CIRCLES USA
Building Community to End Poverty

CONTACT US

CirclesABQ.org
Info@CirclesABQ.org
505.303.0227

CIRCLES ABQ

BUILDING COMMUNITY TO END POVERTY

WHAT IS CIRCLES?

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.circlesusa.org

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

The key to reducing poverty is building intentional relationships across income lines.

CIRCLE LEADERS

Participants are called Circle Leaders because they are the ones who lead themselves out of poverty. They are hardworking and motivated but often overwhelmed by the daily struggle to make ends meet. Circle Leaders commit to completing training, setting goals for themselves, and attending weekly Circles meetings. Circle Leaders educate their middle-income and upper-income Allies about poverty, and they lean on their Allies for advice and encouragement.

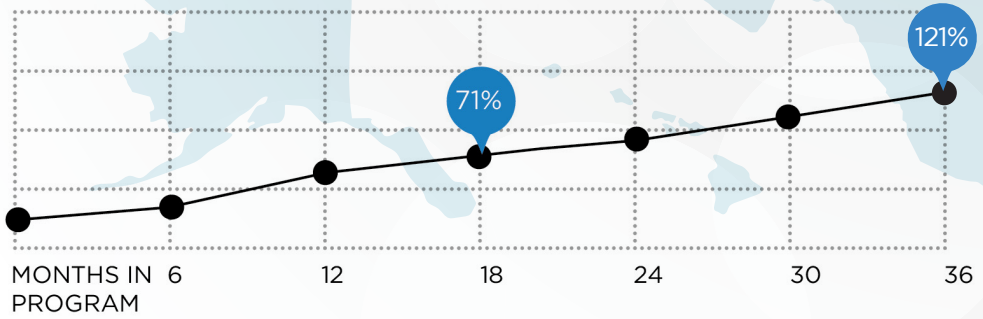
ALLIES

Two volunteers are matched to each Circle Leader. These volunteers are called Allies, and everything revolves around the intentional Ally-Leader relationships. Allies commit to complete training, attend weekly Circles meetings, and learn about poverty. Allies help Circle Leaders use their unique gifts and skills to reach their personal and financial goals.

OTHER WAYS TO VOLUNTEER

> Provide childcare for weekly meetings
> Make a meal for a weekly meeting
> Help with fundraising
> Help with volunteer recruitment

AVERAGE INCREASE IN INCOME FOR CIRCLE LEADERS



WHAT PEOPLE SAY

"I was broke, broken, and homeless with three kids. Now, I have a home, money in the bank, attend school, and most of all, I have purpose."

— LeAundrea Robinson (Circle Leader)

"We had several programs and food banks in the area, but we were treating symptoms. This was the first program we'd heard of that could address underlying issues of poverty."

— Becky Ambrosini (Circles Supporter)

HOW IT WORKS

> All participants and volunteers receive training
> Circle Leaders set goals, and Allies support Leaders as they meet their goals
> Circle Leaders and Allies gather for weekly large group meetings
> Monthly sessions engage community leaders in the work of poverty reduction
> Most families achieve financial stability around the 18-month mark
> Victories and milestones are celebrated together
> Friendships formed in the group last a lifetime

OVER 70 LOCATIONS IN DOZENS OF STATES