

You are invited!

Our hope is that this initiative will help bring community support and resources to people who are on their journey out of poverty.

As an Ally, you will befriend someone who is highly motivated to increase their resources and wants to find and maintain full time employment.

Allies help in the areas of budgeting, educational training, friendship and other ways helpful for a person as they move out of poverty.

An Ally can be anyone with any level of resources who genuinely wants to help and believes everyone has the potential for stability and self sufficiency.



Bridges that Unite

A community organization designed to educate, build human capacity and foster relationships among all economic classes.

Our vision is an empowered community invested in planting hope and building sustainability for God's glory.



*Building sustainability
for future generations*

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***You can make a
difference!***



**Become a
Getting Ahead
Ally**

**Engage the Community
Empower the Motivated**



What is the goal of an Ally?

- Build an intentional relationship that is friendly, safe, and supportive with a family in poverty and join them in their quest to increase their resources.
- Gain new insight into how life experiences influence your perspective in relationships with people from different economic backgrounds.
- Advocate within your community for changes to systems that create barriers which keep poverty in place.

What is the Ally's commitment?

- Commit to be an Ally for 18 months or longer
- 6-12 hours per month which includes:
 - Monthly meeting with the graduate at a mutually convenient time
 - Monthly meeting with all graduates and staff to discuss system barriers
 - Regularly scheduled ally support meeting
 - Phone and in-person contact as needed throughout the month

What support does Ally receive?

- Bridges Out of Poverty training and Ally orientation
- Regularly scheduled Ally support sessions
- Collaboration with the other Allies
- On-going support from Bridges That Unite staff

What is poverty?

United States Official Poverty Guidelines: 2012

Family Size	Annual Income
Four	\$ 23,050
Three	\$ 19,090
Two	\$ 15,130
One	\$ 11,170

Source: U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (January 2011)

"The extent to which a person, institution, or community does without resources"

Our Solution

Individuals and families motivated to leave poverty will attend a twenty week course using the "Getting Ahead in a Just Gettin' By World" curriculum through which they will evaluate their lives, learn unwritten cultural rules regarding employment and financial prosperity, and develop the life skills necessary to survive and flourish in society. After completing the "Getting Ahead" training, client participants will ideally be matched with 2 to 4 allies (volunteers from the community) who will encourage them as they transition out of poverty.

Results

Data from other Bridges communities indicates that participants increase income, go back to school, find stable housing, manage finances, become better parents, build social capital and realize their dreams instead of being overwhelmed by hopelessness. Allies report that they find meaning and fulfillment in assisting in the work of individual and community transformation.

I would like to help end poverty in Our Community

I would like to learn how to contribute my time or services to Bridges that Unite as an **Ally**. (Please detach and return this card with your contact information OR visit our website at www.bridgesmckinney.org.)

Name: _____

Address: _____

Business/Organization: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

I can't participate as an Ally, but would still like to help.

☐ I am interested in learning about other volunteer opportunities to help with weekly group meals and/or childcare during "Getting Ahead" training.

☐ I would like to contribute financially to help break the cycle of poverty in North Texas.
(Please make checks payable to 3e McKinney (a 501(c)3 organization) with Bridges in the Memo