



Community Connection: March 2020

"The whole can be greater than the sum of its parts, that we all have something to put in the pie to make it better, and that the collaborative interaction works. - Frank Gehry

[Visit our Website](#)



New & Good: Outreach Coordinator

Circles is a community-driven model for change. As such, we must be deeply connected to and involved in Richmond communities. Recognizing that building deeper relationships takes intentional focus and time, we created a new role: Outreach Coordinator.

We are pleased to introduce you to Bre Peoples, Circles RVA's new Outreach Coordinator! Bre has an authentic desire to connect with people and her positive outlook is contagious. In this role she will spread Circles' reach in order to develop future Circle Leaders.

Bre is jumping right in because we are quickly approaching the application deadline for our next cohort of Circle Leaders who will begin training on April 7. Visit our upcoming Leader Open House (March 10) for more information or submit an [application](#) online.

Appreciations: Social Capital

When you attend Circles' weekly gatherings we hope that you take away a sense of the community we are building to break the cycle of poverty for Richmond families. The mutuality of dinner conversations and the encouraging programming is incredibly valuable.

However, we aren't merely enjoying one another's company. We are intentionally building and expanding social networks for Richmond families who are living with a lack of resources. "Resources" often correlate to economic measures but also include intangibles such as a lack of emotional support and/or upwardly mobile social connections.

As Tristan Calridge outlines in *Social Capital and Poverty Alleviation*, "If your social contacts don't have the information, skills, techniques, equipment, resources, finance, social networks, etc. you require then capital cannot be mobilized. They cannot give or share what they do not possess." And so Circles RVA works to develop, expand and leverage social capital for families that may not have access to this necessary resource.

In addition to your skills and experiences, your established social network is a resource that can be shared. Collectively leveraging our connections can benefit a family navigating the complex climb out of poverty.

Visit our [website](#) to learn more about sharing your social capital as a volunteer Ally. The next Ally class training begins later this spring.



Our 2019 **Annual Report** is now available [here](#). Thanks to every Leader, Ally, volunteer, donor and community partner that played a part in our growth and impact. The momentum continues in 2020!



ChildSavers brain architecture game raised our awareness of how trauma impacts development. This discussion will be continued in March when we explore building resilience.



Resource Allies volunteer to share their specific knowledge, experience and social capital with Leaders. We each have something that brings value to our community. What skills can you contribute? [Click to message us for details.](#)

Expand Your Circle: Upcoming Events

MAR 3 Cohort 1, 2 & 3 MATCH NIGHT Leaders and Allies meet together	MAR 10 Yellow Pages ACTIVITY Make important connections Cohort 4 LEADER OPEN HOUSE	MAR 17 Capital One Cafe WORKSHOP Get Organized, Get Happy	MAR 24 BIG VIEW Resilience Movie screening and discussion	MAR 31 POVERTY SIMULATION Family Activity ... experience life in someone else's shoes
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Do you have a suggestion for future programming that would be meaningful to our Circle Leaders? [Share](#) your ideas with us!

