RESTORING HOPE

Reducing Family Homelessness and Childhood Hunger

A St. Luke's UMC Initiative

Our vision
To see an Orange County where all economically vulnerable families become food secure, stably housed and economically stabilized.

Our mission
To partner with families who are experiencing housing instability and food insecurity as they work towards food and economic sovereignty.

Stable housing
Supporting precariously housed families at Maxey & Mollie Ray Elementary Schools as they move into their own rental units.

Food Sovereignty
Focusing on teen hunger through OCPS, creating and managing a county-wide network of diverse organizations and individuals working to end hunger and disrupting the inequitable food systems through a micro farm network.

Family Stabilization
Supporting multiple generations of families through economic stabilization programs, building social capital, entrepreneurship, leadership development and community engagement.

Our Mindsets

| Awareness & Advocacy | Betterment | Creative Collaboration | Dignity | Empowerment |

Metrics

- **Stable Housing**
- **Food Security**
- **Family Stabilization**
- **Social Capital**
- **Community Engagement**

The Restoring Hope Approach

- **Human-centered** Design Thinking
- **Whole-person care** for long term solutions
- **Multi-generational** engagement
- **Strategically balance** relief, betterment and development
- **Addressing multiple barriers** simultaneously for sustainable solutions
- **Multi-sector** partnerships

The Restoring Hope initiative builds on the partnerships and best practices of the Community Transformation Initiative in East Winter Garden.

Goals & Outcomes

Stable Housing

Goal: 60 families

ACHIEVEMENTS

40 (67%) families housed

- 53% moved out of motels/crowded houses
- 47% assisted to avoid homelessness
- Developed strategies and processes for OCPS to stably house precariously housed families and youth living on their own.

Food Security & Sovereignty

GOALS
- Start a youth-led nutrition program
- Pilot micro farm at St. Luke's
- Employ 3 BIPOC farmers/farm coordinators

ACHIEVEMENTS
- Student-led after school food/snack "market" at Olympia High School
- STEM-based food growing lessons with 4th graders at Maxey Elementary
- 4 micro farms
- currently growing vegetables for food distribution at Mollie Ray
- 10 families growing their own food at home
- 8 BIPOCs employed through Grow It Forward

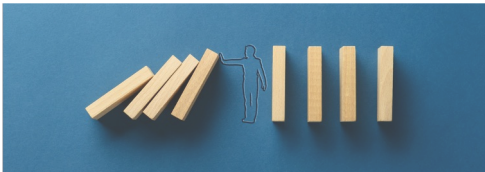### EMERGENCY FOOD ASSISTANCE

Through OCPS monthly food distribution, **250** households **1285** people

Through COVID emergency food distribution, **9500+** families served

Family Stabilization

GOAL: engage 10% in Housing Initiative in empowerment programs

ACHIEVEMENTS
- 30% enrolled in ESOL program
- 28% partnered with a Family Advocate
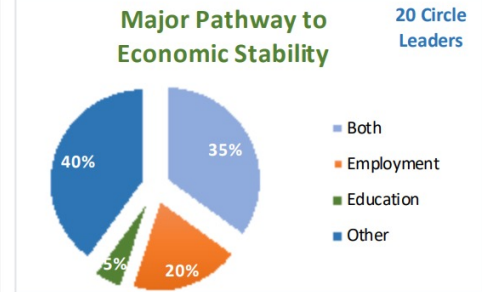- 20 families completed 12-18 months of Circles

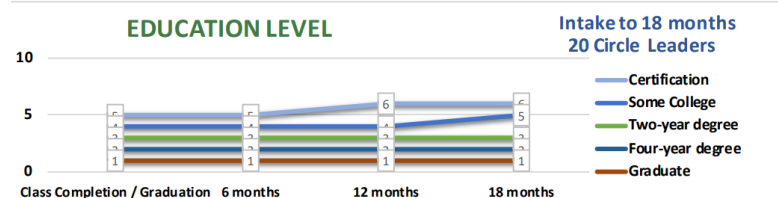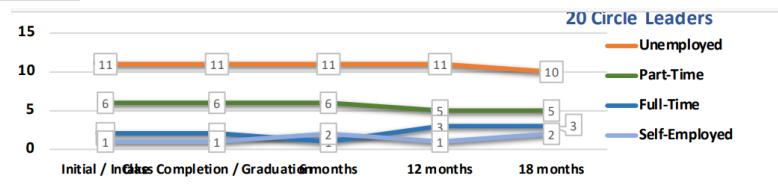"We spend a lot of time designing the bridge, but not enough time thinking about the people who are crossing it."

CIRCLES®
West Orange
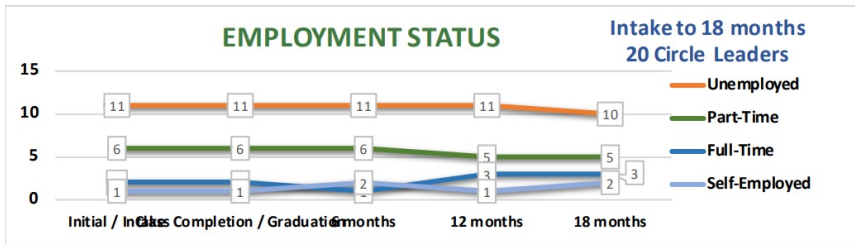Building Community to End Poverty

" Circles was a metaphorical "plug". My Circle Ally came in my life at a time where I needed emotional support above all things. I know poverty, and I lived in poverty. But, nobody prepared me for the emotional toll it takes. I love that Circles supports me wholly and my family. It works because it's intergenerational." – Shequila Roberts, Circles Cohort 8 and founder of Determine Now and Meditate with She

Type of Poverty
20 Circle Leaders

- Generational 12
- Situational 8

Major Pathway to Economic Stability
20 Circle Leaders

- Both — 35%
- Employment — 20%
- Education — 5%
- Other — 40%

Circles – a national program - is designed to combat poverty through building social capital and by creating opportunities for vulnerable individuals to form more peer relationships as well as linking them to "allies" in the community that provide new networks of connections to help them overcome barriers and thrive socially and economically.

AVERAGE CIRCLE LEADER MONTHLY GROSS
20 Circle Leaders   Intake to 18 months
55% Increase

Class Completion / Graduation	6 months	12 months	18 months
$517	$487	$591	$803

AVERAGE HOUSEHOLD MONTHLY GROSS
20 Circle Leaders   Intake to 18 months
20% Increase

Class Completion / Graduation	6 months	12 months	18 months
$2,351	$2,313	$2,520	$2,831

EMPLOYMENT STATUS
Intake to 18 months
20 Circle Leaders

- Unemployed
- Part-Time
- Full-Time
- Self-Employed

	Initial / Intake	Class Completion / Graduation	6 months	12 months	18 months
Unemployed	11	11	11	11	10
Part-Time	6	6	6	5	5
Full-Time	1	1	2	3	2 / 3
Self-Employed				1	

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Self-Employed				1	

EDUCATION LEVEL
Intake to 18 months
20 Circle Leaders

- Certification
- Some College
- Two-year degree
- Four-year degree
- Graduate

	Class Completion / Graduation	6 months	12 months	18 months
			6	5
	1	1	1	1

RESTORED HOPES THROUG POVERTY ALLEVIATION PROGRAMS

 zoe **empowers**

> " The seed I received was just the beginning of a new life. My siblings and I have now said good-bye to hunger.
>
> – *Gentil, Rwanda Graduate* "

337 households in Rwanda and Zimbabwe

1043 Children & youth

>95%

of Zoe graduates are completely self-sufficient at the end of our three-year program

After only a year and a half in the Zoe Empowers program 90% of participants report having safe housing compared to only 11% of similar households outside the Zoe program.