



Community Connection: October 2019

Circles focuses on mutuality, recognizing that Leaders and Allies have more commonalities than differences. We have a front row seat as both groups transform, realizing they each have much to learn and gain from one another.

[Visit our Website](#)



New & Good: Money + Family

Capital One Cafe's financial literacy teachers always bring information that is "New and Good" when they lead workshops for our Circles community. Earlier this summer, they encouraged us to "Get Organized" and "Spend Smarter."

Their September workshop prompted a discussion around how to talk with your family about money. After all, our financial decisions impact our entire household! The starting point is creating a baseline financial vocabulary that can be used in family conversations. We were encouraged to start talking about money in a positive way, early and often.

We were also motivated to empower our children to have financial responsibilities. What we actively teach and quietly model about money directly ties into Circles' multi-generational approach to moving families forward. We are not just impacting current adult Leaders, we are actively their children to break the cycle of poverty.

Appreciations: Compassionate Allies

A recent opinion piece in the [Richmond Times Dispatch](#) written by Reggie Gordon has brought new attention to the need for a "compassion movement" in RVA. As Mr. Gordon is quoted, "We need to get closer."

We appreciate the thought behind this piece and the discussions it spurred around the importance of building social connections that strongly impact individual and community-wide change.

We often highlight positive changes in the lives of Circle Leaders, but the Leaders' volunteer Allies also experience meaningful transformations. They move forward, engaged in authentic relationships across socio-economic lines. They are trained to recognize their biases and learn about systemic challenges facing our community. They grow in compassion and the desire to pursue social justice.

If you are interested in learning more about being an Ally, join us at our Ally Open House October 22 at 6pm. Ally applications are also available [online](#).




Dionna is jumping into her new role as **Children's Program Coordinator**. Her experience leading a youth mentor program and focus on self worth is bringing a boost to our teen group.



Volunteers prepare a meal for the Circles community every week. Sharing a meal develops unity and builds relationships. Would you consider grabbing an apron and serving? [Click for info.](#)



We surprised our **Circles Coach** with a wedding shower to celebrate her October nuptials. Congratulations, Helen and Amrit. We wish you the best!

Expand Your Circle: Upcoming Events

OCT 1 COHORT 1 & 2 MATCH NIGHT Leaders and Allies meet together COHORT 3 LEADER TRAINING	OCT 8 RVA WORKS Entrepreneurship & Self Employment Opportunities COHORT 3 LEADER TRAINING	OCT 15 FINANCIAL WORKSHOP Wise Spending for the Holidays COHORT 3 LEADER TRAINING	OCT 22 BIG VIEW Discussion with HOME, Housing Opportunities Made Equal of VA ALLY OPEN HOUSE	OCT 29 FAMILY FUN NIGHT Activity led by the Fitness Warriors
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