

# Other Ways to Volunteer

## The Circles® Approach

Circles® Muskoka is a community-based initiative that creates relationships across economic boundaries. It matches people of low-income who have attended the Getting Ahead program with people of middle and upper income who have attended Bridges out of Poverty training. Circles stems from an innovative model based on a body of research that suggests in order to help people out of poverty relationships need to exist within the wider community giving lower income families social networks to support and thrive.

The Circles® approach has been used in over 100 communities and districts in the US and Canada. It is a proven and credible initiative that makes real and on-going change for individuals and communities.

Circles® was launched in Huntsville in January 2016 and is expanding to a second site in South Muskoka in September 2019.

Circles® meets three times a month for a meal and programming. Following the healthy meal, there is Children's programming offered for the entire Circles® community.

## Ways to Get Involved

- **Join or start a food team!** Commit to make and serve a healthy meal for the Circles community one evening a month (approximately 3 hours per month).
- **Volunteer with the Children's Programming!** Participate as a volunteer in Children's Programming. Join the Circles Community for dinner, and help run programming for the children in the Circles community. Volunteer three evenings per month (2 hours per week).

## Circles Volunteers commit to:

- Pass a background check
- Attend a training session and 'Bridges out of Poverty' workshop

Do you want to get involved in a bigger way? Consider volunteering to become [an ally!](#)