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NEWS RELEASE

May 24, 2011 – For Immediate Release

“Getting Ahead in a Just-Gettin’-By World” Graduation Ceremony June 8

DUBUQUE, Iowa – The public is invited to attend the graduation ceremony for participants of the “Getting Ahead in a Just-Gettin’-By World” Initiative on Friday, June 8, at 6:30 p.m. in the Blue Moon Room at the Holiday Inn, 450 Main St.

Eleven participants completed the 18-week program, bringing the total number of graduates over the past three years to 185. The “Getting Ahead in a Just-Gettin’-By World” curriculum is part of the City of Dubuque’s Circles® Initiative and is designed to teach low-income families how to create a path for making a stable, secure life for their family. The new graduates will stay involved in the program as “Circles Leaders.”

Circles® is an innovative model based on a body of research suggesting that in order for low-income families to improve their situation, they must have bonding social capital within the community, bridging social capital to access the resources contained by higher income networks, and linking social capital that connects the first two with public institutions. Operating in communities around the country, each Circles® initiative consists of a family working to get out of poverty and several middle and upper-income “Allies” who befriend them and lend support. The family is the Circle Leader, setting direction for activities. With the help and friendship of their Allies, each Circle Leader sets and achieves goals unique to their own needs.

The initiative is sponsored by a consortium of local organizations including: the City of Dubuque’s Housing and Community Development Department, DubuqueWorks, and the Community Foundation of Greater Dubuque. The ceremony will include music, appetizers and refreshments.

For more information on this event or “Getting Ahead in a Just-Gettin’-By World,” contact Circles Coach Ermina Soler at 563-589-4230 or esoler@cityofdubuque.org

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