



Guiding Coalition Board Membership

CEO: Ron Errett
 Chairman: Rev. Dominic Verdell
 Teresa Buff, Robert Lark, Gary McElfresh
 Rev. Geri Williams, Karen Winner,
 Olivia Lazor, Ray Benedict

What's New!

Like the cycle of seasons, Circles of Mercer County continues to evolve. It was noted in Winter Issue that the second staff person left the coach/coordinator position. It was determined that neither position would be filled at this time until Circles funding resources became more stable. Therefore, the *Getting Ahead* coaching continues with our very capable volunteer Ray Benedict. He works diligently with our *Getting Ahead* participants every Tuesday evening at the West Hill Elementary School on Ellsworth St, in Sharon, PA. The full time Coordinator's position was restructured to part-time and Olivia Lazor has filled the position. She continues to work with the Coalition Board and through speaking engagements promotes the project through-out the community.

New Meeting Time

At the March Coalition Board meeting it was decided to hold the April meeting in the evening to better accommodate members. The April meeting was held on the 15th (tax day). It was a great success. Members invited other interested community members. In Circle fashion a light dinner was served before taking up the business of the Initiative.

The meeting ended with the formation of four working teams: Resource, Circles, Planning, Community Meetings and Big View Meeting Teams. A fifth is made up of the chairpersons of each of the four plus a staff person. Each Team will be meeting with their members over the course of the next few weeks and report in at the May 27th Board meeting.



Families at dinner

Third Getting Ahead Class

Our third "Getting Ahead" is progressing nicely. They continue to challenge themselves and explore solutions. This class began the first week of February 2010. As they near their graduation, the next step is to match our new Circle Leaders with willing, trained community Allies. Individuals interested in helping the new leaders accomplish the goals they identified during their training. If you have a few hours a month and want to make a difference in a family's life, please call 724-418-1039 or email ol@capmercer.org.

**Circles of Mercer County
 Calendar**

Guiding Coalition Meeting

Thursday, May 27, 2010

Time: 5:30-7:00

Location: CAP offices

75 South Dock Street,

Sharon, PA 16146

Circle Class Sessions

Each Tuesday at the West Hill

Elementary School

Location: Ellsworth St.,

Sharon, PA

Family Dinner 5:30 -6:15

Class sessions 6:15-8:00 p.m

(Child care provided)

**Bridges out of Poverty
 Training**

A Bridges out of Poverty Training will be scheduled for anyone interested in becoming an Ally. The training requires 6 to 8 hours of your time and is composed of concentrated information to provide the Ally with the tools needed to aid them in their Circles' role.

If you didn't grow up in poverty, you may be unaware of the "hidden rules" that govern many aspects of life for the poor. People in poverty are often in survival mode, and support systems taken for granted in middle class and wealth are largely nonexistent. If your business, agency, or organization works with people from poverty, a deeper understanding of their challenges— and strengths— helps you partner with them to create opportunities for success.

Interested in serving? Call 724-418-1039 or email ol@capmercer.org.