

Community Connection: April 2019

March was an exciting time as we prepared for our second cohort of Leaders!

Moving into April, we are actively recruiting Allies and volunteers.
Please join us on Tuesday, April 30, for our Ally/Volunteer Open House.

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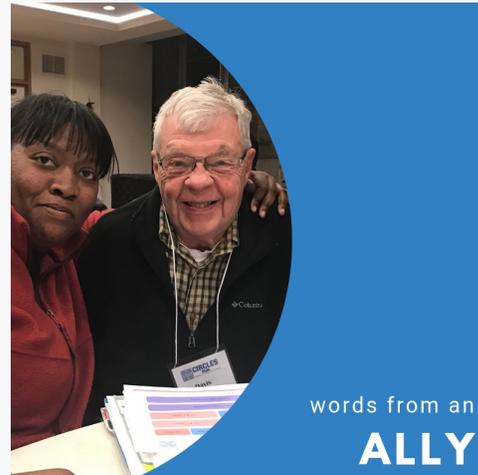


Inspiration from a
LEADER

My vision board starts with the importance of family ties or social/community network. It takes a village to create stable homes. I like the phrase: "a family that prays together stays together..." I would also like to add that, "A family that works together stays together."

It is important to socially interact and share highs and lows because that is what strengthens relationships. No matter how bad it looks, family is the core of society. So, my vision is to strengthen my family to the point that it can withstand the turbulences of life in addition to having a strong support system to secure our roots.

-Shanteny's Leader Graduation Speech



words from an
ALLY

Many issues Leaders and Allies face in resolving Circles goals are challenging since we often are dealing with unknown issues. Yet in spite of unknowns, one important aspect of the Circles program of maintaining an honest open relationship between all team members, was recently demonstrated by our team.

My Ally partner, Alice, and I were invited by our Leader, Shee, to visit her in her home; to experience firsthand her home, neighborhood, and family conditions. Her willingness to be totally open was seen as a big step in maintaining our group's "honest/open" relationship.

-Davis Wrinkle, Circle Ally



vision from the
BOARD

Circles provides an opportunity for Leaders to take charge of their lives, set goals for themselves while building a relationship with a friend that will be supportive on their journey of achieving those goals.

I have had many people in my life that provided support and encouragement on my journey and helped me get up again when I made decisions and fell down. It's important for me to give back by helping someone on their journey. Sharing my story with my Leader has given her hope! My hope for the future of Circles RVA is that Richmond is flooded with Circles programs where people walk together, support each other, share our stories, and break down the barriers that separate us!

-Carolyn Dallas, Board Member and Ally



educate and engage
BIG VIEW

In March, the 'Big View' committee facilitated a discussion on challenges specific to childcare and school readiness.

Our community shared personal stories highlighting barriers to securing quality childcare. Obstacles voiced include:

- Difficulty finding quality, affordable programs
- Complex systematic rules, regulations and waitlists
- Flexibility in childcare hours
- Proximity challenges between work and childcare locations
- Missed wages when children are sick and/or childcare falls through

Thank you, Smart Beginnings, for incorporating our voices as you develop and advocate for effective solutions.

Expand Your Circle with these Upcoming Events

APRIL 2

MATCH NIGHT

Leaders and Allies meet together

APRIL 9

LEADERS & ALLIES

Breakout Group sessions for Leaders

APRIL 16

RESOURCE NIGHT

Leaders participate in discussion with resource teams

APRIL 23

BIG VIEW

Participate in a conversation about...

APRIL 30

FAMILY NIGHT

Join us for some family fun!

ALLY OPEN HOUSE

Meet our community!