



CONTACT:

Carroll Clark, FSS Coordinator

563-589-4230

cclark@cityofdubuque.org

www.cityofdubuque.org/bridgesoutofpoverty

NEWS RELEASE

January 23, 2012 – For Immediate Release

Workshop Offers ‘Bridges Out of Poverty’

DUBUQUE, Iowa – A workshop designed to provide a deeper understanding of the challenges faced by those who live in and have lived in poverty, and their strengths, will be offered in Dubuque for social, health, legal, educational, and business professionals. The general public is also invited.

“Bridges Out of Poverty” is being offered from 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on Friday, March 2, at the Loras College Ballroom, 1450 Alta Vista, in Dubuque, with registration beginning at 8:00 a.m. The cost to participate in the workshop is \$75 per person, which includes breakfast, lunch, and a copy of Payne’s “Bridges Out of Poverty.” Social work continuing education units (CEUs) are available through Loras College for an additional \$5. Foster care CEUs are available at no charge.

The workshop is based on the book, “Bridges Out of Poverty: Strategies for Professionals and Communities” by Dr. Ruby Payne. The book offers a framework to better understand poverty and the workshop is tailored for professionals who serve clients who live or have lived in poverty and for employers who hire people who have lived in poverty. Topics to be covered in the workshops include:

- identifying resources and building strengths,
- the social and political factors affecting poverty,
- the hidden rules of both poverty and middle class,
- better communication through understanding the registers of language, and
- Family structure and personal identity.

“Bridges Out of Poverty” will be presented by Jim Ott, a psychologist with the Mississippi Bend Area Education Agency serving schools in Jackson County; Carroll Clark, Bridges Initiative Co-Advisor and Self Sufficiency Coordinator for the City of Dubuque’s Housing & Community Development Department; and Ermina Soler, Circles Coach for the City of Dubuque, who brings real life experience to the team.

Registration is available online at www.cityofdubuque.org/bridgesoutofpoverty. The deadline to register is February 24. For more information, please contact Carroll Clark at 589-4230 or cclark@cityofdubuque.org.

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