



Connections to Success is a nonprofit organization serving Missouri and Illinois and created to encapsulate a number of existing programs whose vision is to break the cycle of poverty. The following programs are currently included:

Dress for Success® Midwest

- Began serving the St. Louis region in May 1998
- Served over 10,000 women and affecting the lives of over 16,000 children to date
- Provides interview appropriate clothing to women referred from other nonprofits

Professional Women's Group®

- Began October 1999 with over 500 members to date
- Qualifications to join include 30 days of continuous employment
- Assists women with career development and life skills training

Career Development

- Identifies career choices based on individuals' likes and passions
- Mapping of goals and strategies to reach career objectives
- "Job coaching" to assist individuals overcome obstacles and challenges

Faith & Family Connections

- Faith-based mentoring program
- Work together with congregations and faith-based organizations to form teams
- Match each mentor team with a family for one year commitment

Wheels For Success

- Began in July 1999 providing safe and reliable vehicles to selected applicants
- Vehicles are donated, then repaired for service
- Each recipient makes nominal monthly payment to program for one year

Wheels of Hope

- An 8' x 40' mobile office trailer providing clothing, training, mentoring and other services offered by Connections to Success
- Intended uses include reaching clients unable to get to our service centers, and better collaborating with other agencies and organizations needing our services

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S.L.A.T.E., 1017 Olive Street, St. Louis, MO 63101 – (314) 613-3014*

www.connectionstosuccess.org



Connections to Success is an innovative nonprofit organization providing services designed to break the cycle of poverty, one family at a time. It is co-directed by a husband and wife team, Kathy and Brad Lambert, who left the corporate world with a passion to help disadvantaged individuals and their families rise to a level of independence and economic self-sufficiency. The organization focuses on women with children who have left welfare, incarceration, or other difficult circumstances and are faced with the many challenges and obstacles to achieving the quality of life they desire. Services of *Connections to Success* relate to the areas of employment retention, life-skills training, career development, job coaching, transportation and faith-based mentoring.

The results speak for themselves. A recent sample of families in the Connections to Success program found the following:

	<u>Before Program</u>	<u>Currently</u>
o Employment -	\$7.11/hr avg wage 40% employed	\$10.25/hr avg wage 85% employed
o Transportation -	20% had reliable personal trans	90% have reliable personal trans
o Education -	20% no HS diploma or GED	100% attained or are pursuing HS/GED
	10% pursuing post- secondary education	65% pursuing post- secondary education
o Housing -	40% living with others, in shelters or group homes, other unsafe housing	5% living with others, in shelters or group homes, other unsafe housing
o Healthcare -	85% - Medicaid or no insurance	65% - partial or full employer insurance

One of the most important initiatives at *Connections to Success* is the interfaith mentoring program, Faith & Family Connections. This program partners with faith-based congregations and neighborhood citizens to form care teams that embrace whole families over a minimal one-year period. The care teams help families set and achieve goals as well as constantly offering hope, support and encouragement. Life change occurs. Moms are going back to school, children are becoming more involved in community activities, health risks are being reduced, and much more.

For more information visit www.connectionstosuccess.org



CONNECTIONS TO SUCCESS

Mission:

Break the cycle of poverty, one family at a time

In order to do this, we must:

- *Create, implement and maintain innovative programs*
- *Recruit, train and deploy “care teams” that will provide support, guidance, leadership and hope to our clients*
- *Develop new and innovative revenue strategies including for-profit initiatives/funding streams*
- *Create, package and implement sound strategies for marketing and branding*
- *Expand (build upon) measurement tools for collecting, analyzing and reporting client outcomes*
- *Optimize service delivery through mutually beneficial partnerships and collaborations while providing regional accessibility to our clients*