**Meeting Notes- Financial Inclusion Roundtable – January 17, 2017**

We had a full house to hear an engaging presentation by Joe Ader, CEO of Understanding Poverty.  Joe challenged our thinking on how we define and perceive people in poverty.  Noting that poverty is relative over time and geography, he suggested we define poverty as the point below which you don’t have the daily resources for a stable environment, rather than an arbitrary monetary measure.  Joe gave us a vivid demonstration of how a single problem for someone in poverty can quickly escalate to multiple challenges in various areas of life.  He also encouraged us to prioritize relationships over programs in order to better understand and serve those in need.  You can learn more about Joe and his work at [www.understandingpoverty.com](http://www.understandingpoverty.com).

**Please save the date on your calendars for the next Financial Inclusion Roundtable on Tuesday, April 11, 2017**, featuring a presentation on Dallas-specific data and insights from the FDIC’s most recent National Survey of Unbanked and Underbanked Households.

In addition, I wanted to share these upcoming events and resources that may be of interest to the group:

* Anti-Poverty Coalition Meeting on Thursday, January 26 from 1:30-3:30pm at First Presbyterian of Dallas, 1835 Young Street, Dallas, TX 75201. This meeting will provide updates from four critical Dallas area initiatives that impact poverty: Mayor’s Taskforce on Poverty, Neighborhood Plus, Neighbor Up, and Grow South. RSVP here:  <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/dallas-fights-poverty-digging-into-the-citys-anti-poverty-initiatives-tickets-29379268182>   Additional information is on the attached flyer.
* Free Mortgage Help event on Saturday, February 11 from 10:00 am -4:00 pm at the Ruthe Jackson Center, 3113 S. Carrier Parkway, Grand Prairie, TX  75052.  The HOPE Now Alliance and BCL of Texas are bringing together several of the nation’s largest mortgage servicers, Fannie Mae, and HUD-approved counseling agencies to work one-on-one with homeowners who may be at risk of losing their home.  Homeowners who are having difficulty making their mortage payments will have the opportunity to review their options and learn about possible alternatives to foreclosure.  Additional information, including a list of documents to bring, is on the attached flyers (in English and Spanish), and at [www.hopenow.com](http://www.hopenow.com).  Volunteers are also needed, with information attached.
* Tax season is officially underway, and we need your help to ensure that hard working families know where to go to access high quality free tax preparation services. Please take a look at United Way’s Free Tax Preparation Outreach Toolkit at <https://mymoneydfw.com/free-tax-preparation-outreach/> to find out easy ways to increase awareness of free tax preparation!

Thank you again for your active engagement and participation.  I look forward to seeing you on April 11!

Greg

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