



Circles® Marion County

Dear Prospective Circles Marion County Ally,

As you know, even here in Marion County, Kansas many of our citizens, especially children, are living in poverty. We believe it is within our power to change the future so that fewer families need find themselves without enough money to pay for the basic needs of life. It is the mission of the National Circles Campaign and of Circles Marion County to inspire and equip communities to end poverty by building intentional relationships across class, race and cultural lines.

Circles® is designed to help both low-income families and middle income volunteers to better understand themselves, their community and to build relationships of support. Through these relationships, both the Circle Leader and the Ally are transformed and inspired to transform their community. The first step is training for both Allies and potential Circle Leaders to learn about the Circles model, why it is different from other helping models and how you can assist our community in finding the solutions to ending poverty.

Welcome to an exciting adventure into the world of being a Circle Ally. There is much for all of us to learn, as Circle Leaders, Allies, community members, and as advocates for a social movement to end unnecessary poverty in our nation, state, and county.

Sincerely,

Circles® Marion County Team:

Jackie Volbrecht, Coordinator

Jeremiah Lange & Susan Carlson, Coaches

Linda Ogden, Recruitment

Keith Harder, Resource Development

Pam Bowers, Community Team

Erica Richmond, Children's Program

Circles® Overview

Circles® has drawn national attention for helping families out of poverty and inspiring communities to commit to new long-term solutions for addressing this persistent issue and to building more wealth. Several national organizations have members who have initiated implementation of the Circles model, including United Way, Goodwill, the United Methodist Church, Lutheran Social Services, Community Action Partnerships, and Catholic Charities. Additionally Circles® is being adapted for use by community colleges, housing corporations, workforce development centers, human service systems, and hospitals.

Move the Mountain created Circles® to inspire and equip communities to end poverty by:

1. Leading a movement to end poverty in the U.S.
2. Building best practices on the Circles® platform to achieve the ultimate goal of poverty eradication.

The National Circles® Campaign Office provides:

1. Leadership and oversight of the National Campaign
2. Coordinated regional training and coaching for local sites
3. Research and development of the model
4. Management of the National Guiding Coalition which has five focused teams
5. Public relations and marketing to national network

Circles® Marion County commits to:

1. Build a community-based, volunteer team of people with financial resources around a individual/family that wants to get out of poverty;
2. Educate community leadership on how to help individuals and families help themselves out of poverty; and,
3. Change structures and policies to increase the capacity of the community to end poverty.

What is a Circle Ally?

Circle Ally Job Description

The Circle Ally has three primary goals:

1. Make an intentional friendship with a family in poverty (Circle Leader and family) and join them in their quest to have enough relationships, resources and reason in their lives
2. Increase own awareness of stereotypes, class rules, biases and be willing to face these
3. Use the experience of friendship with a family in poverty to advocate within the community for changes in system barriers that keep poverty in place.

The Circle Ally commitment:

- Attend the Circle Ally Orientation and Training
- After you are matched:
 - 3-10 hours per month of time spent with Circle Leader -- at a minimum the monthly 2-hour Circle meeting
 - 18 month commitment to the Circle
 - Additional Weekly Community Meetings – could be Big View or other team meeting – as you are available and that work with your schedule
 - Phone, e-mail, text, visit with, and other support to Circle Leader and other Allies as needed throughout the month

Support received:

- Initial training of Bridges Out of Poverty, Ally 101 and Match Training
- Ally Support Sessions with Circles Coach as requested
- Collaboration with others in your Circle – you are not alone
- Circle Staff to answer questions, provide mentoring and assist with conflict resolution

Recruitment Contact:

Linda Ogden

702 Nickerson, Marion KS 66861

linda.ogden702@gmail.com

Cell #: 620-382-4559