



Coming Together to Get Ahead

A Society of St. Vincent de Paul Mentoring Program

February 13, 2014

Dear Conference President,

Coming Together to Get Ahead, a St Vincent de Paul Waukesha mentoring program is a developing ministry to address poverty in our community. The next Education Session for this program is being held Saturday, March 29 from 8:00AM to 2:45PM at Blessed Theresa, North Lake.

The Society's vision is to transform lives through systemic change thereby ending poverty one person, one neighborhood, one community at a time. Coming Together to Get Ahead (CTGA) is Waukesha's initial step towards making this vision a reality.

A participant of CTGA will:

- Develop a mentoring relationship with two mentors,
- Be a part of a 16 week informational workshop,
- Examine their own life experiences while exploring community issues,
- Understand what is required to make lasting life changes,
- Assess their personal resources as a move to greater self-sufficiency, and
- Gain concepts, tools and relationships to make a difference not only in their lives but in the life of the community.

Coming Together to Get Ahead provides an opportunity for all Vincentians and community members in Waukesha County. All are invited to be a part of this program. The invitation starts with education, training will follow, and finally action. A commitment for education does not imply a commitment for anything further in the CTGA. Educated members can be powerful advocates for CTGA even if they choose no further commitment.

As a conference president, we are asking for your help in raising awareness about Coming Together to Get Ahead. We are asking you to promote the March 29 Education Session. Enclosed are brochures and posters which we are asking you to share with your parish community.

For some ideas in how to do this, please refer to the enclosed Q&A Paper. Do you need more information? Do you have additional questions? Do need more brochures? Contact Julie McIntyre at 262-522-3240.

As Vincentians we are called to holiness through serving others. Together let us pray that we may live out the plan He has for each of us.

Sincerely,

Steve Cigich
Society of St. Vincent de Paul
Waukesha Council President





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Q&A

What is St. Vincent de Paul asking of Conference Presidents now?

- Work with the parish Human Concerns Committee where possible to increase awareness of Coming Together to Get Ahead (CTGA) and the March 29th Education Session. Human Concerns Committees can be strong allies in this work. The mission of these committees aligns well with SVDP's mission to address both immediate and long-term needs.
- Distribute the enclosed brochures to your parish community. Ask the Human Concerns Committee to help.
- Place the enclosed posters in common church areas. The posters invite any interested parishioner to attend the March 29 Coming Together to Get Ahead Educational Session.

What else is St. Vincent de Paul asking of Conference Presidents as CTGA unfolds?

- Help get the word out to attract volunteers as mentors (to work directly one-on-one with participants), as facilitators (to work with groups of participants during the 16 week learning sessions), or as part of a support team (providing meals or childcare during the sessions). Don't forget to add that training will be provided.
- Solicit volunteers from any parish group that currently provides meals for events to be part of the Support Team for CTGA.
- Use CTGA as a new membership opportunity! CTGA will attract the interest of many different people, people who may not be current Vincentians. While becoming a Vincentian is not a requirement of CTGA, you may find that those interested in CTGA will also have an interest in the SVDP's mission.

Who is encouraged to attend the CTGA Educational Sessions?

- Everyone is strongly encouraged to attend a CTGA Educational Session! All will benefit from learning about poverty and what can be done about it in our community. It's true that not everyone will be able to be a part of this program. But after attending an Education Session, everyone will be able to understand the work of the program and be a positive voice for change.
- Personally invite anyone working with the poor to attend an Education Session.
- Invite parish youth groups, men's groups, scripture groups, those involved in parish ministry.

How can Coming Together to Get Ahead benefit individual conferences?

- Current conference members will have something new to offer patrons who can sometimes seem stuck in poverty.
- The opportunity to work for lasting systemic change can attract new Vincentians.

Do you need more information? Do you have questions? Do you need more brochures?

Contact Julie at 262-522-3240.



Coming Together to Get Ahead

St. Vincent de Paul Waukesha Mentorship Program

**Transforming Lives
Ending Poverty**

**One Person
One Neighborhood
One Community at a Time**



**How You Can Be A Part of Change In Waukesha County?
Interested in Learning More?**

Attend a Coming Together to Get Ahead Education Session

March 29, 2014

Blessed Theresa of Calcutta Catholic Church

W314N7494 Hwy 83

North Lake

Time 8:00 am

Sign-up Now

Email: ComingTogether@stvincentwaukcnty.org

Phone: 262-547-xxxx

Why Now in Waukesha County?

- In the City of Waukesha, 6.1% of families are living below the poverty line.
- In Waukesha County, 38% of families that are female headed households and have children under five years old, live below the poverty line.
- 4% of the elderly (65+) in the County are living below the poverty line.
- A livable wage, wages that sustain a family's basic needs, for 2 adults and 2 children, is \$29.81 per hour or \$61,998 annually, in Waukesha County*.

**2005-2009 US Census Bureau-American Community Survey*



Why Coming Together to Get Ahead?

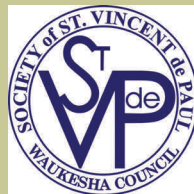
Coming Together to Get Ahead generates more awareness of the human cost of poverty in our community. The effort deepens our understanding of the state of chronic crisis that afflicts the poor families in our community.

“Getting Ahead gives those families who are willing to participate in the program the skills and networking opportunities they didn't have before or didn't even know existed. It's a great return on investment- the entire community benefits as families continue to raise themselves up to economic vitality.”

Getting Ahead Program Leader

**You are invited to be a part of
community change**

Call 262-547-0654 for more information.



To learn more about our services, ministries,
and Thrift Stores visit our website:

www.stvincentwaukeshacounty.org

Transforming Lives Ending Poverty Through Systemic Change

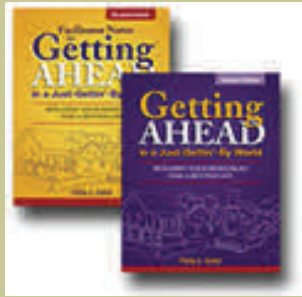
*One Person
One Neighborhood
One Community at a time*



Coming Together to Get Ahead

**Join Others In Your Community
To Make A Difference**

A Society of St. Vincent de Paul
Waukesha County
Mentoring Program



**Coming Together
to Get Ahead
is a mentoring
program in which
participants will:**

- Be a part a of 16 week 'kitchen table' informational workshop series developed by the aha! Process Inc.
- Examine their own experience of poverty as well as explore community issues that impact poverty such as banking, housing, jobs and transportation.
- Assess their own resources as a part of a move to greater self-sufficiency.
- Gain concepts, tools and relationships to make a difference not only in their lives but in the life of the community.

A Place for Everyone

Our broad Waukeᄥha County community is invited to be a part of Coming Together to Get Ahead.

Together caring community members can work to create pathways out of poverty in neighborhoods and in whole communities through collaboration, education and support.

What is needed from the community?

- Referrals of individuals who might benefit from the chance to develop their resources and a new life plan within a supportive program.
- Volunteers wishing to be mentors or facilitators working directly with participants.
- Volunteers to provide program support such as meals, child care set up and clean up for the workshops.



Find Out How You Can be a Part of Change in Waukeᄥha County

For information to volunteer or to schedule an informational presentation:

Email: ComingTogether@stvincentwaukcnty.org
Phone: 262-547-0654
or complete the form below and send to:

St. Vincent de Paul
Mentoring Program
818 W Sunset Drive
Waukeᄥha, WI 53189

Organization Name _____

Contact Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State—Zip Code _____

Phone _____

Email _____