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NEWS RELEASE

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Dubuque Circles™ Kick-Off Event to be held September 22

DUBUQUE, Iowa – The Circles™ campaign, an initiative being modeled currently in cities nationally by the Move the Mountain Leadership Center in Fairbault, Minnesota, will launch in Dubuque at 6 p.m. on Wednesday, Sept. 22, at Prescott School, 1151 White St., in Dubuque.

The Circles™ initiative seeks to provide transformational leaders a structure to engage the community in ending poverty. A “circle” is comprised of a family working to get out of poverty and two to four community “allies” or mentors who are willing to befriend the family and support their way out of poverty. The mission of the Circles™ campaign is to transform communities by building relationships that inspire and equip people to end poverty. The services are for graduates of the “Getting Ahead in a Just-Gettin’-by World,” a program designed to teach low- income families how to create a path for making a stable, secure life for their family. It is co-sponsored by the City of Dubuque’s Housing Department’s Family Self- Sufficiency Program, DubuqueWorks, and Project HOPE, under a contract with the Community Foundation of Greater Dubuque.

This latest initiative is a continued effort within the Dubuque community to sustain the movement and action of the “Getting Ahead in a Just-Gettin’-by World” program and “Bridges out of Poverty,” a workshop offered locally based on the book by Dr. Ruby Payne that provides a framework for professionals to better understand poverty.

The September 22 event will begin at 6 p.m. with appetizers and displays. The program will begin at 6:45 p.m. and will feature guest speakers Marlo Fox, Dubuque’s Move the Mountain Circle Coach from Springfield, Ohio, and James Mitchell, Circle Ally from Muncie, Indiana, as well as graduates of the “Getting Ahead in a Just-Gettin’-By World” program. The event is free and open to the public.

For more information, contact City of Dubuque Family Self-Sufficiency Coordinator Carroll Clark at (563) 589-4230 or cclark@cityofdubuque.org.

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