



Congratulations to Nancy King!

Congratulations to Nancy King, Bridges Board President, for being one of eight inductees (and the only woman) into the South Bend Hall of Fame! We are honored to have her expertise, leadership and commitment steering SJC Bridges through this critical time of development. Here is her short bio:

For more than 20 years, King has worked with the YWCA to help women and children escape from domestic violence. She served as president of the YW's board during its campaign to build a new facility on South Bend's south side. She is vice president of the Community Foundation of St. Joseph County, president of Bridges Out of Poverty, and member of the South Bend Redevelopment Commission. She also is a former member South Bend Community School Corp. board of trustees.

Did You Know?

New statistics were released last week on poverty in Indiana during the on-going economic recession. According to research conducted by the American Community Survey, the state's poverty rate rose from 13.0% last year to 14.4% this year, slightly above the national average.

Included in the 14.4% are the 311,031 children in Indiana living in poverty. Even more startling, the study found that 1 in every 3 children growing-up in a female-headed household in our state is poor. Indiana's median household income fell 5% to \$45,424. The unemployment rate is at 10%.

from Indiana Institute for Working Families

The Value of Getting Ahead

What is the value? According to Kathy Schneider, Executive Director of St. Margaret's House:

"I am in my nineteenth year of service as Executive Director of St. Margaret's House. Where I once led every group here, my staff of eight have now taken over the programming for the most part. I still co-facilitate the 45 hour seminar every

fall. It is a tremendous demand on my time. Yet, I find it the most worthwhile thing that I do. Through the seminar, I get to know our guests on an intimate basis. They share their struggles and their hopes. I walk with them as they set goals and formulate plans to reach those goals. Their positive movement forward gives me energy for everything else I have to do.

The presence of the Getting Ahead curriculum is a blessing to us and one of the most important things we do at St. Margaret's House."

So we need your help. Saint Margaret's House is launching their next class, and we are at the end of our current Getting Ahead funds. We need to raise money to support St. Margaret's House class, as well as other classes that are ready to go like Weed and Seed, Hope Ministries, Real Services, and another all men's group at Stone Soup.

What difference does Getting Ahead make? Cathy Lenoir, a graduate from an Ivy Tech 2008 GA class says:

"For me, Getting Ahead opened the door to a new life. I understand so much better who I am and can make choices about who I want to be. Now, I'm in school, I am stepping into leadership roles and I'm giving back to my community. Thanks to Bridges Out of Poverty, I have a future story I couldn't have even imagined two years ago."

In the past, Getting Ahead classes was generously funded by New Energy Corporation, Wells Fargo, and the Community Foundation of St. Joseph County. Those funds supported 26 separate Getting Ahead classes at seven agencies that graduated almost 200 people since 2006. The Pokagon Fund is sponsoring new classes, but our existing partners need funding. We can make that happen with your support.

We've made donating easy with our on-line process (see Donate Now!). Or you can mail a check to SJC Bridges at PO Box 1078, South Bend, IN 46628. Thanks for doing your part to change people's lives. Contact us SJCBridges@gmail.com or 574.246.0533. www.SJCBridges.org