

SJC Bridges Turns Two and Wins Award with SHRM

In November, SJC Bridges turned two! We had a wonderful year with many accomplishments, including:

More than **70 people** graduated from Getting Ahead (GA), **48 GA Grads** have completed our Financial Management Class, and more than **100 GA Grads** have attended our Monthly Networking Meeting.

Another 35 GA graduates have participated in the Future Story Project, the first employment program in the country built on Bridges concepts. Three of our graduates celebrated one job for one year.

The **Michiana Society for Human Resource Management (SHRM)** has been a key partner, forming a Bridges committee, sponsoring a Monthly Networking Meeting and engaging as a learning partner. For their partnership, they were honored with the national 2010 SHRM Pinnacle Award that “recognizes outstanding HR leadership in creating initiatives and programs that solve local workforce staffing challenges in communities across the country.” Thank you Michiana SHRM—**particularly Elaine Chaffee,**

President, and Jaime Murphy, Bridges Committee Chair—for this important collaboration.

We’ve also had terrific support from our community with more than **200 (!) allies** coming to Monthly Networking Meetings, **17 financial mentors** assisting in our Financial Management class, our **four AmeriCorps members**, and a steady flow of interns and volunteers to aid the work.

For more highlights of this incredible year, read here.

Thank you for your support and partnership in 2010! We didn’t do this alone, and we are so grateful to our funders, Getting Ahead graduates, board members, allies, volunteers and interns for the time, resources and energy you have dedicated to engaging our community in this work.

Please consider an end-of-year donation to help keep this effort going into 2011. We use every dollar wisely and your support is much-needed and much-appreciated.



December 13 Monthly Networking Meeting

Join us this month for a spirit-lifting meeting that celebrates the joy of community and fellowship. We’ll have good food, good conversation, and good songs!

Our focus is **Spiritual Resources**, which Bridges defines as “believing in a divine purpose and guidance and/or having a rich cultural connection that offers support and guidance.”

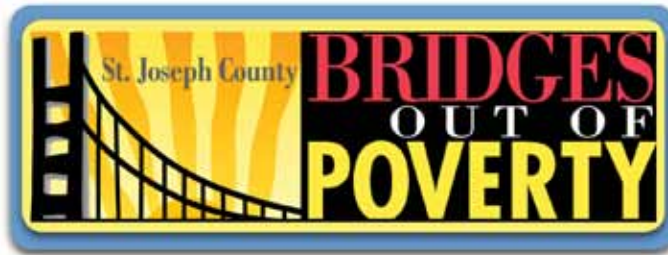
RSVP to our SJC Bridges office at 246.0533 or sjc-bridges@gmail.com.

Questions for Spiritual Resources:

- Do you have a belief system that provides you resources for guidance, gratitude and compassion?
- Do you participate in groups or programs that celebrate and support yours or others cultural, racial or ethnic group?

Questions to Consider:

- How does your faith or belief system support you in hard times?
- Is gift-giving a way that you build relationships? How is your time a gift?
- What choices have you made this year that will affect your success in 2011?
- How are you bringing joy into your life?



Membership Meetings

There are no membership meetings in December. Join us at our next meeting on January 21, 2011, 12-1:30PM at United Way. This is a critical meeting where we are voting on bylaw changes and the board of directors.

Our Supporters

SJC Bridges is currently sponsored by **The Pokagon Fund, Memorial Community Health Enhancement, and Community Foundation of St. Joseph County.** Thank you to all of our supporters over the last two years, including:

- Cressy Everett Foundation**
- Florence V. Carroll Charitable Trust**
- GWIN (Good Works Indiana)**
- JP Morgan Chase**
- Office of Faith Based and Community Initiatives**
- Lake City Bank**
- New Energy Corporation**
- REAL Services**
- Scott County Partnership, Inc.**
- United Way of St. Joseph County**
- Wells Fargo**



What does a successful Bridges strategy look like in the workplace? Cascade Engineering has a fifteen year track record of moving Welfare to Career clients to stable, full-time employment and self-sufficiency. During the November 5 SJC Bridges Plunge, Dave Barrett, Director of Talent Management, explains how their program evolved, saved the company and community money, and shaped the entire culture of their workplace.

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