

Community Volunteers

Most, if not all, of our circles are supplemented by community volunteers.

All contributions, regardless of style or content, are respected and incorporated into shaping outcomes. No one needs special knowledge or skills to participate.

Traits of Volunteers:

- Care about their community
- Tell the truth so that others can trust them
- Think and solve problems creatively
- Have a positive attitude towards youth
- Believe solutions lie within the community

Circles will likely meet weekly or bi-weekly depending on the needs of the participants. Circles will generally last anywhere from a hour to two hours in length.

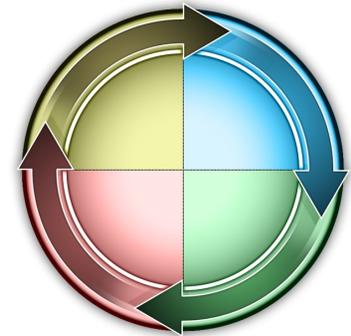
If you are interested, or know of a person who may be interested in volunteering, please contact the Circle Coordinator.

**Restorative Justice Circle
Program**
607 West Main Street, Suite 100
Marshall, MN 56258

Megan Boerboom
Circle Coordinator
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Circle of Hope Facilitator
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*Restorative
Justice
Circle
Program*

What is Circle?

Circle is a structured process for organizing effective group communication, relationship building, decision-making, and conflict resolution.

The process creates a space apart from our normal ways of being together. The Circle embodies and nurtures a philosophy of relationship and interconnectedness that can guide us in all circumstances - in Circle and outside of Circle.

Circle is a way of bringing people together in which:

- Everyone is respected
- Everyone gets a chance to talk without interruption
- Participants explain themselves by telling their stories
- Everyone is equal - no person is more important than anyone else
- Spiritual and emotional aspects of individual experience are wel-

Regardless of the reason the Circle is brought together, each Circle serves the same purpose; to provide support, build relationships and hold each other accountable.

The guidelines created in Circle foster a safe space to have difficult conversations; therefore, the name of the Circle does not limit the possibilities.

-Sharon Hendrichs & Jessi Jeppeson, YMC
Restorative Justice

Types of Circles

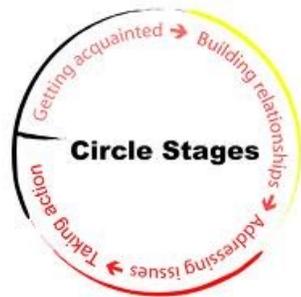
SWHHS currently specializes in these Circles:

Community Justice Circle - an alternative response to a crime or social problem to promote healing and safety for everyone. Included in the Circle process are those harmed by crime/negative behavior, those who commit crime, and the community.

Family & Community Circle - a strength-based process to enhance the ability of families and communities to keep children and families physically and emotionally safe and unified. Acting through the Circle; community members, youth, and their families/support persons play an equal role in encouraging and empowering the youth and their family to identify and enhance their strengths, while finding solutions. The Circle balances support with accountability for youth to remain safe and healthy in their community.

Circle of Hope - a community and strength based process to enhance the ability of persons in recovery to safely return to their community upon completion of treatment services and create a vision for a healthy future .

Parent to Parent - a safe environment in which parents can talk about parenting challenges or successes, and the stresses or worries in their lives. This will also be a place for parents to connect with others who may have gone through similar experiences.



Who qualifies for Circle?

- Any child/family in need of extra support and accountability is a qualified candidate for circle
- Circle is voluntary and cannot be a case/court requirement

Circle Components:

1. Opening/Closing - marks the beginning and ending of circle
2. Talking Piece - Demonstrates that each and every person in circle is equal. All will have an equal opportunity to be heard
3. Guidelines - Each circle creates their own guidelines as to how they want to conduct themselves while together
4. Consensus - All decisions will be guided by the question of "what can we *all* live with?"
5. Circle Keeping - The keeper assists the group in creating and maintaining a collective space in which each participant feels safe to speak honestly and openly without disrespecting anyone else
6. Storytelling - Sharing individual stories allows us to connect and find common ground