

Getting Ahead Grad Has One-Woman Show @ The Works

Mary Woodward, left, at the opening of her one-person show at Licking County Arts, chats with Philip DeVol and his wife, Susan, who drove from Marengo, Ohio, to attend the opening. Phil is author of the workbook that is the basis of MHA's Getting Ahead class to teach parents skills they need to become financially stable. When Mary, a married mother of two preschoolers, graduated from the class in December, she wrote that Getting Ahead helped her to "focus on the future (her art show in February) rather than (simply) focusing on paying bills now." She and her husband made temporary sacrifices so that she could leave her part-time job to further the art career she had long dreamed of but had postponed indefinitely. Low-income people often are trapped in what author Thomas Hylland Eriksen calls "tyranny of the moment." In poverty, tyranny of the moment leaves people unable to make plans for the future because they are focused on getting through daily crises, like broken-down cars and sick kids but no way to take time off work. Getting Ahead teaches people to think beyond "survival mode" by making "baby steps" toward changes that will help in the long run. The class also focuses on resources, other than financial ones, that help keep a family financially stable. Mary wrote that although she was lower in financial resources than she had thought, she also found that she had higher resources than she realized in other areas, such as social resources and the ability to use formal language.

A new session of Getting Ahead starts Feb. 15 in Newark and Feb. 16 in Pataskala. [Click here](#) for more details.

