

Your Path Out of Poverty

Poverty has been defined as the “extent to which someone does without resources.” Those resources include not just money but **11 Essential Resources** of a community. Transformation Montgomery helps to change lives by empowering participants to begin building those resources. Participants in Transformation Montgomery are not offered a “program” that will get you out of poverty; rather, you are offered a relationship with friends who will help you *create your own* path out of poverty. That path includes three main steps:

- > Join a **Getting Ahead** workshop to identify your resources and set your goals for transitioning out of poverty
- > Partner with a **Transformation Team**—of which you will be the Team Leader—to work alongside you in achieving your goals
- > In addition, if home ownership is one of your goals, Transformation Montgomery can help you achieve that dream through the **Steps to Home Ownership**.

To get started exploring your own path out of poverty, contact Peggy Spaeth, 334.224.1048.

Volunteer

Individuals, groups and agencies can partner with us as volunteers in two ways:

- > **Help with Houses**
- > **Partner with People**

Help with Houses: We need both skilled and unskilled volunteers to help renovate, repair, and rehabilitate homes to be ready for new families, and/or to help renovate and equip the Transformation Center. Individuals can join us most any Thursday morning in Garden Square (see the Blog page of our site for the latest updates and announcements). Larger groups can contact us to identify needs and schedule work days. Contact Charlie Kendall, 334.549.2175 or transformationmontgomery@gmail.com.

Partner with People: team members with a wide variety of skills are needed to join **Transformation Teams** who will circle around program participants to provide the support, wisdom and resources they need to achieve their goals in transitioning out of poverty. The first step to volunteering is participation in our “When Helping Hurts” program, a foundational course that teaches our core philosophy of giving people a hand up, not a hand out, understanding the dynamics behind poverty and how to come alongside those in need in ways that honor their dignity. Contact Peggy Spaeth, 334.224.1048 or info@transformationmontgomery.com.



*Transforming our city
one family, one house,
one neighborhood
at a time through affordable home ownership,
holistic life skills training and relational community
renewal.*

Web Page: www.transformationmontgomery.com
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11 Essential Resources

These are the resources Transformation Montgomery seeks to build in lives, in families, and in our community.

- Financial:** having enough income to purchase goods and services and to save or invest for the future. Having an educated understanding of how money works; being financially literate.
- Emotional:** being able to choose and control emotional responses, particularly to negative situations, without engaging in self-destructive behavior; interpersonal skills like teamwork, teaching others, leadership, negotiation, and working with people from diverse backgrounds.
- Mental:** having the cognitive ability and acquired skills (reading, writing and computing) to deal with daily life; education and training to compete in the workplace for well paying jobs and/or run a business
- Language:** having the vocabulary, language ability, and negotiation skills to succeed in the work and/or school environment
- Social:** having friends, family, and backup “support systems” available to access in times of need
- Physical:** having physical health and mobility
- Spiritual:** having a faith that divine guidance and strength, and a spiritual community of prayer, worship, and support
- Trust:** having relationships of integrity, predictability, dependability, and safety
- Motivation:** having motivation, energy, and drive to prepare, plan for, and complete projects, jobs, and personal changes
- Relationships:** having frequent access to adults who are appropriate, who are nurturing, and who don’t engage in self-destructive behaviors
- Knowledge:** insight to understand the hidden rules, unspoken cues and habits of poverty, middle class, and wealthy classes

Getting Ahead Workshop

The *Getting Ahead* Workshop is free and open to everyone in the community. *Getting Ahead* is required for individuals entering the Steps to Home Ownership, but it can be beneficial for anyone.

What’s *Getting Ahead* all about?

Everybody has a story. Are you someone who is *in* the story, or are you *shaping* your story? That’s what *Getting Ahead* is about. *Getting Ahead* is about changing your thinking. Poverty has a way of focusing our thinking on the present—just getting by from day to day. Faith starts when we think about the future—how we can get ahead, not just get by.

Getting Ahead provides a way to investigate the impact that poverty has had on you, your family, and your communities. It provides a safe, agenda-free learning environment where adults can reflect on their lives, examine where they are, assess their strengths and resources, investigate new possibilities, make plans for their future, offer ideas for building a prosperous community, and choose a team to help them fulfill their goals and dreams.

Getting Ahead puts you on the board of a decision-making group and helps you feel comfortable in the role of a decision-maker. You are a problem solver, and your voice is needed at the table, especially when plans are being made that impact you and your communities.

What happens at *Getting Ahead*?

Picture 12 people gathered around a kitchen table. One is a *Guide*, the others are *Investigators*. The Guide helps the process along, but the Investigators do the work of exploring, examining, and processing information. The Guide’s job is not to make suggestions, offer solutions, or argue for change. Instead, the Guide encourages and supports the Investigators as they develop tools to deal critically and creatively with reality and solve problems.

What will I get out of it?

As an investigator, you will explore and analyze themes in your life, assess your resources, build your future story, make your own choices, enjoy the power that comes from solving problems

and controlling your life. You’ll discover the *hidden rules of class* that empower you to think and act differently. You’ll make plans for economic stability and begin to build wealth.

What does *Getting Ahead* cost?

Nothing; in fact, Investigators in a *Getting Ahead* Workshop are paid, because you are providing valuable information, solving problems and helping improve our whole community.

What else is provided?

Childcare, food or snacks, and supplies are provided. Transportation can also be provided if needed.

When, where, and how long is *Getting Ahead*?

Getting Ahead is made up of 16 weekly sessions of 2 ½ hours. Transformation Montgomery currently offers *Getting Ahead* workshops at Frazer United Methodist Church on Atlanta Hwy (future sessions to be held at the Transformation Ctr). For future dates, contact Peggy Spaeth, 334.224.1048 or info@transformationmontgomery.com.

Transformation Teams

Graduates of the *Getting Ahead* workshop move on to become Transformation Leaders who build and lead a Transformation Team—a circle of friends and allies who want to create supportive, intentional, encouraging relationship, partnering with you to move out of poverty.

The Transformation Leader is responsible for the Team: convening meetings, guiding the agenda, and planning action. The Leader works with his or her team to implement the plan he or she developed in *Getting Ahead*, and use the knowledge and skills of your team as problem solvers to work on poverty issues in the community as well.

Transformation Leaders will have the opportunity to participate in regular meetings to network with other Leaders for mutual support and encouragement.

To offer your time, wisdom and skills as a Transformation Team member, visit the [Volunteer](#) page on our web page.

To get started toward becoming a Transformation Team Leader, visit the [Getting Ahead](#) page on our web page.