The Circle

Each Circle consists of a family that goes through training and prepares a plan to get out of poverty and between two and four middle-class trained Allies who befriend the family and serve as accountability partners. With the help of these Allies, each family sets goals that are unique to their needs and circumstances, and that help them develop the emotional, financial, intellectual and spiritual resources necessary for self-sufficiency and family stability. The average time it takes most people to get out of poverty while working in a Circle is 18-36 months.

Guiding Coalition

Our Circles initiative is developed and designed by a Guiding Coalition that is in charge of the local community-based initiative. The Guiding Coalition is comprised of community leaders, families who are striving to get out of poverty, elected and appointed officials and volunteers. The group also leads efforts to change the mindset and policies of its community with respect to poverty.

These circles come together four times a month for a Circles Café. The dinner meetings provide inspiration and networking for one another and offers an opportunity to build or sustain resources for the families we serve.

A gathering (on the fourth Thursday) is open to the public. It is is a Big Issuues Meeting where systemic barriers encountered by Circle Leaders are discussed and plans are made to address the necessary community, governmental and policy constraints.

Anyone curious about what it means to connect people in poverty with others in the community may make arrangements to visit a weekly dinner or come to a Circles Information Session on the fourth Thursdays (5p.m. at First Baptist Church, 309 E. Adams). These Circles information sessions do not obligate or commit anyone to the program.

Weekly Dinner Meetings

This relationship based poverty initiative is convened and facilitated by a Lead Agency, in Delaware County, Second Harvest Food Bank is responsible for staffing, operational oversight, and contributing resources.