

# Bridges Out OF Poverty: A Community Approach



## Why Bridges Out of Poverty?

- December 2013- National trainer introduced 150 professionals to “Bridges Out of Poverty” in Central Virginia. Funding was provided by Casey Family Programs.
- 2014 Community collaboration presentations and meetings.
- December 2014- National trainer introduced Bridges to 440 professionals in Central Virginia.
- Early 2015 Central Virginia Steering Committee and sub-committees were established and now meet quarterly.

# RESOURCE BUILDER MODEL

WORKING ACROSS SECTORS TO ADDRESS THE ROOT CAUSES OF POVERTY, SUPPORT INDIVIDUALS AS THEY BUILD RESOURCES, AND ACHIEVE A SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY WHERE EVERYONE CAN LIVE WELL.

## COMMUNITY WIDE APPROACH

- INDIVIDUAL
- INSTITUTIONAL
- COMMUNITY/POLICY



## 4 CAUSES OF POVERTY

- INDIVIDUAL BEHAVIORS
- COMMUNITY CONDITIONS
- EXPLOITATION
- POLITICAL/ECONOMIC STRUCTURES

## 11 REQUIRED RESOURCES

FINANCIAL • EMOTIONAL • COGNITIVE • SPIRITUAL • PHYSICAL • RELATIONSHIPS • HIDDEN RULES  
LANGUAGE • SUPPORT SYSTEMS • INTEGRITY/TRUST • MOTIVATION/PERSISTENCE

# R E S O U R C E S

## **FINANCIAL**

Being able to purchase the goods and services of that class and sustain it.

## **EMOTIONAL**

Being able to choose and control emotional responses, particularly to negative situations, without engaging in self-destructive behavior. Shows itself through choices.

## **MENTAL**

Having the mental abilities and acquired skills (reading, writing, computing) to deal with daily life.

## **SPIRITUAL**

Believing in (divine) purpose and guidance.

## **PHYSICAL**

Having physical health and mobility.

## **SUPPORT SYSTEMS**

Having friends, family, and backup resources available to access in times of need. These are external resources.

## **RELATIONSHIPS/ROLE MODELS**

Having frequent access to adult(s) who are appropriate, **nurturing**, and who do not engage in destructive behavior.

## **KNOWLEDGE OF HIDDEN RULES**

Knowing the unspoken cues and habits of a group.

# R E S O U R C E S

## **Integrity and trust:**

Your word is good, you do what you say you will do, and you are safe.

## **Motivation and persistence:**

You have the energy and drive to prepare for, plan, and complete projects, jobs, and personal changes.

## **Formal register:**

You have the emotional control, vocabulary, language ability, and negotiation skills to succeed in work and/or school settings.

# Registers of Language

Register	Explanation
Frozen	Language that is always the same. For example: Lords Prayer, wedding vows, pledge of allegiance, etc.
Formal	The standard sentence syntax and word choice of work and school. Has complete sentences and specific word choices.
Consultative	Formal register when used in conversation. Discourse pattern not quite as direct as formal register.
Casual	Language between friends and is characterized by a 400 to 800 work vocabulary. Word choice general and not specific. Conversation dependent upon non-verbal assists. Sentence syntax often incomplete.
Intimate	Language between lovers or twins. Language of sexual harassment.

**If an individual depends upon a random episodic story structure for memory pattern, lives in a unpredictable environment, and does not have the ability to plan, then...**

**The Individual cannot plan.**

**If an individual cannot plan, he/she cannot predict.**

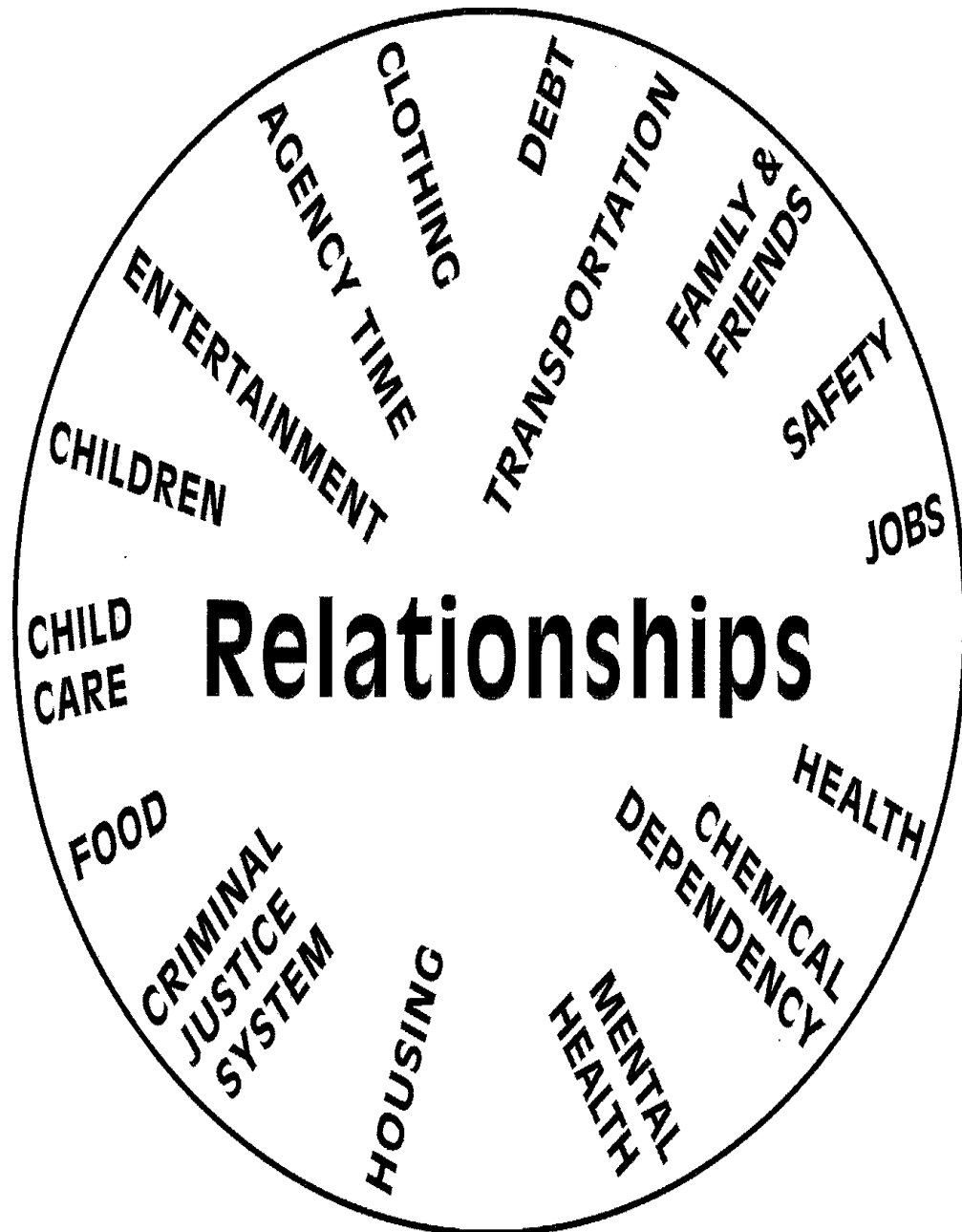
**If an individual cannot predict, then he/she cannot identify cause and effect.**

**If an individual cannot identify cause and effect, he/she cannot identify consequences.**

**If an individual cannot identify consequences, he/she cannot control impulsivity.**

**If an individual cannot control impulsivity, he/she has an inclination to criminal behavior.**

# Mental Model for Poverty: What It's Like Now

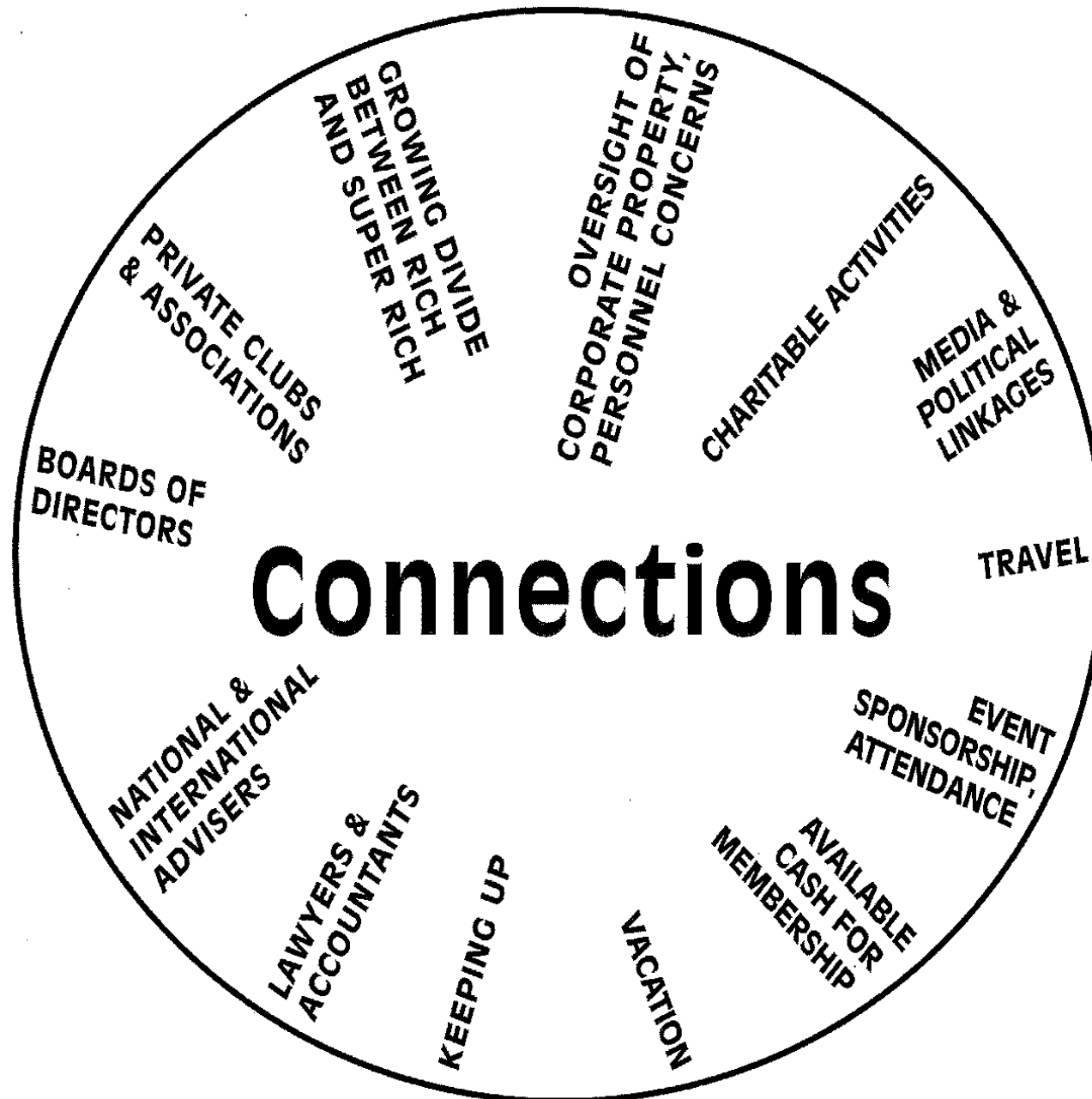


# Mental Model for Middle Class





# Mental Model for Wealth



# Future orientation, choice and power

***“If you choose, then you have chosen”***

- What did you do?
- When you did that, what did you want?
- What are 4 other things you could have done instead?
- What will you do next time?

## Phase I

- Expose community to “Bridges Out of Poverty” philosophy
- Training to be performed by national trainers to Bedford community
- Recruit key community members to train as trainers
- Visit other communities who are successfully implementing Bridges

## Phase II

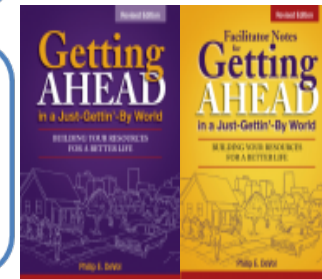
- Secure funding for train the trainer
- Train key community members to be trained as trainers
- Send local trainers into the community to embed the philosophy

## Phase III

- Recruit and train volunteers to run “Getting Ahead in a Just Getting by World” classes
- Provide “Getting Ahead” classes and collect outcome data

## Phase IV

- Establish a “Champion” agency to coordinate the newly formed sustainable community.
- Nurture relationships developed in the “Getting Ahead” classes and start mentoring relationships
- Create “Bridges Circles” that provide an environment for fellowship/partnership of all social classes. Building Social Capital





# What is a Sustainable Community ?

