

**Aspire Large Group
July 25, 2018**

Welcome, round robin- Steve Jarosinski

Introduction of Brandyn Ferguson and Don Cummings

FCFCU- Dan Cavanaugh

Bridges Alliance of Johnson County- Bev Martin & Bonnie Pribush

We have a number of people in Johnson County living below or at poverty levels. We maybe don't see the issues of poverty and homelessness because we don't have the same circles.

Back in June 2016, gave Aspire a presentation and talked about issues of hidden rules and what the community could do. In the fall of 2016, formed steering committee, determined what they wanted to do. Adopted theories of Ruby Payne- why teachers from middle class didn't understand their students and hidden rules of class. Adopted structure created by Scott Miller for Circles USA. Offered May 2018 first class, graduation taking place August 1st.

We are conditioned to believe that poverty is an unavoidable problem of society? What if we have normalized an abusive condition that we could actually solve?

Major goal- providing help to under resourced: Surviving to thriving class takes place at 6-8 pm, Wednesday evening for 14 weeks (living on the edge, barely surviving).

Dinner with child care provided by JCPL

Classes- self assessment of resources, goal setting, budgeting, job readiness, hidden rules of economic classes.

Rewarded with gift cards for attendance (to Walmart)

Bridges Alliance is currently recruiting allies to mentor on Wednesdays from 6-8pm, 18 month-3 year program. People that go through this class have 75% greater chance of moving beyond survival.

Do relationship building, networking. Not just given training and program ends.

1st week ally and circle leader meet.

2nd week Circle leader with ally support-

3rd week training programs with various topic

4th week big view meeting- political advocacy. Talk about housing (people spending over 50% of income on housing in Johnson County)

5th week of the month (if there is one)- family fun night

Thank you to their partners for helping sponsor their organization.

Access Johnson County is offering rides to people that need transportation to the meetings.

Bonnie Pribush- educating members on attitudes on policies. Bonnie is all about teaching and education. It's her passion.

Discussion about why anybody would choose poverty. What keeps them there may be individual behaviors, policy or a mixture of both. If someone chooses to get out of poverty, as soon as they go over the income limit they are pushed back due to policy issues so they lose their supports. Poverty is not a simple issue. Often we hear, "if they'd just get a job" ...

Causes of poverty:

Economic and political structures (cliff effect) For example: If a family starts with \$8 /hour job, you're in the hole. If you get a raise to \$9, then \$10, but at \$10, you lose your food stamps which penalizes you. More raises to \$12, \$13, then you lose your childcare assistance, which puts you even more behind.

Lack of human and social capital (people you can go to for support), food deserts (can't walk to any grocery stores), no affordable housing (we have a lot of employers that aren't paying people enough to buy \$250,000 houses), no childcare. If you see a homeless person and see them day after day, they are no longer a homeless person, they are your neighbor.

Exploitation- average payday loan is 390%, credit cards- can't afford to have or bank account. Probably have to buy a money order which costs more.

Individual behaviors-know there are some that have behaviors that hold them back and work the system, just like there are rich that live off their family's money. Individual behaviors come from how you're raised. Over 40% of how we see the world is how we're raised, but also the economic class that you were raised in. Middle class are all about achievement, introduce themselves with name, and job. Wealthy people- never introduce yourself, you are introduced by others and your connections. In poverty, you have no achievements, no connections...it's all about you and your personal power.

Learn at the Bridges Alliance big group meeting what holds people in poverty back in Johnson County.

Asked everyone to close their eyes and look at a picture on the screen. Face/ the word liar. Who is right? Puts the argument to the community- we have to be able to see both. Mark of intelligent person is to see 2 conflicting views at the same time. You have to be able to see the world the way the under resourced people see it. They do have responsibility to change their behaviors, but we can also help change things for them too, through policy.

Bonnie/ Bridges Alliance Can come out to do educational presentations.

Awareness presentation (20-30 min)

Basic concepts workshops (50 min)

Training programs- (90 minutes or more)

All free (just need to print your own handouts)

Poverty simulations (3 hours) that gives you an experience of what it's like to be in poverty. Hope to do in the Fall.

How can you help?

Will pass around sign-up sheets. If you'd like interested in more info, training, or volunteering, contact Bonnie at bridgesalliancejc@gmail.com

Will also take donations of money, gift cards, goodies,

Connect them to groups for presentations and poverty simulations

Advocate with your friends and associates for policies and programs that benefit our hard-working, under-resourced neighbors. More info at www.bridgesalliancejc.org

Growth and Planning updates- Karri-

I69- presentation of final plan coming up on August 1st White River Library- approx. 6pm. Aspire has a copy that could be sent out if you'd like to see it. Trails- continuing to raise funds to county wide trails plan. Thinking beyond what happens after we have money for the trail plan. Daily Journal article on Thursday on what trails exist now. National grant we received for \$40,000 from OPUS group (developer) foundation. Aspire was one of 9 across the country to receive dollars.

New projects- great presenter Randy Strasser talked about Stellar Communities program. Bob Siefker- spoke about EPIC program through Purdue.

Will be meeting at the Elevator on August 9th from 3:30-5pm (co-working space) in downtown Franklin, located in Hometown Realty next to Greeks through 2018.

Placemaking- Heather-

Looking for co-chair. Activity book is now printed and to be distributed to all 4th graders in the county. Marketing/ sponsorship initiatives to align with all Aspire teams. How it can help, developing planning calendar of all events. Davin spoke about taking all the information from Aspire and back out to the community.

International Festival- At Home in Johnson County- need help and promotion for event. Spawned from a placemaking breakout. 4 events in September featuring 4 cultural spotlights- Japan, China, India and Mexico. Working to share their culture with Johnson County. Film series in October will be mini-documentaries with immigrants to share their story. DNA workshop in November- "celebrities" will reveal their heritage.

Voice of the Community, Marketing/ sponsorship, Home and Garden. Talking about Placemaking name and changing to one that is more approachable.

Talent Attraction and Retention- Lisa-

HR roundtable noon-1pm, 2nd Tuesday. Next talent team meeting is August 17th 8:30-10am at Central Nine. Education forum at Endress+Hauser coming up in September.

ACT work ready communities- Johnson County has been accepted into program. Gayle and Dana will be attending next week the boot camp to learn more. Need better skills in the workforce. Number one questions from companies is do you have people in your community with work-ready skills.

Could use volunteers that are willing to do a quick 30 sec. video testimonial about trails or why placemaking. Could be used for social media marketing for building the brand of Aspire.

Next meeting: Clark Pleasant Admin building- MIBOR presentation Aug 22nd.

