

Free cell phone service offered for low-income individuals

Airfire Mobile, formerly known as Einstein Wireless, a local cellular company headquartered in Little Chute, has created a free wireless phone plan to help those in need. Their Lifeline plan is a government-supported program available to those who qualify and includes the following:

- FREE 100 Minutes of voice usage every month
- FREE Voicemail
- FREE wireless phone
- No overages or unexpected charges

For more information, contact Shannon Daniels at sdaniels@airfiremobile.com or 920-707-7703.

CAP Services: 2011 Poverty Simulation

Imagine not having enough bus passes to get your child to daycare and yourself to work. Imagine losing your home because you have lost your job. Imagine having no food to feed your family. Sadly, for many Americans, this is not an exercise in imagination – it's their reality.

Experience first-hand the effects that poverty can have on an individual and family by attending a Poverty Simulation. A Poverty Simulation is not a game, but an interactive, emotional 3-hours experience in which you fill the role of a low income individual through various scenarios. You'll never be the same again.

There is no fee to attend, but RSVP's are strongly recommended. The next Poverty Simulation open to the public will occur Sunday, March 20, 2011, from 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at St. Bernard's Church in Appleton. Contact Betsy Rozelle at CAP Services (920-968-6365) or brozelle@capmail.org for more information or to register.

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PROJECT PROMISE
a fox cities poverty coalition

awareness | education | action

Single Working Mom is Living the American Dream

BY NICOLE SCHROEDER

Beatriz "Betty" Infante Mata is an inspiration to single working mothers. Originally from Mexico, Mata moved to the United States in 2002 to make a new life for herself and to "live the American Dream." After moving to the Fox Cities, she juggled two full-time jobs, while serving as part-time caregiver to a child with special needs. It was through this experience that Mata decided to dedicate her life to working with children. "Children are so much fun and have such hope. I really love being around that beauty," she said.

But it was difficult to study English with her busy work schedule. It wasn't until she met Sandi Moore that things started falling into place. Moore is a Student Services Counselor and Coordinator of the Wo/Men's Educational Bureau, FVTC's single parent and displaced homemaker program. "When I met Sandi, it was like a light bulb went off. I was able to really focus on making my dreams become reality," Mata said.

Things happened fast. Mata enrolled in FVTC's Starting Point Workshop where she gained the confidence needed to develop a solid life-career plan. She then met Andrew Konkell, Assistant Director of Human Development at CAP Services: Skills Division. Mata became a participant in CAP's Skills Enhancement Program.

Add a pregnancy to the mix and life became crazy for Mata. Together, Konkell and Moore helped Mata prepare for the FVTC placement exam, register for classes, apply for scholarships and acquire the tools necessary to start living her dream. After taking her first childcare class, Mata was hooked. "I knew immediately that I was in the right place. I was home," she said.

Now in her third semester in the Early Childhood Education program, Mata has a five-year plan to earn an Associate Degree. She takes classes 2 days a week and also works for the

"Children are so much fun and have such hope. I really love being around that beauty,"

~ Beatriz "Betty" Infante Mata

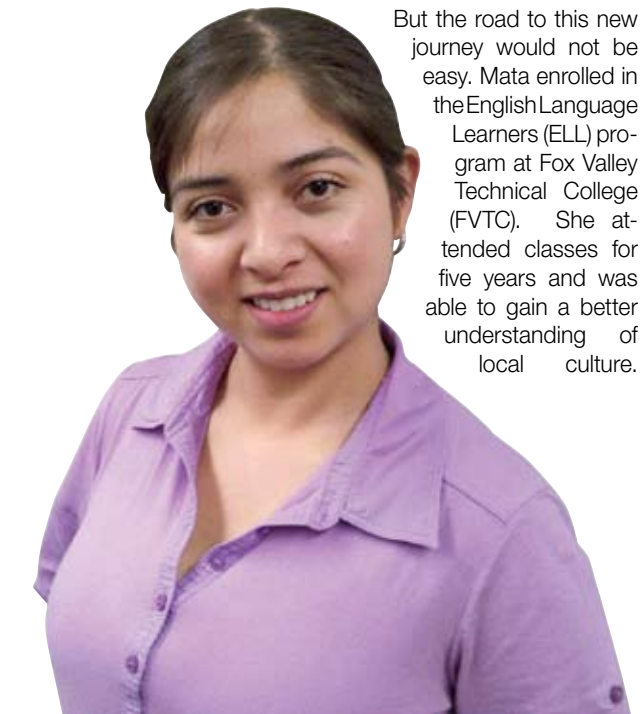
Appleton YMCA daycare program. Mata also teaches a Spanish class for 2-4 year olds in her "free" time. "I love being a part of the children's lives while their parents are hard at work," she said.

Like most mothers, Mata would love to spend every moment with her daughter. But she knows the time devoted to work and school will provide opportunities for her daughter's future. She believes education is critical to success and everyone

should devote time each day to learning. But Mata finds the hardest part about being a single mom is all the craziness that a packed schedule brings. "I want to work, I want to study, I want to be a good mom, but it all boils down to balance," she said. "I asked for all this craziness. I love the challenges each day brings and know that I can accomplish anything I put my mind to."

Mata dreams of being a kindergarten teacher and looks forward to the day she can care for children full-time. However, first and foremost, she wants to provide a good life for her daughter. "I will always be busy, but no matter how crazy life gets, I still find time to love my daughter. I'm a mom first."

If Mata could give one piece of advice to single moms thinking about going to school, she would tell them that, "You have to just jump in and do it. If you think and think about it, it'll take years off your life. Why waste that time when you can dedicate it to becoming something great and serve as a role model to your children?"



But the road to this new journey would not be easy. Mata enrolled in the English Language Learners (ELL) program at Fox Valley Technical College (FVTC). She attended classes for five years and was able to gain a better understanding of local culture.

The Fight Against Poverty Pledge

Today and every day, I am the difference in the fight against poverty. I am committed to building a community where everyone has the opportunity to achieve their full potential.

GET CONNECTED...
GET ANSWERS...

CALL 2-1-1

For connection to community services, dial 2-1-1. Your call will be answered by a 2-1-1 Call Center Specialist who is familiar with the following services and many others. Together, we can help you find the best resources to meet your need. Call 2-1-1 for more information on any of the resources listed here.

CLOTHING

Bread of Life Salvation Army Extension.....	984-9305
Community 2000.....	833-0277
Community Clothes Closet.....	731-7834
Fox Valley Thrift Shoppe.....	954-9200
Goodwill Industries of N.C. WI.....	731-6601
Helping 2nd Hands.....	779-6705
Fox Valley Mother and Unborn Baby Care.....	733-7334
New London Community Cupboard.....	982-8500
Outagamie County Home Consultant.....	832-5161
St. Vincent de Paul Stores	
Appleton.....	739-1679
Kaukauna.....	766-9221
Neenah.....	727-1766

EMPLOYMENT/SKILLS TRAINING

ADVOCAP.....	725-2791
CAP Services Skills Enhancement.....	968-6365
Division of Vocational Rehabilitation.....	968-6219
Fox Cities Workforce Development Center.....	997-3272
Senior Workers Program.....	968-6301
Wo/Men's Educational Bureau.....	735-5693

FINANCIAL COUNSELING

Catholic Charities.....	734-2601
FISC (Financial Information Service Center).....	886-1000

FINANCIAL TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE

Bread of Life Salvation Army Extension.....	984-9305
Financial Assistance	
Calumet County.....	989-2700
Outagamie County.....	832-5168
Winnebago County.....	727-2882
LEAVEN.....	738-9635
The Salvation Army.....	734-3324

Veteran Services	
Calumet County.....	989-2700
Outagamie County.....	832-5697
Winnebago County.....	729-4820

FOOD

ADVOCAP.....	725-2791
Community 2000.....	833-0277
Double Portion Soup Kitchen & Pantry.....	235-1031
Fox Valley Community Table.....	725-3961
Hortonville Area Community Food Pantry.....	779-6705
Loaves & Fishes Food Pantry.....	766-9131
Neenah/Menasha Emergency Food Pantry.....	722-2871
Ruth's Pantry.....	836-2382
St. Joseph Food Program.....	734-9461
SHARE.....	1-800-548-2124
The Salvation Army.....	734-3324
WIC Program	
Calumet County.....	989-2700
Outagamie County.....	832-5109
Winnebago County.....	729-2945

HEALTH CARE & INFORMATION

Affinity Nurse Direct.....	738-2230
City Health Departments	
Appleton.....	832-6429
Menasha.....	967-3520
Neenah.....	886-6155
County Health Departments	
Calumet County.....	849-1432
Outagamie County.....	832-5100
Winnebago County.....	727-2894
Fox Cities Community Health Center.....	731-7445
Fox Valley Mother and Unborn Baby Care.....	733-7334
Planned Parenthood.....	731-6304

ThedaCare on Call.....	830-6877
Tri-County Dental Clinic.....	882-5500
Wisconsin Well Woman Program.....	731-7142

HOUSING

C.O.T.S. / Men.....	734-3609
C.O.T.S. / Women.....	831-6591
Christine Ann Domestic Abuse Services.....	729-6395
Emergency Shelter of the Fox Valley.....	734-9192
Fox Valley Warming Shelter.....	277-1968
Habitat for Humanity.....	954-8702
Harbor House Domestic Abuse Programs.....	832-1666
Housing Authorities	
Appleton.....	739-6811
Kaukauna.....	766-4772
Outagamie.....	731-9781
Winnebago.....	424-1470
Housing Partnership.....	731-6644
The Salvation Army Transitional Housing.....	734-3324
Villa Hope.....	739-5337

LEGAL SERVICES

Lawyer Referral & Information.....	1-800-362-9082
Legal Action of Wisconsin	
Outagamie & Calumet Counties.....	1-800-236-1127
Winnebago County.....	1-800-236-1128

TRANSPORTATION

Dial-A-Ride Neenah/Menasha.....	886-6128*
Faith in Action.....	450-7997*
FISH Community Services.....	734-1745*
Making the Ride Happen.....	225-1719*
The Connector.....	832-5800
Valley Transit.....	832-5800
Valley Transit II.....	832-5789

*service restricted to older adults and persons with disabilities

NOTE: ALL PHONE NUMBERS ARE AREA CODE 920 UNLESS INDICATED OTHERWISE.



A few words

from the Project Promise Poverty Coalition Leadership Team

BY JENNIFER WANKE AND JON STELLMACHER (PPPC CO-CHAIRS)

Imagine a world where everyone has equal access to all the opportunities life has to offer. Isn't that something we could all hope and dream for?

Many people are surprised to learn that not everyone in the Fox Cities can access all the opportunities available to most of us. There are families in our community who are living in poverty and struggle to afford the basic needs that many of us take for granted. They work hard, but in an economy like this one they simply can't get ahead. Did you know that more than 20,000 people live in poverty in the Fox Cities?

Fortunately we live in a community that has the capacity and willingness to care about the less fortunate. We live in a community that has a network in place to help meet basic needs and connect people to resources to become more self-sufficient and find a way out of poverty. But the resources are limited, so collaborations and team work are needed to ensure opportunity for every person. If we agree that we want everyone to have equal access to opportunities, it is up to each of us to play a role in the transformation process.

For the past few years, the Project Promise Poverty Coalition (PPPC) has been working across the Fox Cities to address poverty related issues by generating community awareness, providing education, and taking action. While we made great progress in the right direction, we also recognize that there is much more work to be done. We devoted much of the second half of 2010 to strategic planning that resulted in some very positive changes to address the maturation of our Project Promise Poverty Coalition. We realized that reaching our goals would require some strategic restructuring to maximize effectiveness.

What would you think about a community where everyone is engaged in maximizing the ability of all community members to achieve their full potential and participate fully in the life of the community? Sounds great, doesn't it? We thought so too! That's why we adopted this as our updated vision for Project Promise Poverty Coalition. Following months of strategic planning sessions, the new vision was approved by the membership in December of 2010.

To successfully achieve our mission we made some changes in the PPPC structure to create synergies and offer more opportunities to engage key representation for all community sectors (e.g., nonprofit, business, education, faith community, government, etc.). The Executive Steering Committee will remain intact, but the 3 previous sub-committees will be merged into the Awareness Task Force. A new Opportunity Task Force will be introduced and a cross-section of community leaders will be invited to serve on that team.

There are plenty of chances for everyone to play a meaningful role in the fight against poverty and it is up to you to determine what your role will be. If you have not already done so, you can start by visiting the Project Promise website (www.projectpromisefoxcities.org) to learn more about PPPC and use that occasion to take the poverty pledge.

Show your compassion and your sense of community by taking the pledge and getting involved in community efforts to reduce poverty. Volunteer your time, talents, and treasures for one of the many organizations working every day to reduce poverty in the Fox Cities. Thank you!

The Fight Against Poverty Pledge
Today and every day, I am the difference in the fight against poverty. I am committed to building a community where everyone has the opportunity to achieve their full potential.

The "New" Project Promise Poverty Coalition

Vision: A community where everyone is engaged in maximizing the ability of all community members to achieve their full potential and participate fully in the life of the community.

Mission: Engage our community in achieving equality of opportunity and access to resources for a full life for every person.

Structure:

- Project Promise Poverty Awareness Task Force
- Project Promise Opportunity Task Force ("organizations" and groups that have taken the Promise Poverty Pledge)
- Members-at-Large Task Force (people who have taken the Project Promise Poverty Pledge)
- Executive Steering Committee

Fox Cities War on Local Poverty is Affirmed,

PPPC Establishes New Direction

At its quarterly meeting on December 8, 2010, Project Promise Poverty Coalition (PPPC) membership approved the new strategic direction proposed by its executive steering committee. That direction reflects continued efforts to raise awareness and understanding of poverty in the Fox Cities, as well as new focus on engaging community leaders in local efforts to address contributing factors of poverty.

The revitalized direction responds to the coalition's updated vision of **"a community where everyone is engaged in maximizing the ability of all community members to achieve their full potential and participate fully in the life of the community."**

Why all these changes for Project Promise? Following months of strategic planning and feedback from the membership and the PPPC Executive Steering Committee, it became evident that adjustments in the current structure of Project Promise were needed to focus our efforts and increase our impact. Review of feedback from coalition members reflected a desire for PPPC to continue to be the voice of poverty – and that there was great support for the related goals of understanding the root causes of poverty, raising awareness about poverty, rallying community support and action, connecting people to opportunities, and addressing other aspects of poverty. PPPC's executive steering committee wants to get the entire community engaged in poverty related issues and the members started moving in that direction in 2010 by redefining the coalition and adding the Opportunity Task Force which will be populated by key community leaders.

PPPC will continue to be the umbrella coalition, supporting continued awareness building and education (which the community has come to expect from Project Promise), while working to launch a new, powerful team of community leaders to tackle resources and commitment issues. The plan is to engage existing Project Promise Poverty Coalition members while inviting and involving a new cadre of poverty warriors.

The new Project Promise model includes 3 task forces, each of which has a unique mission, tactics, and goals targeted at realizing the Coalition's common vision. The original subcommittees (Analysis & Information, Awareness & Education, Action & Impact) are being re-organized into 3 task forces: Project Promise Poverty Awareness Task Force, Project Promise Opportunity Task Force, and Members-at-Large Task Force. Summaries of the structure/goals for the coalition may be viewed at www.projectpromisefoxcities.org.

Much has been accomplished in the 4 years since the Project Promise journey began. Many volunteers have played key roles in helping PPPC achieve impact over the years. Many persons take time from their "day jobs" at various organiza-

tions to help implement communications and activities to raise awareness, educate, and address poverty. During the past 3 years, each of the PPPC committees worked to make progress toward short-term goals, always with an eye toward the long-term goal of eliminating poverty in the Fox Cities.

PPPC has experienced many accomplishments.

- Analysis & Information Committee:
 - o Extensive work on Root Cause (of poverty) identification, especially research on financial literacy
 - o Gathering and reporting poverty facts in the Fox Cities
- Awareness & Education Committee:
 - o Speakers Bureau - provide education to faith communities and other community groups
 - o Brochure (described PPPC mission, focus, opportunities for involvement)
 - o Annual meeting planned and delivered in 2008, 2009, and 2010
- Action & Impact Committee:
 - o *The Faith to Face Poverty Weeks* in 2009 and 2010 gave more than 42 faith communities resources and the opportunity to focus a weekly worship on poverty
 - o Resource Fairs were held in conjunction with the Appleton Farmers Market in 2009 and 2010, involving many agencies
 - o Inserts in *The Post Crescent* (published January 2010 and February 2011)
 - o Enhanced the PPPC website including monthly updates
 - o Worked to create a Continuum of Care Schematic which led to better understanding of the range of services available in the Fox Cities

What will drive Project Promise in 2011 and beyond?

The biggest driver is the compassion of PPPC leaders and members for their fellow citizens, their neighbors throughout the Fox Cities. Several questions are key to this motivation:

- What can be done for those in or near poverty?
- Is enough being done?
- How can PPPC move upstream to address contributing causes of poverty?
- How can opportunities be created for all members to be engaged in the community?
- How can responsibility and capability be promoted, instead of dependency?
- What will motivate compassion rather than apathy?

To learn more, including additional responses to these and other questions, check www.projectpromisefoxcities.org.

PPPC General Membership Meetings

Any area resident committed to helping to eradicate poverty in the Fox Cities is warmly invited to attend the quarterly PPPC meetings. No RSVP is necessary. A schedule of the meetings and their focus is below. Each meeting features a speaker plus time for networking/sharing of resources. Meetings run from 11:45 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall at Zion Lutheran Church, 912 N. Oneida Street, Appleton. Feel free to bring your lunch.

March 9, 2011	Fox Valley Jail Ministries: Falling Forward Mentoring and Aftercare Program
June 8, 2011	CAP Services: Educational opportunities
September 14, 2011	NAMI: The Impacts of Mental health
December 14, 2011	Public Policy: The HEARTH Act and other public policies impacting those living in poverty

PROJECT PROMISE NEWS

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