



Community Connection: October 2020

"My mission in life is not merely to survive, but to THRIVE." - Maya Angelou

Visit our Website



New & Good: Indicators of Thriving

If you have ever, or are currently, in a place of *surviving* you know what it feels like to be consumed with just living. This isn't merely "getting by" economically. It can also encompass instability in a variety of areas such as physical or mental health, housing, transportation, childcare and relationships.

Moving away from *surviving*, you take a windy course past vulnerable, through stable, and then finally arrive at the destination of *thriving*.

At Circles, we now use a life assessment tool to better monitor growth along the surviving-thriving continuum. Circle Leaders assess themselves in a variety of measures upon enrollment in Circles and then again at intervals throughout the process. The assessment tool allows them to see growth and progress in areas beyond income.

Two areas measured that are guaranteed growth through participation in Circles are *Support & Relationships* and *Purpose & Meaning*. We are confident that in joining our community, Circles Leaders can check the "thriving" box to say:

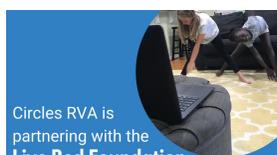
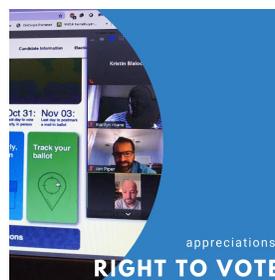
- "I have a strong network where I receive support and support others," and
- "I participate in a meaningful community that deepens my purpose and values."

Appreciations: Right to Vote

A tremendous thank you to Christopher Piper, Commissioner of the Virginia Department of Elections, for spending National Voter Registration Day with Circles RVA.

As part of our Big View discussion on voting, Christopher explained the steps to vote and the many ways the Commonwealth of Virginia has improved voting accessibility, streamlined applicable processes and implemented necessary protections.

- (1) REGISTER to vote (online or in-person at DMV) by October 13.
- (2) VOTE on or before November 3. You can vote BEFORE election day in-person or by using a mail-in ballot. Location and requests for absentee ballots are [online](#).
- (3) Prepare for ELECTION WEEK. Virginia can pre-process absentee ballots. However, in anticipation of a material increase in mail-in ballots in Virginia and across the country, it is expected that election results won't be available for days past November 3.



Circles RVA is partnering with the **Live Red Foundation** to offer virtual fitness classes to our youth this fall. Live Red uses fitness to empower and equip youth for success. Their core life skills perfectly tie into Circles' curriculum.



The Circles RVA staff recently led a presentation for Circles USA to explore best practices for virtual programming. Opportunities like these to share and learn together are one of the many benefits to our ties with the national initiative.



We're accepting applications for our **next volunteer Ally** training class beginning online this November. This is your opportunity to take the first step in connecting with and becoming a vital source of encouragement to a Circle Leader. [Click to apply.](#)

Expand Your Circle: Upcoming Events

OCT 6	OCT 13	OCT 20	OCT 27
Cohort 5 Leader Training	Cohort 5 Leader Training	Cohort 5 Leader Training	Big View Intro to Big View Themes & Topics
Cohorts 2, 3 & 4 Match Night	Cohorts 2, 3 & 4 Jobs/Education Team AND Trust Bank Activity	Cohorts 2, 3 & 4 Mental Health America	
** ALL PROGRAMMING IS VIRTUAL.**			

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

