



SPECIAL EDITION JUNE/JULY 2022 NEWSLETTER

Building Community to End Poverty



CIRCLES RVA CELEBRATED COHORT 4 LEADER GRADUATION!!!!

On June 11, 2022, Circles RVA's celebrated the graduation of its fourth cohort of Circle Leaders. Our eight Circle Leaders completed their 12-week preparation course and participated in the Circles Program for 18 months. They studied skills and attitudes essential to move from surviving to thriving.

Collectively:

- Implemented working on their physical health by going to the gym, medical and counseling appointments, eating better and lost 3 to over 88 pounds due to these changes in lifestyle.
- Implemented a budget system to manage their money and are saving from \$50 to \$200 a month
- Paid off 80% of their debt
- Increased credit scores from 10 points to 102 points
- Returned to school for post graduate studies and training

Please join us in celebrating their success in meeting their goals and thriving!

Circles RVA Celebrates Five Years In June

We want to share our story with the timeline below so you can see our five year growth

February 2016 - Grace & Holy Trinity Church holds forum on poverty in Richmond. Initial sign up of those interested in the poverty issue in Richmond
September 2016 - Circles model chosen
June 2017 - Circles RVA Inc registered
August 2017 - First donations made
September 2017 - Circles USA Franchise fee paid
April 2018 - Grace and Holy Trinity and St. Paul's Episcopal make seed money donations. Second provided in early 2019
August 2018 - First Coach (Helen Rai) hired
August 2018 - Cohort 1 starts training
February 2019 - First Community Coordinator (Kristin Blalock) hired
April 2019 - Cohort 2 Starts
August 2019 - IRS grants 501 (c) (3) status to Circles RVA Inc (backdated to initial registration)
September 2019 - Cohort 3 Starts
April 2020 - Cohort 4 Starts
August 2020 - Cohort 1 Graduates
September 2020 - Cohort 5 Starts
July 2021 - Community Coordinator, Christy Ellis hired
September 2021 - Cohort 6 Starts
December 2021 - Cohorts 2 & 3 Graduate
March - 2022 - Coach, Debbie Williams hired
June 2022 - Cohort 4 Graduates

We also want to share collective accomplishments from Cohorts 1 - 4

26 Leaders completed the initial class
15 Leaders stayed in program at least 18 months after class completion
13 increased income

\$1,238 was the average monthly increase income
\$193,128 was the total increase in annual income
11 of them increased total assets
\$1,962 was the average increase in assets



**WE INVITE YOU TO
HELP EMPOWER
CIRCLE LEADERS
TO CONTINUE TO
BREAK THE CYCLE**

CIRCLES RVA HAPPENINGS

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| JULY 5 SUMMER BREAK | JULY 12 Cohorts 5-6 MATCHED CIRCLES NIGHT | JULY 19 Cohorts 5-6 LEADERS PROGRESS CHECK-IN | JULY 26 SUMMER BREAK |
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ENJOY YOUR SUMMER BREAK

OUR MISSION

CirclesRVA offers a relationship-based model to empower individuals and families to permanently move out of poverty and thrive by engaging the strengths, goodwill and existing resources of the community and focus on the collaborative ownership of solutions to break the cycle of poverty.

OUR VISION:

Our vision is that everyone has enough money, meaning and friends to thrive

WE ARE BUILDING A COMMUNITY TO END POVERTY IN RICHMOND.

CirclesRVA.org

