

Circle Ally Role Description 2017

The Circle Ally has three primary goals:

1. Make and grow an intentional friendship with an individual or family in poverty (the Circle Leader) and join them in their quest to have enough money, meaning, and friends
2. Increase awareness of one's own stereotypes and class rules 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 the systems barriers that keep poverty in place

Circle Ally Criteria:

1. Above 200% of the FPL and financially stable
2. Committed to building friendships across socioeconomic and all lines
3. Open minded and passionate about eliminating poverty
4. Complete 15-20 hours of training (not all required before beginning)

The Circle Ally commitment:

1. 4-10 hours per month
2. We ask that you commit to being a Circle Ally for a period of 18 months (renewable in 6 months increments)
3. Attend at least two Weekly Meetings per month
4. After you are matched with the Circle, you will have:
 - a. Two Matched Circle meetings a month during our regularly scheduled Weekly Meetings
 - b. One monthly Big View meeting, also during our Weekly Meeting, to discuss and craft an action plan to eliminate systems barriers
 - c. A regularly scheduled Ally support meeting
 - d. Phone and in-person contact with your Circle Leader as needed throughout the month

Support you receive:

1. Training provided:
 - a. Bridges out of Poverty training, with introduction to the rules of class
 - b. Cost of Poverty Experience (C.O.P.E.) – a brief poverty simulation
 - c. Circles general orientation for Allies
 - d. Ongoing training regarding Bridges, ABCD, Circles Campaign, etc.
2. Ally support sessions on an as needed basis
3. Collaboration with the others in the Circle; you are not left in isolation
4. Staff available to answer questions, to provide support and resources, and to assist with conflict resolution