



# Become an Ally

## THE CIRCLES APPROACH

Circles is a long-term approach to end poverty permanently in our community. Each week, local families, working to overcome poverty (Circle Leaders) meet with community volunteers (Allies) over dinner. During these meetings, Circle Leaders work on their goals toward self-reliance. Over time, income improves, debt and public assistance decrease and necessary relationships are built.

## THE ROLE OF AN ALLY

Circle Leaders are most successful when they have people in their lives who support them.

Allies empower their Circle Leader by:

- Being an intentional friend
- Offering emotional support as needed
- Helping Circle Leaders evaluate and clarify their goals into manageable steps
- Sharing life experience and advice when asked
- Meeting at least twice each month with their Circle Leader

The critical key to the success of Circles is matching Allies to Circle Leaders for at least 18 months to help people achieve their plans. Allies offer coaching, job leads, problem-solving help, and the essential modeling required to secure and retain good jobs. Allies expand the social capital of Circles Leaders by giving them access to their own social networks, which are often wider, stronger and more diverse.

## THE BENEFITS OF VOLUNTEERING

There are many benefits to volunteering as a Circles Ally. By serving as an Ally, volunteers will have an opportunity to work closely with one family and make a real difference in their own backyard. Allies have the unique chance to build meaningful relationship across class lines and witness the impact of their work first-hand. Allies become a part of the Circles community and can serve as individuals, couples or families. **Dinner and childcare are provided** for all volunteers and their children at each Circles meeting.

Ready to become an Ally?

Please fill out a [Ally Application](#).