

August 6, 2010

Dear Friends,

We are pleased to invite you to join us for a community changing event!

Bridges Out of Poverty, presented by Terie Dreussi Smith,
co-author of the book *Bridges Out of Poverty, Strategies For Professionals and Communities*

Due to the generosity of several Billings nonprofit agencies and local businesses, as well as a grant provided by the Court Assessment Program - MT Supreme Court, this workshop is offered at NO CHARGE and includes lunch. *Seating is limited*, so please reserve your seat today by calling Leslie at 406-294-5090, or email admin@sch-mt.org.

WHY ATTEND? *"If you didn't grow up in poverty, you may be unaware of the "hidden rules" that govern many aspects of life for the poor. People in poverty are often in survival mode, where the future holds no promise, and support systems taken for granted in the middle class and wealth are nonexistent. If your business, agency, or organization works with people from poverty, only a deeper understanding of their challenges -and strengths- will help you partner with them to create opportunities for success.*

Bridges is a unique and powerful tool based in part on Dr. Ruby Payne's myth-shattering A Framework for Understanding Poverty. It reaches out to providers and businesses with case studies, analysis, charts and exercises, and specific solutions you and your organization can implement now: redesign programs to better serve the people you work with; build skill sets for management to help guide employees; upgrade training for staff; improve treatment outcomes; increase the likelihood of moving from welfare to work" (excerpt from the book)

This seminar is for those who want to understand how poverty affects the choices and lives of those who are trapped in it. It will examine problem solving methods that can change the paradigms of the families you work with. *Bridges* constructs are used in schools, agencies, churches, local government agencies and communities to help break the cycle of generational poverty. Additional information about *Bridges* may be found at www.ahaprocess.com.

Our presenter, Terie Dreussi Smith, has served as Supervisor of Prevention Services at a community alcohol/other drug treatment and prevention organization for over nine years. She has been instrumental in organizational redesign of programs and services for prevention and early intervention for clients from generational poverty. Terie is on adjunct faculty for several universities and colleges to empower adult students transitioning out poverty. In addition to presenting Bridges Out of Poverty seminars, Terie has experience developing community initiatives that promote health, wellness, and addiction prevention.

On behalf of the community partners working together to make this possible, many thanks to the MT Supreme Court for the Court Assessment Program grant, First Interstate Bank for providing the meeting room, Riverstone Health for providing the "Healthy By Design" lunch, and MSU-B for providing materials support for participants.

Please join us!

Tuesday, September 21, 2010 ♦ 8:30 AM – 3:30 PM
First Interstate Bank Operations Center – 1800 6th Ave North, Billings

Donna Huston,
Second Chance Homes