

When we reach out a hand to one, we improve the condition of all.

BRIDGES OUT OF POVERTY

This work is about connectedness and relationships; it's about all of us. The focus of Bridges initiative is on shared responsibilities, new insights, interdependence and solutions.

In *A Framework for Understanding Poverty* and *Bridges out of Poverty*, Dr. Ruby Payne asserts that there are powerful hidden rules that govern behavior and interactions within different economic classes. When educators, human service providers, and employers work with people in poverty, these hidden rules are often the source of irritation and confusion among the parties and can be a barrier to success. By better understanding the challenges faced by people in poverty, and by learning to suspend the judgments that often accompany interactions along the continuum of economic class, providers can be partners in paving the way to economic stability.

Poverty creates unique and often hidden obstacles that require specific strategies to overcome. The Bridges approach views individuals living in poverty as problem solvers who have the capability to exercise choice and power in designing their own "future stories." By assessing the various resources available or lacking to people in poverty, such as financial, emotional, mental, spiritual, physical, and support systems, plans to grow these resources can be developed in an atmosphere of mutual respect and dignity.

The Bridges theory of understanding economic diversity has proven effective in several important areas:

- Delivery of human services
- Efforts by employers to boost retention of employees transitioning from welfare to work
- Bringing disparate groups together to work for long-term community sustainability

Bridges offers a common language of understanding, both for people living in poverty and for those who work with them—the two target populations of the Bridges initiative

Cost- \$35 (\$45 Out of County) and scholarships are available

All dates are 9am-3:30pm find current dates online

Lunch* and a copy of the **"Bridges out of Poverty"** text (a \$22 value) is included.

*Please list special dietary needs in special instructions at checkout.

www.jcunitedway.com

502 Hoosier Street, North Vernon
812.346.5257 or cheri@jcunitedway.com

