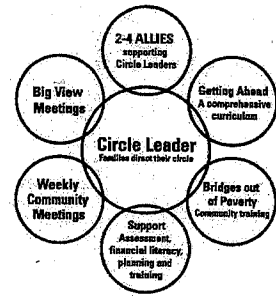


Getting Ahead & Becoming a Circle Leader

Circles™ of Hope

The *Getting Ahead* class and Circles™ empower people to make their own plans and reach their own goals. A main part of Circles™ is a "Matched Circle" - a supportive, befriending relationship made up of one **Circle Leader** who has low resources and 2-4 **Circle Allies**. Circle Allies join the Circle Leader in moving towards having adequate money, meaning and friends. Everyone in the Circle benefits from the friendships that are formed.



Who can be a Circle Leader? Harvey County residents who:

- are frustrated about just "getting by" and want to learn more about ways to "get ahead"
- are at least 18 years old and currently are ready, willing and able to make changes
- have low resources, including financial (living at or below 200% of poverty)
- are able and willing to work or can benefit from job training
- are willing to build new relationships which will provide support and connections
- can commit to attending regular meetings and keeping appointments

The referral process includes 3 steps:

1. Turn in an Intake application.
2. Meet with Circles staff and Circle Leaders.
3. The Circles Team makes sure Circles is a good fit for you.

Steps to Becoming a Circle Leader:

1. Attend, participate and graduate from a 15-week **Getting Ahead** co-investigation.
 - The Getting Ahead class meets every Tuesday night for 15 weeks, for 2½ hours.
 - Each Getting Ahead class includes a meal, free childcare, and scholarship for participation (a \$20 Dillon's certificate for each class attended).
 - Getting Ahead class members learn the "hidden rules" of class, assess their own resources (not just money), and develop their own plan to change their situation.
2. Getting Ahead grads decide to become a **Circle Leader** & make an 18-month commitment.
3. Be matched with 2-4 **Circle Allies** from the community.
4. Attend weekly participant meetings on Tuesday nights.
5. Share your strengths and give back to the community.

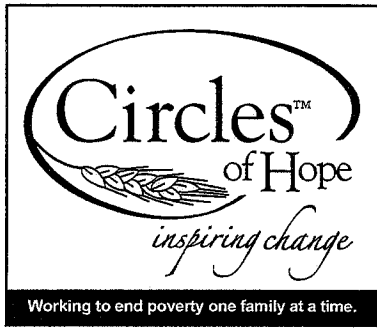
Circles is NOT for you if any of these describe your life:

- Being in crisis (e.g., homeless, being evicted). Circles is not a crisis program and can't help with immediate, emergency needs. It is a process people commit to over time.
- Being on disability without any prospect of getting off or earning some extra money under the disability program.
- Living in a domestic violence situation. Circles doesn't work well for people who are experiencing a lot of chaos and turmoil in their lives.
- Addictions. Circles participants must have 6 months of being clean/sober. People dealing with untreated alcohol, drug & other addictions usually are unable to work on "getting ahead."
- Mental health issues that are untreated - person is struggling to function on a day-to-day basis.
- One partner wants to join Circles but the other doesn't. Circles does not work well when one spouse or significant other is not engaged. Allies work with the whole family.

Circles™ of Hope wants to partner with you to explore the causes of poverty and support you in developing a plan to increase your resources and have a more stable, secure future!

For more information, contact Wanda or Myrna at 284-0000, info@peaceconnections.org, or stop by 612 N. Main (Peace Connections, where Circles has an office)

Appropriations Committee
Date January 26, 2011
Attachment 2



CIRCLE LEADER Application

We are so glad that you are interested!

As a participant, you will explore the causes of poverty, the hidden rules of class, and the resources needed for stability. You will set your own goals in relation to resources, such as job, friends, education, or money, which are important in your life. Allies/friends from our community will work alongside you toward meeting your goals.

Being a part of Circles® means you are ready and willing to make changes to move to a place where you have a stable, secure future. It will take commitment, communication, determination and regular weekly participation.

Name _____ Date _____

Address _____ City _____

State _____ Zip _____ Phone(s) _____

Email _____ Best way to contact you _____

Married Single Other _____ Birth date _____

Please list the names of all adults in your household: _____

Please list names and ages of children who live with you:

Name _____ Age _____ Name _____ Age _____

Name _____ Age _____ Name _____ Age _____

Will you need childcare for the Tuesday evening meetings? Yes No

How did you hear about Circles® of Hope and the Getting Ahead class?

Are you currently working full-time? working part-time not working?

If not working, reason(s) _____

Do you have a driver's license? Yes No A working vehicle? Yes No

Will you need transportation to weekly meetings? Yes No

Is your household income at, or under 200% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines? (see back page for the guidelines) Yes No

Appropriations Committee

Date January 26, 2011

Attachment 2-2

Place a check next to the areas where you are experiencing challenges:

- Employment Transportation Training/Education Budget
 Legal Parenting Isolation/Friendships Housing
 Child care Alcohol/Drugs Health care costs Other _____

I am willing to participate in an interview with Circles staff to find out together whether Circles® is a good fit for me and my family. **Please initial** _____

I am willing to participate in a 15 week "Getting Ahead in a Just Getting By World" training course. (Tuesday nights, about 2.5 hours, free childcare/meal, stipend for attendance and work done in course) **Please initial** _____

Following successful completion of the Getting Ahead course, I am willing to participate in weekly Circles® community meetings. This is one way I will show I am committed to Circles® and am motivated to get ahead, before I can be matched with allies. (Tuesday nights, childcare/meal provided) **Please initial** _____

Following completion of Getting Ahead, if I am ready, willing and able to continue and become a Circle Leader, I will meet once a month with my allies. **Please initial** _____

I understand that being involved in Circles®, from the Getting Ahead class through being matched with my allies and working on my goals to become self-sufficient, is an 18 month commitment. **Please initial** _____

Signature _____
Date

This is an application for the opportunity to become a Circle Leader. It does not guarantee you will be accepted and it does not mean you are required to be a Circle Leader. You will be contacted for a personal visit to determine if the Getting Ahead class and Circles® is a good fit for you. Thank you for your interest and for taking the time to fill out this application.

Please return application to:
Circles® of Hope at Peace Connections, 612 N. Main, Newton, KS 67114
316-284-0000 or info@peaceconnections.org

200% Federal Poverty Guidelines for 2010

Family Size	1 Months Income	3 Months Income
1	\$1,805	\$5,415
2	\$2,428	\$7,285
3	\$3,052	\$9,155
4	\$3,675	\$11,025
5	\$4,298	\$12,895
6	\$4,922	\$14,765
7	\$5,545	\$16,635
8	\$6,168	\$18,505

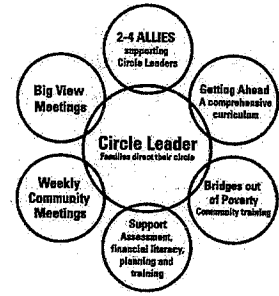
Appropriations Committee

Date January 26, 2011

Attachment 2-3

Getting Ahead & Becoming a Circle Leader

Circles™ of Hope



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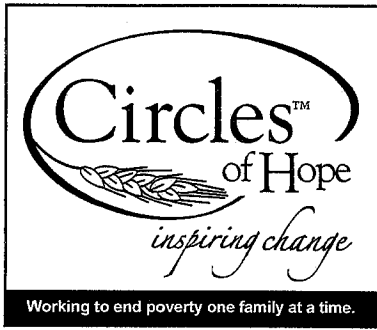
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Appropriations Committee

Date January 26, 2011

Attachment 2-4



CIRCLE LEADER Application

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Name _____ Date _____
Address _____ City _____
State _____ Zip _____ Phone(s) _____
Email _____ Best way to contact you _____
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Please list the names of all adults in your household: _____

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Name _____ Age _____ Name _____ Age _____
Name _____ Age _____ Name _____ Age _____

Will you need childcare for the Tuesday evening meetings? Yes No

How did you hear about Circles® of Hope and the Getting Ahead class?

Are you currently working full-time? working part-time not working?

If not working, reason(s) _____

Do you have a driver's license? Yes No A working vehicle? Yes No

Will you need transportation to weekly meetings? Yes No

Is your household income at, or under 200% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines?
(see back page for the guidelines) Yes No

Appropriations Committee

Date January 26, 2011

Attachment 2-5

Place a check next to the areas where you are experiencing challenges:

- Employment Transportation Training/Education Budget
 Legal Parenting Isolation/Friendships Housing
 Child care Alcohol/Drugs Health care costs Other _____

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Signature

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Appropriations Committee

Date January 26, 2011

Attachment 206