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For Immediate Release

## OPENING DOORS AND DUPACO ARE HELPING HOMELESS WOMEN GET AHEAD

**Dubuque, IA (July 14, 2015)** In partnership with Dupaco Community Credit Union, Opening Doors will begin offering the *Getting Ahead in a Just Gettin' By World* Curriculum to women who are staying in transitional housing programs at Maria House and Teresa Shelter. According to [www.ahaprocess.com](http://www.ahaprocess.com) the curriculum, “puts the concepts, tools, and relationships in the hands of people in poverty to make a difference in their own lives and in the life of their community.” It helps people living in poverty to have a more prosperous future and aligns with the vision of Opening Doors. Opening Doors’ vision in collaboration with existing community resources and services is to offer a variety of opportunities for women to affirm their dignity and to become empowered members of the community.

While the City of Dubuque offers this training, there are barriers such as limited class sizes and transportation. By offering the curriculum on-site, in a safe environment where the women have already established a trusting relationship Opening Doors hopes for a great completion rate.

Through funding provided by the Dupaco R.W. Hoefer Foundation, this program will offer each woman a \$320 stipend for completing the program and Dupaco will provide financial literacy training to each participant. Opening Doors’ Board member and Dupaco Chief Operating Officer, Matt Dodds states, “*The mission of Dupaco Community Credit Union is to ‘Improve our Members financial position and build valued relationships by delivering personalized financial advice, products, and services.’ The Dupaco R.W. Hoefer Foundation grant funding places a focus and an emphasis on promoting*

*“education” (including financial education) to enhance recipients’ quality of life. I see complete alignment with this project and I am excited to see these funds be put to use to help the residents of Maria House or Teresa Shelter to achieve their full potential.”*

Since opening in 2000, Opening Doors has served 2,525 homeless women and children providing hospitality and opportunity to women, alone or with children, who need emergency or transitional housing and related support services. For more information on Opening Doors please visit [www.openingdoorsdbq.org](http://www.openingdoorsdbq.org). Opening Doors is a proud United Way agency.

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