



## **Getting Ahead in a Just Getting'-By World Class Frequently Asked Questions**

### **What is Getting Ahead?**

The curriculum was written for people in poverty. It is a program developed by Phil DeVol to help people from poverty backgrounds create their own plan towards a stable, secure life.

### **What will I learn?**

Participants will:

- research the causes of poverty,
- learn the hidden rules of economic class,
- examine the stages of change,
- explore resources that are needed for a high quality of life,
- and investigate how to develop resources.

Each participant becomes an investigator of his/her experience and then creates a plan with specific steps to reach their goals.

### **What can I expect?**

Participants will:

- 1) co-investigate in a safe environment weekly or bi-weekly with others experiencing poverty.
- 2) enjoy power that comes from solving problems, controlling their own lives, and make plans for stability.
- 3) receive incentives for their work, including materials, a workbook, snacks, supplies & lots of support.

*Some organizations that sponsor Getting Ahead also provide childcare or transportation (depends on funding).*

Each group is led by a trained facilitator and co-facilitator. The co-facilitator is a GA grad who has graduated from the program; they will help you develop your plan and learn new strategies to help implement your plan.

### **How many hours?**

The program is 45 hours, divided into 15 3-hour modules. Some classes meet once a week, others meet twice a week.

### **Who can participate?**

Individuals living in generational or situational poverty who want to get ahead. There are classes available for men and women; some are men or women-only.

### **What agencies offer GA?**

In St. Joseph County, there have been eleven (11) agencies running Getting Ahead classes, including:

- |                           |                      |               |                        |             |
|---------------------------|----------------------|---------------|------------------------|-------------|
| YWCA of St. Joseph County | St. Margaret's House | Stone Soup    | Ivy Tech State College |             |
| Emmons Elementary         | Dismas House         | Real Services | Hope Ministries        | Weed & Seed |

### **How do I sign up?**

You may sign up through a Getting Ahead agency or contact the St. Joseph County Bridges Out of Poverty Initiative (see below)

### **What happens after I graduate from Getting Ahead?**

- 1) You will have a greater understanding of yourself, your community, & your resources needed to work on your plan.
- 2) You become a member of a large organization committed to ending poverty in our community in our lifetime.
- 3) You can stay connected through membership meetings and Bridges Out of Poverty events.
- 4) You can join decision-making groups (boards and committees) and feel comfortable in these roles.
- 5) Get support for working towards self-sufficiency.

### **What other communities are doing GA?**

Bridges Out of Poverty/Getting Ahead is a national program being offered in 40+ other communities, such as:

Toledo, OH    Syracuse, NY    Muncie, IN    Battle Creek, MI    Menominee, WI    Minneapolis, MN    Cincinnati, OH

### **What if my agency/church/organization wants to participate?**

The St. Joseph County Bridges Out of Poverty Initiative is a non-profit organization with funds to provide for agencies to offer Getting Ahead classes. There is an application process and approval is needed from the Getting Ahead Committee. If approved, you receive support to launch your own program; a trained getting ahead facilitator must run the classes. We can train you or your staff to be Getting Ahead facilitators or offer Bridges framework training.

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*St. Joseph County Bridges Out of Poverty Initiative*  
P.O. Box 1078 South Bend, IN 46628    574.339.1232 (cell) or 574.246.0533  
SJCbridges@gmail.com    www.SJCbridges.org