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## News Release

### ***Ending Poverty Through Systemic Change – One Person, One Neighborhood, One Community at a time.***

Hope Takes Action – Aurora is starting its fourth program in January, 2018 and needs volunteers and supplies.

#### **November, 2017**

**Aurora, IL** – Many churches and community groups provide food, shelter or clothing to people in need. Although much financial assistance is provided to people living in poverty, very few people ever get out of poverty, even with the help of all this charity. Hope Takes Action – Aurora is designed on a different model that calls people of all classes together to identify the root causes of poverty in the community. Through advocacy, dialogue and action, we focus on providing the systemic support needed to alleviate poverty, one person and one neighborhood at a time. In our current society, people of the wealthy and middle classes create the policy and administer the programs they design to assist the poor in the community. We believe the people living in poverty must be included and heard in order to move people out of poverty. People in poverty are fully aware of their needs and the existing barriers that keep them from moving out of poverty. One needs only to look at pay day loans, rent to own, and no money down car lots to see examples of how predators move into a community to prey on the needy.

Examples also exist in communities where local business leaders and community leaders establish reputable and charitable efforts to assist the poor. They help with obtaining credit and reliable, affordable transportation with low interest car loans. They also develop safety nets for their low wage earners that include available day care, emergency transportation services and affordable decent housing.

Our fourth Hope Takes Action-Aurora program will begin in January 2018 and is set to have graduates from the 18-week program in the spring of 2018. The participants are accompanied by mentors who are trained and available to be their coaches. These mentors are people from the community who will to be supportive listeners and friends as these individuals create a future story that moves them closer to their dream of escaping poverty.

Hope Takes Action – Aurora utilizes the **Getting Ahead** workshop series which provides the tools and support necessary to ‘Get Ahead’ in today’s world. **Hope Takes Action** is a community organization formed by local volunteers and organizations to educate, build human capacity and foster relationships among all economic classes. Hope Takes Action is fighting poverty by employing the 'Bridges Out of Poverty' endeavors in the community and the 'Getting Ahead in a Just-Getting-By World' workshop series for those wanting to escape poverty. If we work together, we can eliminate poverty in our communities. Learn more at [www.HopetakesAction.net](http://www.HopetakesAction.net)

The first 18-week workshop series in Aurora began in January, 2017, with the goal of making it a twice a year program to support our community. The program is seeking volunteers to assist with mentoring along with people who are interested in participating in the program. Bi-lingual programming is available, along with child care and a small stipend. This is a great way for volunteers and sponsors to learn more about this program and how they can get involved. We are in great need of individuals and groups to help. They can volunteer to donate an evening meal for about 50, craft supplies, child care supplies, gas cards, and monetary donations are always welcome. Hope Takes Action – Aurora is a St. Vincent de Paul program which is a 501(c)3. All donations are tax deductible.

Hope Take Action – Aurora is led by Denise Claessens & Diane Renner, and an original grant from St. Vincent DePaul, in collaboration with St. Vincent DePaul Society, Marie Wilkinson Food Pantry, First Presbyterian Church, SPARK, Hesed House, St. John United Church of Christ Aurora and many local volunteers.

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