



A Circle Ally builds an intentional friendship with the Circle Leader based on respect and trust. Each Circle Leader is matched with two Circle Allies to support the Leader in his/her journey to meet their goals for economic stability. An Ally is in for the long-haul – the relationship may last for 18 months. Allies have a unique opportunity to work closely with a family and build meaningful relationships across class lines and witness the impact of their work first-hand.

The Role of an Ally

- Is an intentional friend
- Offers emotional support when needed
- Helps their Circle Leader evaluate and clarify their goals into manageable steps
- Shares life goals and experiences and when asked, gives advice
- Meets at least twice a month with their Circle Leader

An Effective Ally Has:

- A listening ear
- Experience navigating the education system
- Work or equivalent experience
- The ability to help with career exploration or networking
- Knowledge of basic family finances
- Respects the role of the Circle Leader as the center and driver of this process

Allies Commit To:

- Complete Ally training
- Attend at least two Circles meetings each month
- Pass a background check
- Spend 6 – 10 hours a month with Circles and their Circle Leader

Circles RVA Supports Allies with:

- Orientation sessions and Ally training
- Availability of the Circles Coach, a trained professional
- Collaboration with other Allies, Leaders and volunteers
- Resource Teams who have information about outside resources to broaden the knowledge base and social networks of the Circle