



A New Year...A Continued Commitment ...with Bridge to Hope in Hot Springs, Arkansas!

**FOUR GROUPS GRADUATED
GETTING AHEAD IN DECEMBER and
THREE NEW GROUPS STARTED JANUARY 2016!
NEW BEGINNINGS FOR ALL...**



Two groups of Getting Ahead in a Just-Gettin'-By World and two groups of **Getting Ahead While Getting Out** graduated in December, 2015. We are excited about that and equally excited to announce that three groups started Getting Ahead in January, 2016; two outside groups in Getting Ahead in a Just-Gettin'-By World and one Getting Ahead While Getting Out group. CCMC is helping people change their lives in this self-discovery process.

Some quotes from the December 10th graduate speeches:

"So this class has really opened up my eyes. I have had to admit to myself that my ways of doing things weren't working. It's been a challenge because I'm stubborn, but I've loved it and I've loved learning the steps I need to change my life and then my children's lives."

"Today, as a graduate of the Getting Ahead class, for the first time in my life, I feel like there is a hope of digging myself out of the pits of poverty. I've learned many new things about poverty that I was unaware of before and I've learned that I do have the power to change my life."

"The Getting Ahead program has opened my eyes. I learned how to make specific and realistic plans for our future. I didn't know about the resources that I needed to get ahead, but now I do. And I have made new friends for life."

"I have a budget, I've started a savings account, and I'm wanting to work on doing an emergency fund. If it wasn't for this class, I never even would have thought twice about having an emergency fund, doing any kind of budgeting. And I am so thankful that I got to be part of the Getting Ahead class...my daughter and I...my family and friends...will be forever thankful to CCMC and to those who made this class possible. Our future is brighter because of you."

And we are so thankful for the GA facilitators, co-facilitators, mentors, and all our volunteers for all they do! A special thank you goes out to First Baptist Church for hosting the two Getting Ahead in a Just-Gettin'-By World groups that graduated in December, as well as the two groups that started in January!



**Mike Prince, Facilitator, addresses group
at December 10th graduation**

12TH ANNUAL CHOCOLATE FESTIVAL HELD

JANUARY 31!

The 12th Annual Chocolate Festival was held at Embassy Suites Hot Springs - Hotel & Spa on Sunday, January 31st, from 1:00-3:00 p.m. Approximately 600 people were in attendance and there were many wonderful vendors with delicious samples as well as countless silent auction items that included local art; items from local restaurants, merchants, and business people; hotel stays, and much more. Community members came and visited, bid on silent auction items, and ate lots and lots of chocolate!

Many thanks for the support from our fabulous volunteers, delightful vendors, generous donors, and, of course, the community!

See winners below...





Arlington Resort Hotel & Spa - Best Taste



Bliss Cupcakes - Best Show



**Fat Bottomed Girl's Cupcakes -
People's Choice**



**From left to right: Mark Fleischner, Jim Fram, Lynn
Blankenship at The Greater Hot Springs Chamber of Commerce**

ICE ON ICE

We were very busy in December and January and so honored to be a benefactor of this amazing event held on December 3, 2015 at the Arlington! We are very appreciative of the Chamber of Commerce, Lauray's, and the Arlington. It was an exciting and fun evening waiting for the diamonds to be discovered, passing the time with friends, and enjoying the live band.

We would like to express our appreciation to everyone involved in this generous donation to CCMC. The donation will help further our mission of building a Bridge to Hope in Hot Springs.

REMINDER OF GETTING AHEAD FACILITATOR TRAINING COMING UP SOON!

Live Online Webinar:

February 12 (Friday) and 15 (Monday)

2-days

11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. CST

\$299

Training Prerequisites:

Bridges Out of Poverty: Strategies for Professionals and Communities

The link for more information and enrollment is:

<https://www.ahaprocess.com/event/ga-facilitator-training-online-0216/>

You must enroll individually prior to February 12th and you must have this certification to facilitate a Getting Ahead group.

A session will be held here at CCMC during this time, if a group wants to gather to complete the course together. If you would like to attend this session at CCMC, please RSVP to Ann at awilson@ccmchs.com.

Scholarships are available, if you have audited a Getting Ahead section (4-month training). Please check with Lynn about this, if you are interested; her email is lynn@ccmchs.com.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES and TRAINING ACTIVITY

There are many opportunities to help with this important project, **Getting Ahead in a Just-Gettin'-By World**, and one of our greatest needs, at this point is still for **facilitators** and **mentors**.

We had a mentor training session on December 16th, 5:30-6:30 p.m., held at CCMC and then a mentor/mentee mix was held at The Garage Church on December 21st.

We will be planning another mentor training session sometime soon.

If you are interested in learning more about these volunteer opportunities, please contact Jill Johnson, Program Director, at jjohnson@ccmchs.com or call 501.318.1153, ext. 302.

**PLEASE DON'T FORGET...INFORMATIONAL
MEETINGS FOR POTENTIAL GA PARTICIPANTS
ARE ONGOING!**

Please share with your co-workers, friends, and neighbors that informational meetings for Getting Ahead in a Just-Gettin'-By World are being held for potential participants on the **2nd Thursday of each month, from 10:00-11:00 a.m.** These meetings are opportunities for them to learn more about the process, get questions answered, and discover how this process can change their lives. The process is a self-discovery for each person participating...but it might be comforting to learn that it is experienced along with others...on a journey that can result in life-long friendships.

**Upcoming dates are: February 11
March 10
April 14**

Meetings are held at CCMC, 133 Arbor Street. For more information, call 318-1153, ext. 302.

Know someone who would like to get involved? [Forward Email](#)

Not yet signed up to receive our emails? [Join Now](#)

SEE WHAT'S HAPPENING ON OUR SOCIAL SITE



