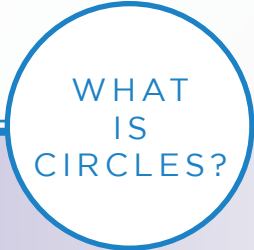




[www.circlesusa.org](http://www.circlesusa.org)



### **Circles reduces poverty**

It's about intentional relationships across income lines. While middle-income and high-income families enjoy networks of support through their jobs, schools, and neighborhoods, families living in poverty rarely develop such contacts. Many who live in poverty are hardworking and motivated, so when a circle of support forms around them, advice is offered, contacts are shared, and the fears that keep people in poverty start to disappear.

### **Circles changes communities**

Volunteers and participants grow and learn together. While participants navigate their way to prosperity, volunteers get an in-depth education on the culture of poverty. Participants' successes and challenges are also analyzed at monthly meetings with community leaders. This new understanding enables a community to identify, discuss, and often resolve the barriers that keep people in poverty. By changing the mindset, systems can be transformed from poverty management to poverty reduction.

### **Circles is working**

Many communities are using Circles because the results are so encouraging. After 18 months, those in the program achieve an average 71% increase in their income.



[www.CirclesDorchester.org](http://www.CirclesDorchester.org)

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### ***VOLUNTEER WITH CIRCLES TODAY!***

To learn more about Circles USA and how to get involved, visit our site:

[www.circlesusa.org](http://www.circlesusa.org)

CIRCLES USA  
IS CHANGING THE MINDSET  
FROM POVERTY MANAGEMENT  
TO POVERTY REDUCTION

## WHAT ARE RESOURCE TEAMS?

Resource Teams are groups of diverse volunteers who contribute vital assistance, fresh ideas and vision to the Circles initiative. The five teams are:

- > **Community**
- > **Recruitment**
- > **Jobs and Education**
- > **Services**
- > **Big View**



*"It allows me to see people overcome obstacles and struggles ... I'm just here absorbing all this happiness."*

— Sam  
Circles, Richmond VA



*"... just knowing that I'm making a difference gives me purpose."*

— Dionna  
Children's Programs

### THE COMMUNITY TEAM

- > Maintains a welcoming space for meetings
- > Plans and serves the weekly meals
- > Coordinates and delivers children's programming

### THE RECRUITMENT TEAM

- > Publicizes Circles in the community
- > Recruits people who are ready to move from poverty to prosperity
- > Recruits volunteers for a wide variety of roles

### THE JOBS & EDUCATION TEAM

- > Offers guidance about educational opportunities and financial aid
- > Helps participants define and plan their career paths
- > Connects those looking for work to job opportunities

### THE SERVICES TEAM

- > Builds connections to local organizations that can help those in poverty
- > Connects participants to community services
- > Helps the Circles community support each other

### THE BIG VIEW TEAM

- > Facilitates discussions about poverty with local leaders
- > Empowers participants to share their experiences with those in power
- > Encourages people to advocate for change in their communities

