



### Circles Builds Economic Stability

Circles is a relationship focused stabilization program designed to help low-income individuals and families achieve their goals for self-sufficiency and economic growth. Circles does this by building intentional friendships across income line and communities to support individuals and families in their journey from surviving to thriving. While middle-income and high-income families enjoy networks of support through their jobs, schools, and neighborhoods, families living on the edge rarely develop such contacts. Many 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 from thriving.

### 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.

Scan QR Code to Register for a Virtual Information Session or Contact Gabriel Sayhoun at [Gabriel@fpessexnj.org](mailto:Gabriel@fpessexnj.org) 973-786-3699 to learn more.



### Volunteer for a Resource Team

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

#### COMMUNITY TEAM

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

#### 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

#### 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 and employers

#### SERVICES TEAM

- Identifies all the available community services
- Connects participants to the services they need
- Educates service agencies on the Circles initiative

#### BIG VIEW TEAM

- Facilitates discussions about poverty with local leaders
- Helps participants engage with those in power
- Encourages people to advocate for change in their community



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

SAM  
COMMUNITY TEAM MEMBER



*“ Just knowing that I'm making a difference gives me purpose.”*

DIONNA  
COMMUNITY TEAM MEMBER