Getting Ahead in a Just –Gettin’–By World

Facilitating the Theory of Change
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Choice – Power - Accountability

- Main theme - Accountability
- Analyze their own situations
- Assess their own resources
- Choose their plan of Action

Facilitators share:
- The hidden rules of class
- Assist investigators to acquire **the power** they need to meet their goals
  - Power of oneself
  - Power over one’s own thinking and emotions
  - Power of language
  - Negotiation
  - Power of connections and political/economic influence
What’s Involved?

- Closed groups of 5–15 people; ideal size is 8–12.
- 9 sessions that are two and a half hours long.
- Done once a week.
- Putting our knowledge into a series of mental models.
- A facilitator who helps us explore solutions, not someone to tell us what to do.
What’s Happened So Far …

- 4 Getting Ahead Classes have been held
  - 1 – Ozarka College
    - Career Pathway Students
  - 2 – Arkansas State University – Mountain Home
    - Participants were from the women’s shelter, Career Pathway Students, Food Bank employees, and a ASU-MH Graduate
  - 1 – Ranger Boats Manufacturing Plant
Logistics

- “Kitchen Table”
- NOT a Lecture
- NOT Group Therapy
See Getting Ahead – Module 1 - page 3 – 5
Living in the Tyranny of the Moment

• “What’s it Like Now”
• Putting out the fires
• Mental Model is created by each participant
• Living life – hour by hour, day by day
Theory of Change

- Safe place for people in poverty to examine and analyze how poverty impacts their life
- Opportunity to explore economic realities
- Developing plans for transitions
- Use mental models
- People can move from concrete to abstract
“The course starts with a huge reality check that forms an understanding in the group. ‘What it's like now’ isn't ‘how it has to be.’ Realizing that I have the power to make my life go up or go down made the rest of the information relevant. Then I learned how to use it.”

–Brandy Bates, College Student
Self Assessment

• People can evaluate themselves
• Choose behaviors
• Make plans to build resources and
• Climb out of poverty
• The work of assessing and planning for all aspects of one’s life lies with the individual
Motivation

• Investigators make the argument for change
• Our process is designed to promote motivation by creating a discrepancy between life as it is now and what it might be in the future
Using Hidden Rules

• Ease the transition to stability
• Learn how to better communicate with agencies
• Learn the rules of the system
A Practice in Abstract Thinking

- Two Story Lines
- Separate the individual from the issue
- Ex: Child Support Order
## Resources

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House brought out of foreclosure
Changes Happened!
“These things I have learned in this course are not everyday lessons. They are not common sense. The average person has no idea about the world we live in. Now I am teaching my children so they don’t experience what I went through. Once you know, you know, and you can never see the world the same way again.”

–Tanavia Hodges, College Student
Currently Receiving
- Housing Assistance
- Former TEA
- SNAP
- PELL Grant
- Student Loans
- ABC Program
- Childcare Assistance with Career Pathways
I Am Who I Am

• I am a college graduate with a 4.0
• A mom of two beautiful girls
• A wife
• A sister to six siblings

“I learned that I didn’t have to be embarrassed about who I was and where I am from because it was holding me back from reaching my full potential.”
Why Getting Ahead?

• Holistic approach

• Finances are affected by many factors/decisions

• Instant support system

• Learn to be self motivated

• Objective problem solving

• Discover your major life purpose

• People will change