

NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Local experts on panel at Bridges Out of Poverty Conference Apr. 23-24 Conference features national presenter and native Cantonian Terri Dreussi Smith Registration and fees due Apr. 10

(Canton, OH) April 8, 2009—Local panelists Lorraine Washington, VP Human Resources, Mercy Medical Center; Dr. Adrienne O'Neill, Ed.D., president of Stark Education Partnership; Dr. Peter Ferguson, Stark County Commissioner; Rod Meadows of Motter & Meadows Architects; Rev. Walter Arrington, pastor of Peoples Baptist Church and Sara Strattan, executive director of Community Legal Aid will give their perspective during the *Bridges Out of Poverty* conference Apr. 23-24 at Malone University Johnson Center.

The two-day conference, designed to create community collaboration around solutions for poverty in Stark County, features national presenter and native Terie Dreussi Smith, co-author of *Bridges Out of Poverty: Strategies for Professionals and Communities*. Sponsored by The Sisters of Charity Foundation of Canton, United Way of Greater Stark County and The Stark County Department of Job and Family Services, the conference will explore how poverty affects businesses and the community and what can be done to address this growing issue.

Conference registration and fees are due Apr. 10 to Catholic Charities, 3112 Cleveland Avenue NW, Canton, Ohio 44709. Fees for the two days are \$55. If earning CEU or RCH credits, the fees for two-days are \$115 and if earning graduate credits fees are \$210. Registration is limited to the first 250. All registered attendees will receive a copy of the *Bridges Out of Poverty* workbook.

A Community Leadership Breakfast Thurs., Apr. 23 at 7:30 a.m. prior to the conference will feature Smith as keynote presenter to an audience of invited Stark County business and community leaders to specifically discuss the role businesses and the for-profit sector could play in creating stability. The conference session begins at 9:00 a.m. with a continental breakfast and concludes at 4:00 p.m. Apr. 23 and 24.

Smith co-authored with Dr. Ruby K. Payne and Philip DeVol *Bridges Out of Poverty: Strategies for Professionals and Communities* and has assisted communities to embed *Bridges Out of Poverty* concepts in redesigning policies and services for families and youth in generational poverty. Smith of Taylors, South Carolina and native of Canton, Ohio, supervised a redesign of programs and services for the prevention and early intervention clients from generational poverty at a community alcohol/other drug treatment and prevention organization. Smith, M.A. Ed., served as adjunct faculty for several colleges focused on empowering adult students transitioning out of poverty.

For more information about the *Bridges Out of Poverty* conference or any other questions, please contact Catholic Charities at (330) 491-0896.

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