



## **Getting Ahead in a Just-Gettin'-By World**

### **Information for potential participants**

*Getting Ahead in a Just-Gettin'-By World* is for people who are living in poverty or unstable situations. It's about building economic stability for ourselves and a better future for our communities.

In *Getting Ahead* we study poverty and near poverty through the lens of economic class to better understand how our society and the economy work. In groups of 8-12 people, we investigate the impact that poverty and low wages have on us and what it takes to move from a just-getting-by world to a getting-ahead world. The idea of "getting ahead" means action and movement – getting ahead of where we are now, toward a future that we really want.

In *Getting Ahead*, you will be the expert regarding your life, with information that others need, and a problem solver in your own life, as well as in the community. No one is going to tell you what to do or think. No one is going to "assess" you, evaluate you, or hand you a plan.

*Getting Ahead* is about your future story. Whether you know it or not, we're all creating our future stories right now. Getting Ahead is one tool you can use to help create your future story.

*Getting Ahead* is going to be hard work. No one will be lecturing or teaching in typical ways, which means the learning has to be done by you and the group. In Getting Ahead you will be an investigator, someone who digs for the facts and doesn't settle for the obvious answer. Investigators look for the truth.

### **About our current program in Grayson County**

*Getting Ahead* program is facilitated by MasterKey Ministries of Grayson County. We expect the start date for the next class to be late January or early February 2022, as soon as the class is filled. The 16-week program culminates in a graduation celebration for investigators who complete the course.

### **Getting Ahead class information**

Class information is as follows:

- Classes are limited to a maximum of 12 investigators, selected by application process.
- Classes meet once a week for 16 weeks. These classes typically run in the evenings to accommodate participants' working schedules. Participants must make at least 14 out of the 16 classes to complete the course.

- The Spring 2022 class of Getting Ahead will begin on in late January or early February. We will notify applicants as soon as the class fills up and a start date is set.
- Classes begin with dinner (provided for participants and children by volunteer groups in the community) at 5:30 pm – 6:00 pm followed by the session time from 6:00 pm to 8:30 pm.
- Investigators receive a \$25 gift certificate stipend provided at the completion of each weekly session. This both makes attendance possible and recognizes the value of the information and insight investigators bring to the community through Getting Ahead.
- Childcare is provided during each weekly session.

For more information about Getting Ahead, contact Virginia Brooks (214-923-5859; [virginia@brooksandassociatespr.com](mailto:virginia@brooksandassociatespr.com)).



**Getting Ahead in a Just-Gettin'-by World -- A faith-based program**

**Application**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Birthdate: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Are you Hispanic or Latino? (A person of Cuban, Mexican, Puerto Rican, South or Central American, or other Spanish culture or origin): \_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No

Please select the racial category or categories with which you most closely identify by placing an X by the appropriate category: American Indian or Alaska Native \_\_\_\_\_; Asian \_\_\_\_\_; Black or African American \_\_\_\_\_; Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander \_\_\_\_\_; White \_\_\_\_\_.

**Household Information:** Please list all people living in your household.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_ M/F: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_ M/F: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_ M/F: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_ M/F: \_\_\_\_\_

**Educational Background and Goals:**

Are you currently in school? \_\_\_\_\_

What is the highest grade you completed in school? *Circle one*

**Grade** 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12

**GED**

**College** 1 2 3 4

**Class Schedule/Information**

When: Every Tuesday evening for 16 weeks. We anticipate the next class starting in late January or early February, as soon as the class fills up. We will keep applicants posted on our start date.

Where: 2100 N. Woods Street, Sherman, Texas (Post Oak Fellowship church building)

Time: Classes begin with dinner (provided for participants and children) at 5:30 pm; class will run from 6-8:30 p.m.

Stipend: Participants will receive a \$25 dollar Walmart gift card each week they attend.

Childcare: Childcare will be provided during each weekly session.

For more information about Getting Ahead, contact Virginia Brooks (214-923-5859; [virginia@brooksandassociatespr.com](mailto:virginia@brooksandassociatespr.com)).

**Applicant Certification**

By signing below, I acknowledge, agree or attest to the following:

- The Program is faith based.
- I will make every effort to attend all classes.
- I am free from any drug or alcohol addiction.
- I understand an application alone is not a guarantee of acceptance into the program.
- The information provided herein is the truth to the best of my knowledge.

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Signature of Applicant

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Date