



## Strategic Plan Summary

[www.sjcbridges.org](http://www.sjcbridges.org)

### Vision:

*Using Bridges Out of Poverty as a framework, transform St. Joseph County, Ind., into a sustainable community in which individuals move from generational poverty to self-sufficiency, enhancing the quality of life for everyone and creating a model for other communities.*

**Goal 1:** Through collaboration of community organizations, utilizing a common programmatic approach, assist individuals from generational poverty to understand and adopt successful life strategies and to foster their dreams.

Objective 1: Enhance commitment and follow through from community organizations to implement the *Getting Ahead* curriculum.

Objective 2: Procure necessary funding to initiate and sustain the implementation of the *Getting Ahead* curriculum in various organizations throughout the community.

Objective 3: Establish uniform selection criteria for participants and measurable outcomes of *Getting Ahead* curriculum

Objective 4: Provide support and “after-care” program for those individuals completing the *Getting Ahead* curriculum.

**Goal 2:** Mobilize the community to provide resources and support to enable individuals to move out of generational poverty.

Objective 1: Create an awareness within community groups about the BOP initiative. Foster support and coordinate BOP activities with compatible, on-going efforts.

Objective 2: Investigate the “circles campaign” and its compatibility with the Bridges Out of Poverty initiative. Identify the financial and human resources required to participate in the program and the value added to our overall efforts and commitment to helping individuals move out of poverty.

Objective 3: Work with interested businesses to employ and support individuals from generational poverty in jobs providing living wages. Establish at least one pilot partnership.

Objective 4: Coordinate the BOP initiative with community schools interested in utilizing Ruby Payne’s work on understanding poverty within the educational context.

Objective 5: Coordinate efforts with social service organizations to provide support for individuals moving out of generational poverty (child-care, health services, housing, legal assistance, job training, counseling, etc.).

**Goal 3:** Identify predatory practices and practitioners and work toward their elimination.

Objective 1: Research predatory lending practices within the community and work with community institutions to provide alternatives.

**Goal 4:** Identify economic, political and social infrastructure in our community that perpetuate generational poverty and implement strategies to change them.

Objective 1: Integrate the Bridges Initiative with South Bend's City Plan, and extend the activities/ideas throughout St. Joseph County.

Objective 2: Educate and engage local governments in the Bridges initiative.

Objective 3: Identify the specific policies, laws, regulations and issues that need to be influenced, and define if and how we will influence them.

**Goal 5:** Develop the Bridges out of Poverty initiative into a sustainable organization that effectively coordinates its efforts with existing organizations and activities.

Objective 1: Identify and implement a workable legal structure and an effective governance structure.

Objective 2: Identify and implement a workable and effective administrative structure that will be responsible for financial record keeping; training, certification and evaluation of trainers; consistent communication and co-ordination of efforts with the broader community; interaction with Aha! Process and Move the Mountain; management of the "circles"; etc.

Objective 3: Identify and obtain on-going funding sources for the organization.