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NEWS RELEASE

Oct. 30, 2009 – For Immediate Release

Open House for “Getting Ahead in a Just-Gettin’-By World”

DUBUQUE, Iowa – The public is invited to attend an open house for Dubuque’s “Getting Ahead in a Just-Gettin’-By World” Initiative on **Thursday, Nov. 12**, from 7 – 9 p.m. at the Dubuque Multicultural Family Center, 1157 Central Avenue.

The event will provide an opportunity to meet graduates, learn about their successes and the successes of the initiative, and learn about future plans for the initiative. Hors d’oeuvres and desserts will be served.

The purpose of “Getting Ahead in a Just-Gettin’-By World” is to help local low-income families create more stable, secure lives. The process utilizes 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 curriculum is designed to teach low-income families how to create a path for making a stable, secure life for their family. To date, more than 100 individuals have graduated from “Getting Ahead in a Just-Gettin’-By World.”

“The initiative is a process designed for people in poverty to help them understand the hidden rules of middle class as well as communication, values and expectations used in order to bridge the gap between the two classes,” said Carroll Clark, family self-sufficiency coordinator for the City of Dubuque. “The November 12th event is designed to provide information to people who may be potential participants or supporters.”

The process is offered in a 16-week format, with participants meeting for two hours each week. The initiative pays participants \$10 per hour to complete the curriculum, provides all course materials, and offers childcare, transportation, and meals. Initiative coordinators are currently seeking sponsors to fund the \$450 necessary for each participating family.

The initiative is offered by a consortium of local organizations including: the City of Dubuque’s Housing and Community Development Department, DubuqueWorks, the Dubuque Rescue Mission, the Community Foundation of Greater Dubuque, Iowa Workforce Development, Northeast Iowa Community College, and Jim Ott.

For more information on “Getting Ahead in a Just-Gettin’-By World,” contact Carroll Clark at 563.589.4230 or cclark@cityofdubuque.org

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