

COMMUNITY VOLUNTEERS

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

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

Traits of Volunteers:

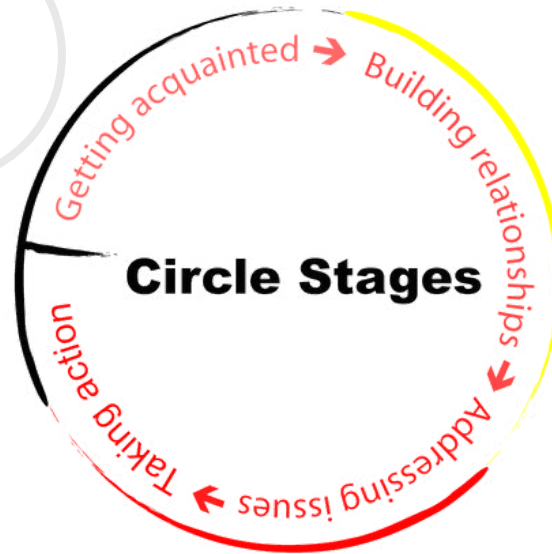
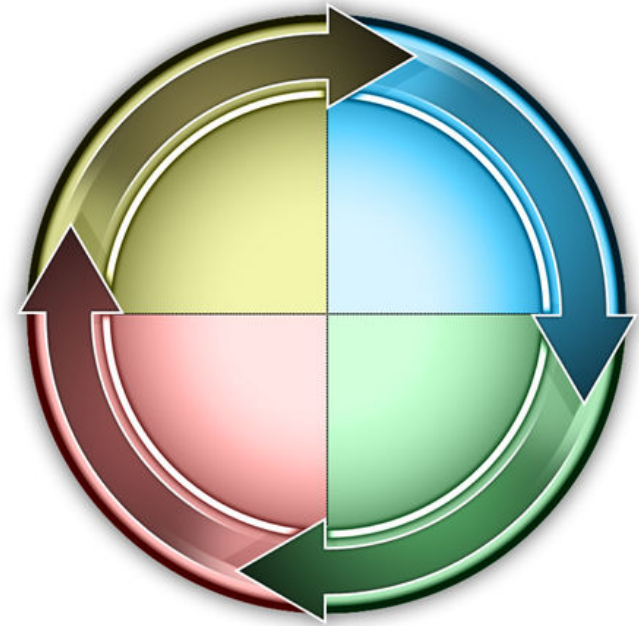
- Care about their community
- Tell the truth so others can trust them
- Think and solve problems creatively
- Have a positive attitude towards youth
- Believe solutions lie within the community

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

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

Contact Us:

Megan Boerboom
Circle Coordinator
507-532-4121
megan.boerboom@swmhhs.com



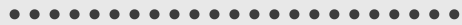
SWHHS Restorative Practices

Learn more about
Restorative Practices at
www.swmhhs.com

Circle

What is Circle?

Circle is a structured process for organizing effective group communication, relationship building, decision making, and conflict resolution. The Circle process creates a space apart from our normal ways of being together.



Circle Components:

1. Opening/Closing - marks the beginning and ending of Circle
2. Talking Piece - each and every person has 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



Types of 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 strengths 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 .

Who qualifies for Circle?

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



Circle is a way of bring 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 welcome

