WELCOME!

In the face of our country’s current challenges, new hope and new opportunities are rising through deeper connections and broader collaborations.

The Building Bridges of Opportunity: Community Experience brings together several OCF and OPNFF leaders, community practitioners, ministry volunteers, and people with lived reentry experiences to discover our collective empathy, strength, innovation, wisdom, and connection for responding to reentry needs during the pandemic and beyond.

The Building Bridges: Community Experience offers participants a unique blend of safe and encouraging spaces, mutual learning communities and engagement opportunities designed to gather around issues of reentry and to move from sustaining silos to creating opportunities for true social change for fathers and families.

We believe that opportunity and hope emerge at the intersection of connection and collaboration. And these can only happen when people are in community. We look forward to being in community with you in October.

--Building Bridges Planning Team

REGISTRATION AVAILABLE
SEPTEMBER 1—27, 2020

Details available on the Building Bridges Website:
www.westohioumc.org/buildingbridgesofopportunity

Cost: Free

NATIONAL, REGIONAL, AND LOCAL EXPERTS
Surface current opportunities within your community’s emerging reentry reality

BRIDGE BUILDING BREAKOUTS
Learn about emerging pandemic best practices and pivots from boots-on-the-ground reentry practitioners, professionals and impacted persons

LUNCH & LEARNs
Experience collaborative efforts among public, private, and community organizations

COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS
Discover what is truly needed to support successful reentry from those most directly impacted

BREAKOUT COMMUNITIES
Engage in meaningful learning, restorative dialogue, and solutions-based efforts for your community context
Becoming more deeply committed to our communities by being more deeply connected in community.

**SOME SESSIONS FEATURING OCF & OPNFF LEADERS:**

**BEST PANDEMIC PRACTICES & PIVOTS FOR MENTORING.**

We are all dealing with a sense of losing connection with someone who is important to us. For those of us who are called to mentoring youth, families, or adults, we are struggling to find solid footing in our current shifting foundation. Join mentoring experts around the lunch table for a real and relevant discussion on best practices and pivots for effective pandemic mentoring. Each session explores setting realistic expectations for both mentors and mentees during this season of social distancing and effective ways to continue to be a life-giving presence and a stable relationship in these uncertain times. Each session’s leaders discuss how to lead and support your own army of volunteer mentors. **Men’s Session** with Carlos Christian, Starts Within; Burl Lemon, Forever Dads; and Rev. Eli Williams, Urban Light Ministries **Youth Session** with Daryle Cobb, Franklin County Children’s Services and Amir Saleem, By Leaps and Bounds

**CLOSING THE BASIC NEEDS GAP FOR FAMILIES DURING THE PANDEMIC.**

Now more than ever, families are operating under stress and duress just to meet basic needs. But when families have their basic needs met, they are able to more easily support their family member’s return from incarceration. In this session, a panel of frontline service providers offer real-time guidance on what family needs, what’s working, what’s not, and what collaboration is essential for addressing the basic needs in any community context. Participants will engage with panel members in surfacing strategies and solutions for increasing basic need support without wearing out, as well. **Panelists:** Twinkle Schottke, Moms2B; David Fluellen, Dads2B; Marcie Langendorfer, United Way of Greater Cincinnati; Moderator: Kimberly Dent, Ohio Commission on Fatherhood

**EMERGING WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT CHALLENGES & OPPORTUNITIES FOR FAITH-BASED GROUPS.**

*How do you regain momentum in your workforce development and holistic case management services?* In this session, two faith-based community leaders unpack how they are navigating their organizations and their clients through the pandemic. They will discuss what has emerged for them as new ways to move forward faithfully and collaboratively with other groups and their clients to support resiliency in families and communities. Participants will engage with presenters in surfacing strategies and solutions for second chance workforce development pandemic practices and pivots, as well. **Presenter:** Dr. Brian Moore, Passages

**PANDEMIC IMPACT, PRACTICES, PIVOTS & OPPORTUNITIES FOR RECOVERY SUPPORT.**

Recovery services are essential reentry supports for many returning citizens and their families. The widened gap in the delivery of recovery services has only exacerbated the traumatic impact of the current pandemics. In this session, a panel of front-line recovery practitioners and state agency representatives provide an overview of the gaps exposed by the pandemics and offer real-time guidance on what’s working, what’s not, and what collaboration is essential for addressing the recovery crisis. **Panelists:** Dr. John Sexten, Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services; Harold Howard, Talbert House; Willie Knighten, Empowered for Excellent Behavioral Health; Moderator: Kimberly Dent, Ohio Commission on Fatherhood

**ABOUT BUILDING BRIDGES**

Building Bridges is a collaborative effort between community members from public, private, and plural sectors representing government, state agencies, non-profits, businesses, faith communities, and health and education services. All planning team representatives are volunteers and receive no financial compensation for their efforts. Conference support and sponsorships go directly towards providing the best possible Community Experience and future collaborative opportunities. A full list of the planning team is available on the Building Bridges Website.

**SOME OF OUR PLANNING PARTNERS:**

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