

Becoming a Circle Leader

I FEEL STUCK AND AM SICK OF IT. I NEED TO HEAD IN A NEW DIRECTION.



I WANT TO MAKE A LASTING CHANGE.



I AM TIRED OF LIVING PAYCHECK-TO-PAYCHECK.



The Role of a Circle Leader

Circle Leaders are most successful when they have people in their lives who support them. Circle Leaders are empowered by:

- Building intentional, lasting friendships
- Sharing emotional support as needed
- Empowering people from every economic class to solve poverty in their communities
- Receiving the training, networking, and social capital essential to leaving poverty
- Showing the community systemic barriers holding people in poverty

Successful Circle Leaders have:

- Showed up to the meetings and used available resources
- Set goals and made progress
- Acted as a LEADER in leading their Circle and community
- Supported other Circle Leaders and Allies
- Used their knowledge and skills as problem solvers to work on poverty issues in the community

Get Involved with Circles Today!

To learn more about Circles and how to become a Circle Leader or to Volunteer, visit www.circlesrva.org

The Circles Approach

Circles is a long-term approach to **end poverty permanently in our community**. Each week, local families working to overcome poverty (Circle Leaders) meet with community volunteers (Allies) over dinner. During these meetings, Circle Leaders work on their goals toward self-reliance. Over time, incomes improve, debt and public assistance decrease and necessary relationships are built.

Circle Leaders Commit To:

- Complete Circle Leader Training
- Commit to be a part of Circles for a minimum of 18 months
- Attend Weekly Meetings to make progress on goals and receive support
- Identify ways to contribute to Circles
- Befriend their Allies

The Benefits of Joining Circles

There are many benefits to joining the Circles community. Circle Leaders will receive tools that help with managing money and time more effectively, training on communication skills for stronger relationships, and support from a caring community of Allies, volunteers, and Circles Staff. Circle Leaders have the unique chance to build meaningful relationships across class lines and witness the impact of their self-sufficiency journey. **Dinner and childcare are provided** for Circle Leaders and their children at each Circles meeting.

We have been conditioned to believe poverty is an unavoidable problem of society. What if that is not true? What if we have normalized an abusive condition we could actually solve?

“THERE ARE LOTS OF PEOPLE IN POVERTY WHO DO NOT WANT TO BE THERE. THEY WOULD DO WHAT IT TAKES TO GET OUT, IF THEY KNEW HOW OR IF THEY KNEW WHERE TO GET COACHING OR DIRECTION. THIS IS WHAT CIRCLES PROVIDES.”

“IN CIRCLES, THEY TALK TO US ABOUT JOB INTERVIEWS, BUDGETING, AND ABOUT GETTING BACK INTO SCHOOL. IT MAKES YOU REALIZE WHERE YOU REALLY ARE IN POVERTY AND PROVIDES THE TOOLS TO GET OUT.”

“FOR ME, IT WAS THERAPY AND ALSO CHANGED MY MINDSET TO REALLY BE PROACTIVE AND AWARE OF THE DIFFERENT CHOICES THAT I WAS MAKING.”

