



**CONTACT:**  
Carroll E. Clark, Family Self-Sufficiency Coordinator  
(563)589-4230  
cclark@cityofdubuque.org

# NEWS RELEASE

Sept. 3, 2008 – For Immediate Release

## **‘Getting Ahead in a Just Gettin’ By World’ Program Offers Stability**

DUBUQUE, Iowa – A consortium of local organizations is preparing to offer Dubuque’s second “Getting Ahead in a Just Gettin’ By World” program to help local low-income families create more stable, secure lives.

“Getting Ahead in a Just Gettin’ By World” is a step-by-step, life-planning workbook for people in poverty that brings together three primary influences: Dr. Ruby Payne’s work on the hidden rules of class, research on knowledge transfer, and the knowledge of participants living in poverty. The program’s curriculum is designed to teach low-income families how to “create a path for making a stable, secure life for their family.”

“It’s about knowledge and skills-teaching, and families learning their own strengths and weaknesses,” said City of Dubuque Family Self-Sufficiency Coordinator Carroll Clark, a co-facilitator of the program. “Along with building up our families, we also want to help create future leaders.”

The program is being offered by the City of Dubuque’s Housing and Community Development Department, the Dubuque Rescue Mission, the Community Foundation of Greater Dubuque, Iowa Workforce Development, Northeast Iowa Community College, Common Good Services, and Jim Ott.

The program coordinators are planning to offer the curriculum to two groups of 15 participants each. They will meet for 16 weeks for two hours each week. The program pays participants \$10 per hour to complete the curriculum, provides all course materials, and offers childcare. Program coordinators are currently seeking sponsors to fund the \$400 necessary for each participating family.

Clark reports that of the 19 graduates of last year’s class, one has enrolled in college, three have received jobs, and one has moved a step closer in his field to his ideal position. “The success of this program is shown in the fact that already 25 percent of the graduates have gained stability within three weeks of their graduation,” she said.

“Next, we are taking three of those graduates who want to learn to lead and we are beginning two more groups,” said Clarke. “If we continue to lead groups and train more leaders, we can potentially offer this curriculum to almost 100 low-income families in just over a year. At the completion of this next session we will be halfway there with over 55 families trained.”

To sponsor a participant, or for more information, contact Carroll Clark at (563)589-4230 or [cclark@cityofdubuque.org](mailto:cclark@cityofdubuque.org).

###