



Graduation Day - May 8, 2017

Nine people graduated Getting Ahead in a Just-Gettin'-By World on May 8, 2017 at First Baptist Church.



Family, friends, and volunteers gathered to celebrate with and congratulate these graduates for their completion of this program. Seven of the nine graduates had 100% attendance over the four months of class time. Quite a commitment!

We thank ALL of the people involved who volunteered and worked hard to get a class from that first night of getting acquainted to the completion of much work and many aha moments; those who met with them, those who fed them and provided a place for them to have class, and those who were waiting in the wings to mentor them after graduation.

There were moments of quiet thanks and appreciation...



and there were moments of much excitement and pride of accomplishment.



Special thanks to First Baptist Church for sponsoring and hosting classes, to Adult Education at National Park College for providing caps and gowns, and to photographer Paul Shepard.

Second Spring 2017 Getting Ahead in a Just-Gettin'-By World Graduation Coming Up June 7th

A second Spring 2017 class of Getting Ahead in a Just-Gettin'-By World graduation is scheduled for June 7th, 6:00 p.m., at First United Methodist Church. Attendance at this event will give you a real picture of what Getting Ahead can mean in someone's life.

Please plan to attend this graduation ceremony!

A celebration dinner is held afterwards for the graduates and their families.

Job Fair Hosted by Oaklawn

May 22, 2017

A Job Fair was hosted by Oaklawn on **May 22, 2017** for Getting Ahead graduates. The graduates were greeted by Kelli Mussa, Director of Human Resources, and toured through the entire facility...inside and out...as they learned about Oaklawn's long history in Hot Springs and its operating philosophy, were treated to lunch with management staff, and were interviewed as a group by a management panel from various Oaklawn departments...and then on an individual basis.

It was quite a day and resulted in three individuals being hired; two full time and one part time. Lynn Blankenship said, "This is a win-win situation; Oaklawn gets qualified, motivated employees and the GA graduates who go to work there will have a job that can benefit them in many ways beyond their paycheck...it's an opportunity for a new future for them and for their families."

We appreciate Oaklawn's willingness to lend a hand to help Getting Ahead graduates find employment and improve their circumstances...and to help our community grow stronger.

We invite other Hot Springs businesses to join Oaklawn in considering our Getting Ahead graduates for employment.





Pictured from L to R: Kelli Mussa, Director of Human Resources, Oaklawn; Brianna Ware, GA Graduate; and Amanda Stephenson, Player Services Manager, Oaklawn

CCMC Volunteer Retirement

May 18, 2017



Bettie Jones, RN, has been volunteering at CCMC for 10 years. Her retirement party was held on Thursday, May 18th, with good food and fellowship, and was enjoyed by friends, volunteers, and staff. Bettie volunteered at the clinic two Thursdays each month with Dr. Koehn. We will miss her smiling face and unceasing kindness, but wish her the best in her future endeavors. She plans to continue volunteering at The Caring Place a couple of hours a week and attending her regular exercise class.

Bettie...come visit often!

UUVC Donates Computers to Children

Getting Ahead investigators can now get a computer from a ministry of the Unitarian Universalist Village Church in Hot Springs Village. Members of the two most recent classes have received computers for their families.

Since 2009, the UU Village Church has been responsible for the Computers For Kids (UU-C4K) program. This program was started originally by a church member who was serving on the board of the Fountain Lake School District (FL). The program has now grown to serve four other area school districts and plans are to expand into several more.

Major components of the program are: refurbishing computers donated by residents, businesses, and the FL district; installing new software (Windows 10, Office 2010, and other productivity software); and distributing the refurbished computers to area families, with children in one of the local schools, who do not have a home computer. UUVC collects a \$15 fee per computer for licensing, etc.

Since the beginning of the program, over 500 computer systems have been refurbished and provided to local students and their families. UUVC has dedicated space in its facility for the storage and refurbishing of the computers.

Anyone wishing to donate a computer to this program or assist with refurbishing, placement, and transport activities is encouraged to contact UUVC at 501-922-1255.



Our Spotlight on CCMC Staff and Volunteers

The spotlight this month is on two members of our Pharmacy team - Nikki Grisham, Pharmacy Coordinator, and Linda Black, Pharmacy Tech

Nikki Grisham

Born: Hot Springs, Arkansas

Been in Hot Springs: She has lived here all her life.

Family: She and her husband have grown children, adult grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren. She enjoys visiting and helping with their new great-grandchildren...all boys!

Hobbies: Learning how to knit again...this time around...it's socks!

Her favorite thing about CCMC: Helping people in need.



Linda Black

Born: Blytheville, Arkansas

Been in Hot Springs: 38 years

Family: Her parents, two sisters, three nephews, and one brother-in-law

Hobbies: She crochets, quilts, and enjoys reading...mysteries, humor, and romance books.

Her favorite thing about CCMC: The compassionate people that volunteer and work here.

Pharmacy Team Saying Goodbye to ACTI Student

CCMC partners with Arkansas Career Training Institute externship of Certified Pharmacy Technicians to provide training at our location. Jason was with CCMC for four months training with staff and volunteers.



Left to right: DK Edwards, Front Desk Volunteer; Linda Black, Pharmacy Tech; Peggy Bebon, PIC Volunteer Pharmacist; Glenda Hennessee, Volunteer Tech; and Nikki Grisham, Pharmacy Coordinator
Center: Jason Warren, ACTI Pharmacy Technician Student



Monthly Community Discussions Continue

The next meeting will be on **Wednesday, June 21...**
Please mark your calendar!

CCMC continues the monthly Bridge to Hope Community Discussion meetings on the 3rd Wednesday each month, 8:00-9:30 a.m., at the Hot Springs Chamber of Commerce. The next discussion will be held June 21.

Please plan to attend one of these sessions to learn more about how we can all help our community...and its citizens...move forward to sustainability. It will be 90 minutes well spent.

Please call 501.318.1153, ext. 303, to reserve your place or contact us at awilson@ccmchs.com. We will save you a spot. Bring a friend or colleague!

Interested in Mentoring a Getting Ahead Graduate?

There is an orientation opportunity the second Thursday each month at 11:00 a.m.-12:00 noon at CCMC. The next mentoring orientation session will be held on **June 8**. We hope to see you there!

This is the first step in the training process and is a good way to explore your interest in filling this vital role for Getting Ahead graduates.

CCMC Speakers Always Ready to Share the Bridge to Hope and Getting Ahead Stories

If you would like to have a CCMC representative come to your business or organization to talk about Bridge to Hope in Hot Springs and the Getting Ahead stories, please contact Lynn Blankenship at lynn@ccmchs.com or call her at 501.318.1153, ext. 103.

The Getting Ahead story is about building resources, removing barriers, and supporting the journey from poverty to sustainability for those in our community who want to benefit from this process. The results...a better workforce, a new group of people to contribute to the community, and stronger families.

Ongoing Needs at CCMC

CCMC has many ongoing needs. In addition to volunteer help, which is always needed and appreciated, other needs are:

- Prayer support
- Financial support for overhead costs (utilities, medication, etc.)
- Office supplies (paper, pens, notepads, etc.)
- Paper towels, napkins
- Paper plates, cups
- Disinfectant wipes

Costs involved with Getting Ahead include:

- Classroom supplies for an entire class (16 participants) - \$200
 - Workbooks for a full class - \$300
 - Food for a 16-member class session - \$150
 - Price per class participant - \$600
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Monthly Information Meetings for Prospective Getting Ahead Participants

Please remember that we hold monthly information meetings for prospective participants for Getting Ahead on the **second Thursday of each month**, from 10:00-11:00 a.m. Jill Johnson, Getting Ahead Coordinator, reviews the process and answers questions that attendees might have about the program.

The GA process is a sixteen-week self discovery process for participants...to learn about themselves, the eleven resources the material outlines, and the journey from poverty to sustainability.

If you know anyone who would be interested in learning more about Getting Ahead, please encourage them to attend one of these important meetings.

Upcoming information meeting dates are:

June 8, 2017
July 13, 2017
August 10, 2017

Important Meeting Times in June

Information Meeting for Getting Ahead Prospective Participants

Thursday, June 8 10:00-11:00 a.m.
CCMC

Mentor Orientation

Thursday, June 8 11:00 a.m.-noon
CCMC

Bridge to Hope Community Discussion

Wednesday, June 21 8:00-9:30 a.m.
Hot Springs Chamber of Commerce
Seating limited - RSVP requested to awilson@ccmchs.com



Cooperative Christian Ministries and Clinic
www.ccmchs.org



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