

## Missouri River Mission Outreach and Social Justice Initiative (MOSJI)

Merry Christmas, MRD! I am so grateful for all of the connections, conversations and collaborations that have happened since July. All of you have enriched my life in many ways as well as growing the MRD Mission Outreach and Social Justice Initiative. I have many plans for 2021 that I am excited to roll out next year with you. My prayer for the district is that Holy Spirit will enliven your heart in such a way that we will be fired up to help bring about change and to walk in relationship with those who continue to be marginalized by oppressive structures that prohibit your neighbors to live equitable lives.



I know that these are trying times. Please know that I am a safe space for you to share your laments should you need someone to listen. You are in my daily prayers. Please take good care of yourselves.

I want to tell you about two events that may be of interest to you. **The first one is on December 14<sup>th</sup> from 5:30-7pm. It is being hosted by the Omaha Community Council for Racial Justice and Reconciliation. The event is about race and the 2020 Elections.** Registration can be found at this link: [https://creighton.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_jNBjLNi0Q5GPQQSaQmYMSA?fbclid=IwAR3IsLonkElzZk7druS9OxMdRYtwuSUx6Qw9A5NQMmz2jK4gDo0dzWZzlgI](https://creighton.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_jNBjLNi0Q5GPQQSaQmYMSA?fbclid=IwAR3IsLonkElzZk7druS9OxMdRYtwuSUx6Qw9A5NQMmz2jK4gDo0dzWZzlgI)

**The other is on December 15<sup>th</sup> at 9 am. This is hosted by the Tri Faith Initiative's COVID Taskforce. The title of the event is Utilities Assistance Update with MUD and OPPD.** For more information click the link below: <https://www.trifaith.org/events/utilities-assistance-update-with-mud-and-oppd/>

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Our guest for this week's newsletter is Walter Garcia. Walter is the Community Coordinator for Omaha Bridges Out of Poverty. He brings us good news about the impact this program is making in our communities. He includes a list of needs and there are also some fliers attached for classes specific to Sarpy County. May you be inspired to become a part of their work. Here is his article:

### ***Defeating Poverty in the Midwest!!!***

Omaha Bridges Out of Poverty is DEFEATING POVERTY in the Metro Omaha / Council Bluffs community. This groundbreaking and transformative 10-week program helps under-resourced individuals **lift themselves** out of poverty. It is self-empowering and holistic, helping families to write a whole new "future story".

The curriculum is "evidence based" and used in 300 U.S. communities. Although Omaha/CB is one of the newer programs, it is a national leader in growth and innovation. When Covid-19 made meeting in person impossible this spring, we switched to virtual delivery providing connected devices to our participants where needed. This "model program" was a first of its kind and has been as successful as our in-person sessions! **Our results over the past 3 years: 90% graduation rate / \$1,500 average monthly net income increase / average debt to income ratio decrease of 58% / solid progress in all areas of 15-factor Stability Scale** (reassessed every 3 months) 100,000 individuals living in poverty in our community is not acceptable!!!

*Christa, a 2019 graduate writes...The class to my surprise, was not a class at all but a meeting of minds. A group of sleuths, investigating 1) the causes of our economic situations and the impact it's had, 2) how to evaluate our self-perceptions and solve problematic issues as they arrive, and 3) how to improve and build better relationships, connections and resources from family, friends, and the community. You have a choice. You can either be a passive victim of circumstance or you can be the active hero of your own life." I say, Let's be heroes!*

Multiple concurrent cohorts of 12 to 14 individuals are offered across the metro area each trimester in ENGLISH & SPANISH.

Ending poverty improves health and life expectancy, increases community productivity with the growth of a ready work force and connects all of our citizens to each other. It relieves pressure on overburdened social systems and creates a vibrant, healthy, safe, and engaged community. We need your help in continuing this phenomenally successful program.

#### **What can I do?**

- 1. Learn more - Many of our agency partners are enrolling a staff member in a *Getting Ahead* class to understand the program more fully.**
- 2. Include OBOP in your outreach ministries budget**
- 3. Volunteer to give a ministry moment in worship about OBOP**
- 4. Pray for this important ministry**
- 5. Volunteer in the office**
- 6. Make a person financial contribution**

*Omaha Bridges Out of Poverty, Inc., PO Box 540338, Omaha, NE 68154*  
*"changing lives / inspiring futures"*

[Omabop.org](http://Omabop.org) (use PayPal)

Email our volunteer CEO-Roger Howard [rhoward@omabop.org](mailto:rhoward@omabop.org) or  
our Director of Community Coordination-Walter Garcia [wqarcia@omabop.org](mailto:wqarcia@omabop.org)



May you be filled with HOPE as we await a new beginning. God's peace to you all.

Peace,



Rev. Marcee



# GETTING AHEAD IN A JUST GETTIN'-BY-WORLD

*CLASSES ARE SPECIFIC TO EACH STATE (NEBRASKA/IOWA). PLEASE SELECT A CLASS THAT MATCHES YOUR STATE OF RESIDENCE.*

## FREE CLASSES ARE FORMING NOW

Graduates learn to make positive changes in their lives as they work through and complete the Getting Ahead class. They have discovered more resources, better jobs, and a clear plan for the future.

## THERE IS NO "CATCH" OR COST FOR THE CLASS

For maximum benefit, a regular commitment to attend is required, three absences will result in withdrawal. Due to space limitations, registration and orientation are required. Class will run 10-weeks. This class requires access to devices such as: smartphone, computer, or tablet with camera.

## GET PAID!!

A stipend **up to \$300** is paid upon completion of the course based on attendance. **Refer a friend and receive \$25 after you both graduate!**

Register for orientation at [www.omabop.org](http://www.omabop.org)



**Omaha/ Council Bluffs Bridges**

4343 N 52<sup>nd</sup> Street Omaha, NE 68104

| [www.omabop.org](http://www.omabop.org) |

Office: 402-884-9665

## GETTING AHEAD VIA ZOOM

**Saturdays, January 23<sup>rd</sup>**

- 9:00AM- 12:30PM

## ORIENTATION SESSIONS:

- December 29<sup>th</sup> at 12pm, and 6pm
- January 5<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> at 12pm, and 6pm
- January 12<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup> at 12pm and 6pm
- January 9<sup>th</sup> at 9am, 10am, 11am
- January 16<sup>th</sup> at 9am, 10am, 11am

**REGISTRATION OPENS  
NOVEMBER 7<sup>TH</sup>,**

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER](#)

**\*REGISTRATION CLOSES  
JANUARY 14<sup>TH</sup>**



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