



Resource Teams Opportunities to Serve

Resource Teams help shape, drive and maintain the Circles process and its many working parts. Each Team consists of 3-4 persons, and is guided and supported by Circles Staff. Flexible, creative and responsive, Resource Teams are encouraged to develop and coordinate wider circles of volunteers or ad hoc groups to assist them in their efforts.

A Resource Team Member:

- Envisions breaking the cycle of poverty
- Approaches problem-solving with an open mind and an awareness and appreciation of differing, valid perspectives
- Wants to focus on practical, tangible results
- Builds relationships across socioeconomic lines
- Shares the Circles experience with family, friends, co-workers, and community members
- Continually seeks opportunities to raise her/his own "poverty IQ"

Time Commitment:

- 2-10 hours per month. Meeting schedules and time commitment will vary depending on team and current project. Individual teams will decide what works best for them to effectively accomplish tasks and projects.

The Resource Teams

Community Team

supported by Youth and Hospitality Coordinator

- Arranges for the logistics of the weekly meeting (location, food, space set-up)
- Builds a good relationship with the organization that hosts weekly meeting space, coordinates with that organization, resolves problems
- Secures donations for meals for weekly Circles meetings
- Welcomes meal donors, oversees and supports their meal prep, serving, and clean-up
- Plans Family Fun Nights (fifth Mondays of the month)
- Plans special events

Youth and Childcare

supported by Youth and Hospitality Coordinator

- Understands and promotes the developmental approach to learning
- Familiar and comfortable with Circles Children's/Youth Curriculum
- Develops weekly curriculum calendar
- Acquires needed materials for each session
- Supplements Circles Curriculum with ideas and activities if necessary
- Assures correct teacher/child care ratio
- Develops mediation plan and support for teachers with challenging kids

Recruitment Team

supported by Circles Coordinator

- Builds community networks to publicize Circles and create recruitment opportunities
- Makes presentations to groups to recruit Circle Leaders and Allies
- Engages Circle Leaders, Allies, and other Resource Team members in the recruitment process
- Collaborates with Circles staff in implementation of Ally training

Services Team

supported by Circles Coach

- Identifies and orients contacts at community services organizations that provide resources addressing: housing, transportation, childcare, healthcare, financial assistance, emergency assistance, and mental health
- Tracks changes in current processes of human services assistance organizations
- Tracks new assistance programs
- Develops leads for car donations, revolving loans, matched savings programs, self-sufficiency tools
- Tracks and publicizes fun, free community events
- Develops and maintains a 'giving/receiving' table, message board, or online system for members to donate and receive items and goods, or to share time, talents, and goods

Employment and Education Team

supported by Circles Coordinator and Coach

- Establishes key contacts for Circles with local employers, education and skills training institutions, workforce development agencies, student financial assistance, and financial literacy programs
- Stays abreast of job fairs
- Stays abreast of Michigan Works newsletter information and offerings
- Engages key local contacts to offer to the Circles group presentations regarding employment, skills training, workplace culture, advancement, education, etc.
- Engages key contacts at local college and university financial aid offices

Big View Team

supported by Circles Coordinator

- With Circle Leaders, identifies and works to solve systemic barriers within the community that prevent an individual from moving out of poverty
- Gathers community leaders/influencers with Circle Leaders for community discussions to effect change
- Works for community-wide mindset change
- Facilitates communication with system leaders to communicate Circles' progress and results
- Identifies and publicizes community forums on economic equality, racial equality, transportation, and other systemic level community conversations
- Serves as community liaison to state and national Big View efforts to mitigate Cliff Effect
- Identifies all available resources to predict cliff effects for childcare, healthcare, housing, food stamps, cash assistance, and utility assistance

For more information or to join us, please contact:

Cathy Odom, codom@circlesgr.org

Laure Mieskowski, lmieskowski@circlesgr.org

616-309-7517