with employers** with visits and/or phone calls to Cascade Engineering, The SOURCE in Grand Rapids, BC Careers in Battle Creek, Clarian Hospital in Indianapolis, Cincinnati Works in Cincinnati and Working Bridges, VT.
4. **Researched database** that can track key outcome indicators and purchasing.
5. **Received funding** for 2010 from Memorial Community Health Enhancement and Community Foundation of St. Joseph County.

**Monthly Networking Meetings:** Building resources and relationships

1. **OFBCI grant** pays for food, childcare, rent, supplies, printing.
2. **AmeriCorps staff** running with Mike's leadership & Mayadene volunteering. Calls and postcards out each month. Dress as though going to job interview.

	<b>Oct</b>	<b>Nov</b>	<b>Dec</b>	<b>Jan</b>
<b>Graduates</b>	27	27/11	26/7	29/2
<b>Allies</b>	13	10	16	28
<b>Totals</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>42</b>	57* (6) (70)

**2010: Link to Getting Ahead elements** – GA grads/ staff have organized schedule.

- Co-investigate together: build base of allies, learn together with graduates, and connect with community resources.

**Financial Management Class:** Tools for self-sufficiency

- **Lake City Bank** program with incentives using SmartMoney curriculum.
- **South Bend Heritage Foundation** VISTA volunteer **Adam** Bawtinheimer presented.
- 15 enrolled and **12 graduated**. Several opened microloans.
- **40 applications** for next class.

**Education and Outreach:** Sharing the framework

**Presented** to about **800** people locally, regionally and nationally @ **25** venues: classrooms, agencies, meetings, civic organizations, and businesses.

- **Future Story Project:** 120 people; 20 businesses
- **Day One Workshop:** 230 people – now over 800 people attended Day One
- **National Bridges Institute** – Getting Ahead graduate Cathy Lenoir presented

**More than 150 meetings** and one-on-ones!

**Building a National Network:** Learning from other communities

1. Participate in National Licensed Sites and National Employer Practice networks.
2. Participate in Statewide Alliance with other Indiana sites involved with Bridges/Circles.
3. Support other communities with advice.