

# NEWS RELEASE

June 11, 2013 – For Immediate Release

## “Getting Ahead in a Just-Gettin’-By World” Graduation Ceremony June 21

DUBUQUE, Iowa – The public is invited to attend the graduation ceremony for participants of the “Getting Ahead in a Just-Gettin’-By World” experience on Friday, June 21, at 7 p.m. in the Hotel Julien’s River Room, 350 E. Third St. No R.S.V.P. is required.

Seven participants completed the 18-week program, bringing the total number of graduates over the past four years to 191. This completes the ninth round of “Getting Ahead.” Round ten will begin in August, and applications are currently being accepted. The “Getting Ahead in a Just-Gettin’-By World” curriculum is part of the City of Dubuque’s Circles<sup>®</sup> Initiative and is designed to assist low-income families in creating a path towards a stable, secure life for their family. The new graduates will stay involved in the initiative as “Circle Leaders.”

Circles<sup>®</sup> 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<sup>®</sup> 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 Housing and Community Development Department, DubuqueWorks, and the Community Foundation of Greater Dubuque. The ceremony will include appetizers and refreshments.

For more information on this event, or to apply for the next round of “Getting Ahead in a Just-Gettin’-By World,” contact Circles<sup>®</sup> Coach Ermina Soler at 563-690-6109 or [esoler@cityofdubuque.org](mailto:esoler@cityofdubuque.org).