

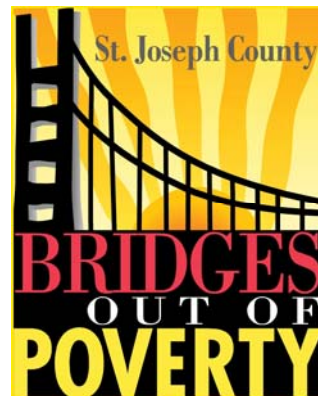


Pima County's *Ending Poverty Now* Initiative

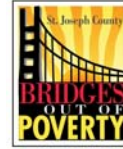
Exploring partnerships and opportunities with the faith community



From Tucson to Indiana to Tucson



Mission Statement



*Using **Bridges Out of Poverty** as a framework, transform St. Joseph County 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**.*

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To date we have...

- Educated more than **5000 professionals** and concerned citizens
 - Co-developed the first **Bridges for Business** presentation
- Graduated more than **850 people** in our 50 hour **Getting Ahead in a Just Gettin' By World** program.
- Developed **signature programs** for “next steps” and now disseminating
 - Michiana Bridges
 - Bridges Financial Management Class
 - Monthly Networking Meetings
- Supporting **emerging and existing** Bridges programs in the region and the country!

Strong GA Network

◎Partners included:

1. St. Margaret's House
2. YWCA
3. REAL Services
4. Hope Ministries
5. Ivy Tech (1st in country!)
6. Emmons Elementary
7. Goodwill Industries
8. Stone Soup
9. Drug Court
10. Hannah's House
11. Bridge of Hope
12. South Bend Heritage
13. Weed and Seed
14. Four Winds Casino
15. Elkhart County, IN
16. Cass County, Michigan

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Amber

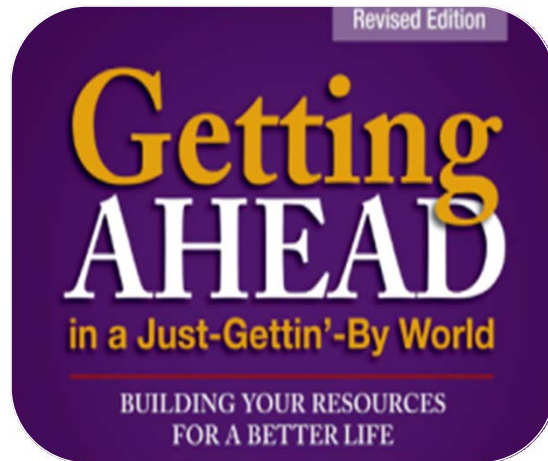
This was the first time someone asked me what I wanted in my life. Now I have a plan. It has been a lot of hard work, but I'm working on my plan.

I'm in school, bought my first home, and am on my way to the professional career I've always dreamed of. It started with Getting Ahead.



Getting Started with *Getting Ahead*

1. Pio Decimo
2. St. Vincent de Paul
3. YWCA
4. Amphi School District
5. Grace Temple
6. Las Artes
7. JobCorps



Pima County's economic development plan

Fall 2014

- 160 Community Leaders
- Understanding Poverty overview
- Presentation to business leaders

March 2015

- Day One training
- Getting Ahead Facilitator training
- ERN overview



By changing our perspective and our actions, we can look at each person caught in poverty as a potential asset in the economic development of our region and move from managing poverty to ending it.

Moving beyond managing poverty

- **More tools than social service and faith based**
 - ❖ Also engage business in partnerships
- **More support than safety net**
 - ❖ Develop resources for getting ahead, not just getting by
- **Include working families**
 - ❖ Stability begins at 200% above poverty
- **Move beyond placement in a job**
 - ❖ Focus on employment retention and career advancement.

Make the case that poverty is everyone's business

- **Measure the economic cost of poverty**
 - ❖ Launching a study of impact on tax base and economic activity
- **Build an infrastructure that facilitates cross sector engagement**
 - ❖ Contextualize the problem for different sectors and articulate the "double win"
- **Demonstrate the ROI**
 - ❖ Develop pilots that can prove reducing poverty benefits the sector

Build a better bridge

- **Expand and increase access to the knowledge base**
 - ❖ Support the existing network and extend out, particularly to the faith community
- **Bundle and coordinate resources**
 - ❖ Make it mobile and take it to new places
- **Innovate for greater effectiveness**
 - ❖ Identify the gaps and experiment with new approaches

Engage people in poverty as experts and partners

- **Build on successful models like *Getting Ahead***
 - ❖ Coordinate a county-wide effort and continue seeding the program
- **Prepare for engagement post *Getting Ahead***
 - ❖ Make sure the pathway to employment is built
- **Develop dynamic feedback loops**
 - ❖ Link knowledge, data, and insights to policy change
- **Develop leadership opportunities**
 - ❖ Link to existing opportunities and experiment with new approaches

EPN's efforts to date



- **Implementing new *Getting Ahead* sites**

- To support people in poverty in developing long-term plans for building their resources.
- Focus on integrating with existing youth programming at
 - Las Artes GED
 - Pima Vocational High School
 - Job Corps



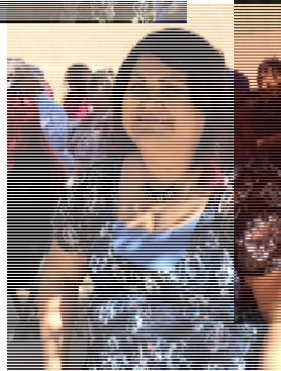
Las Artes Youth Class

EPN's efforts to date



- **Coordinating a county-wide network of organizations using *Getting Ahead***

To develop best practices and develop opportunities for follow up to the class that help people move to greater self-sufficiency.



EPN's efforts to date



- **Developed and received funding for a new project called *Mothers in Arizona Moving Ahead (MAMA)***

Uses *Getting Ahead* with young mothers and expand it to include a yearlong process of on-going support to improve their health care and build their resources.

EPN's efforts to date



- **Providing on-going training**

For County employees and countywide partners on understanding poverty and exploring opportunities for improved services and greater impact.

EPN's efforts to date



- **Developing opportunities for County employees to strengthen their financial health**

Through opportunities like free tax services and workplace loans.

VALET VITA

The County provided

- 10 days of free tax assistance at their Rio Nuevo One Stop
- serving 43 taxpayers, both County employees and clients,
- that resulted in \$58,502 in tax returns and \$19,984 in Earned Income Tax Credits.
- It also put approximately \$12,500 back in taxpayers' pockets with saved tax preparation fees.



Very good program, especially for unemployed people that are seeking employment. I would recommend to all.

EPN's efforts to date



- **Organizing a fall conference to continue to engage the community**

and deepen the commitment of County leadership and neighbors to address and reduce poverty.

EPN's efforts to date



- **Launching the Employer Resource Network (ERN)**

- Support working people who are facing barriers that could result in excessive absenteeism and eventually a job loss.
- Focus in on rapid problem solving and connections to County and community resources at the work site, helping people keep jobs and employers increase retention.

Getting Ahead gets people to the starting line

1. How do we continue support beyond?
2. How do we continue to co-learn?
3. How do we gather critical data about barriers and resources that move people ahead?
4. How do we drive this information towards system change?



Mothers in Arizona Moving Ahead *MAMA*

A Pilot Project to Change Behavioral and Healthcare Systems

- 18-month project
- Designed to map a new approach to identifying and effecting change at both an individual behavioral and a systems level for better health outcomes for young mothers in poverty and their children.
- Partnership with the Pima County Health Department (PCHD) is *A Healthy Pima County - Everyone. Everywhere. Everyday.*

The problem

- **Poor people suffer the worst health outcomes.**
- **Children are the poorest members of our society with nearly 25% born into poverty in 2013.**
- **Poverty has immediate impact and consequences can extend for generations.**
- **Breaking the generational cycle is difficult but urgent**
– **more than 6 in 10 children born into the lowest income quintile will never make it into the middle bracket.**
- **In 2013, the American Academy of Pediatrics recognized poverty as one of the greatest threats to children's health.**

"As painful as the immediate consequences of pre-natal and early childhood poverty are, they are only the start.

A large and growing body of research has shown that infancy is a particularly critical period for children's development, with implications for lifelong physical and emotional well-being."

For a young mother living in poverty

The daily reality is too often about coping with

- poor nutrition and food insecurity
- unsafe neighborhoods and substandard housing
- inadequate support systems and isolation
- overwhelming stress

Conditions that create a cascading effect of negative health impacts.

Health care remains chronic and crisis

Driven by a scarcity of

- money
- time
- insurance
- transportation
- access
- knowledge for navigating the system
- trust in the health care system

These conditions hinder the development of the critical tools and behaviors of positive, preventative health care.

The opportunity

Women are often the primary breadwinners, most important teachers, and principal health care advocates for their families.



Goals

1. **To improve the health outcomes** for low-income mothers and their families by **increasing participants self-efficacy and advocacy skills**;
2. **To improve the resource delivery and coordination system** for health care and social service professionals as well as community volunteers, through both trainings and by providing critical feedback from participants;
3. **To increase the capacity** of the informal faith-based network and other volunteers to connect low income mothers and their families to vital community resources and on-going support;
4. **To create a dynamic feedback loop** that provides critical input from the target population to guide systems changes and improve service delivery.

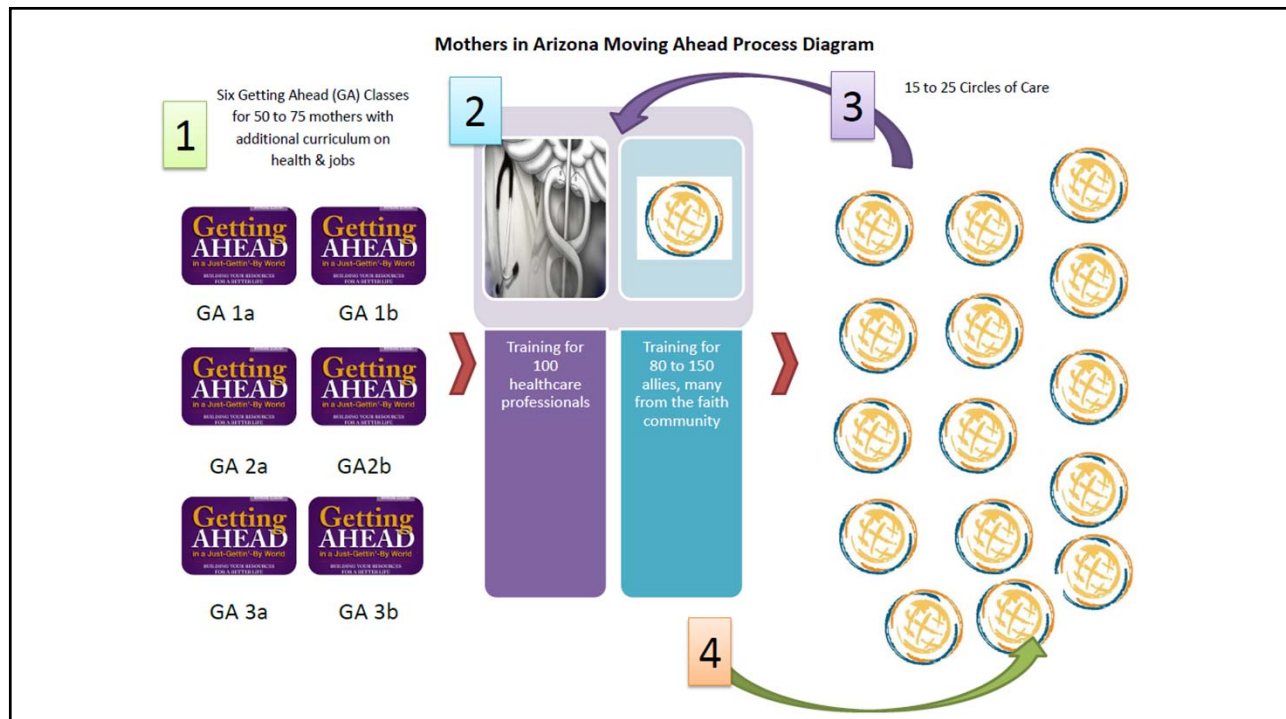
Objectives

1. **To affect change for 50 to 75 low-income women** and their families from reactive to proactive healthcare by increasing the self-efficacy, knowledge of health care systems, and advocacy skills of participants;
2. **To provide training and support to 100 health care and social service professionals** on the dynamics of poverty and impact of chronic scarcity;
3. **To engage 80 to 150 members of the faith community** and increase their capacity to link to existing County resources and provide on-going support to low-income women and their families through participation in five or more "Circles of Care."
4. **To create a template** that can be expanded for greater impact within Pima County.

Link 4 leverage points

- 1) individual behaviors;
- 2) professional capacity;
- 3) resource delivery systems;
- 4) engagement with extended community networks.

This is also where we are embedding our assessment.



Participatory evaluation tool

- Develop a **process** to share the worldview, understandings, and experience from all three stakeholders: mothers, healthcare providers, and volunteers.
- Create a comprehensive and collective **understanding** of the issues facing young mothers and their children.
- Support on-going **investigation and dialogue** as the building blocks of change with common concepts and vocabulary that create a communication “rosetta stone.”

we are not yet fully utilizing the tools within our reach...

- *Interventions grounded in **behavioral science** can range from small “nudges” or programmatic tweaks to large policy overhauls.*
- *Alone or in combination, these interventions act as **force multipliers**, ratcheting up the effectiveness of any given program or initiative.*
- *While good behavioral design cannot fully offset the negative effects of structural problems like racism and economic inequality, it can help families **drive maximum benefit from the resources and services available to them.***

Poverty Interrupted

Partner engagement

1. Support Getting Ahead class
2. Engage with Circles of Care
3. Participate in trainings
4. Participate in participatory evaluation
5. Shape the analysis
6. Consider how it impacts your organization or community
7. Develop how the model can be expanded

Poverty Interrupted

- “We contend that the **burden of change** rests primarily with the **individuals and organizations** **who have the power to design programs and systems** **in ways that take universal human tendencies into account.”**

Questions or ideas? Please contact me:

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