



Community Connection: January 2019

"What a wonderful thought it is that some of the best days of our lives haven't even happened yet." - Anne Frank

[Visit our Website](#)



New & Good: Ally Forum

Circles' training is in full swing for our newest group of Allies!

Allies are volunteers who have a heart for people and an interest in building an encouraging voice to Circle Leaders. This is an especially rewarding role. It is a unique opportunity to build a relationship with someone who may be walking a very different life path than the one that you have experienced. It is a chance to connect, support, collaborate and advocate.

The role of an Ally also brings a set of challenges. Allies often desire an expanded understanding of poverty, culture and Richmond's history. They also need to determine the characteristics of an empowering relationship and develop a common language with their Leaders.

Becoming an Ally is a journey of self awareness. It demands introspection and a willingness to engage in discussion on complex topics. Our latest group of Allies are diving in, not shying away from tough conversations. We are excited to have Ally training as a forum for these deep discussions that pave the road for community-wide change.

Appreciations: Reflections

Time spent in self reflection is never wasted! We appreciated having an entire evening focused on reflection at the close of 2019. Reflection is a valuable part of our ongoing personal learning, allowing us to assess the thoughts, behaviors and activities that help us grow.

Our reflection time morphed into acknowledging our appreciation for the Circles community. Circles RVA...

"...meant a lot to me. It helped me meet awesome people."

"...was my support, my family, my ear, my shoulder, my life. Circles is ME. Without Circles in my life there would be no stability. I love Circles with all of my heart."

"... has been a wonderful experience to know others I wouldn't have known and to grow in community."

"... has meant taking charge of my future and knowing others are in my corner."

"... has offered new opportunities."

"... is an opportunity to learn dynamics of unique relationships and how regardless of circumstance relational opportunities can help folks move forward."

"I've learned a lot about myself as a person."

We hope you also take the opportunity to pause, reflect on your year, and let your personal circles know how much you appreciate them!



Our Holiday Party was a lively night of festivities and fellowship, sure to become an annual tradition. We wish everyone a joyful holiday season filled with meaningful connections!



Circles RVA's staff is growing! We are seeking an **Outreach Coordinator** responsible for developing relationships and recruiting future Leaders. Interested? Learn more.



Save the Date
January 28 is our next Leader Bridging Ceremony. This is an opportunity to hear the hearts of our Leaders, as they publicly claim their new life vision.

Expand Your Circle: Upcoming Events

JAN 7	JAN 14	JAN 21	JAN 28
COHORT 1 & 2 MATCH NIGHT Leaders and Allies meet together COHORT 3 LEADER TRAINING ALLY TRAINING	HABITAT Housing Options COHORT 3 LEADER TRAINING ALLY TRAINING	CAPITAL ONE Credit Workshop COHORT 3 LEADER TRAINING ALLY TRAINING	COHORT 3 BRIDGING CEREMONY

Do you have a suggestion for future programming that would be meaningful to our Circle Leaders? [Share](#) your ideas with us!

