



KEEPING IN **THE LOOP** WITH CIRCLES

March 2020 Issue

Circles Laurel Highlands Region

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WEEKLY MEETING SCHEDULE

Markleysburg: Union Chapel Church, Flat Rock Rd.
Tuesdays 6:00 – 8:00

Uniontown: Adult Rec. Center 137 N. Beeson Ave.
Wednesdays 5:30 – 7:30

MY TIME IN CIRCLES



John Tremba has been a Volunteer Facilitator and actively involved with Circles for over five years.

I think I was looking for a program like Circles the same time Circles was making itself known in Connellsville. Something in my psyche had me read that article in the Courier about the person to person relationships fostered by this program which focused on helping people stuck in poverty to lead themselves out of that circle. I had tried the charities where I would build an access ramp to a porch; hand out canned goods in a food bank; raise money for projects. My best life experiences were always with people and with learning so I joined.

My time with Circles and the leaders mimicked my time as an educator: I tried to find out what my students / leaders knew, what I knew, and what we knew together. From day one I have been amazed and enlightened by the people I've met in Circles. The administrators, the allies, and especially the leaders have left me in awe by their collective energy, street smarts, hope, and acceptance. As much as I felt at

times that I had done little to move the cart forward the people of Circles have accepted me as family.

While I have been with Circles, I have met some inspiring individuals who have not hesitated to reveal the tough details of their lives. They have shared with me how they make the most of coupons, two-for-one deals, payday, work programs, opportunities, and money management sometimes referred to in poverty groups as "no money management". Circles has been an eye opener for me in those respects.

Yet, with all the goings-on during the meetings, including meals, lessons, awards programs, confidences, and sad moments the main theme for all Circle attendees has been the future of the children and leading them out of poverty with all its downfalls. Kids were the mainstay of each meeting; parents showing off their newborns, letting the toddlers meet us all, getting their teens into adulthood safely. Of all the circles we try to overlap on those in the circle of poverty the largest and most telling was the circle of love brought into the program by the leaders. It has affected me.

By John Tremba

SUCCESSSES

Terrance has completed his probationary period and is now a permanent employee at PSI.

Cassie, Melissa, Amanda, and Deshawna have all moved to their own homes and are settling in.

April is attaining health goals while working 45+ hours a week.

Kellie is working on her TEASE Testing.

The Piper family is several steps closer to adopting son #4. All documents are complete, they are just waiting on a court date.

Holly has started a job at John Rutter Hair Design cutting, coloring and styling hair. She is also learning hair replacements. Feel free to call her there to make your next appointment.

*You are never too old to
Set another goal
Or to dream a new dream. Les Brown*

GIVING BACK

The Senior Pen Pals project is a joint venture with Retired Seniors Volunteer Program and Neighborhood Partnership Program. Every month they create a craft, note or some small gift for 275 Meals on Wheels recipients. For the past three months, Circles in Uniontown has been helping complete the projects on their Big View evenings as a way of giving back. Thanks to Marlene of NPP and Lora of RSVP for allowing us to help. We enjoy it!



CHILDREN'S ROOM IN UNIONTOWN

Through several generous donations, our children's room has really come together. It's a fun place to be!



THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS

We would like to thank the following donors who have contributed to the success of Circles Laurel Highlands Region:

Nutrition Education Program, Third Presbyterian Church, St. Vincent DePaul, Pam McKay, James Stark, Teresa Rouse, Bruderhof Community at New Meadow Run,

Connellsville Carnegie Free Library, Union Chapel Church of the Brethren, Pastor Dave & Connie Herring, Joyce & Stan Wolfe, Debbie Mills, Dave & Sue Ann Priemer, Heather Wasler, Mike Holp, Nick Mitchel, Mary Kay Sykes, Anette DeNardo, Westmoreland County Community College's New Choices Program, Linda Giliardi, Rebecca Taylor

WHAT IS CIRCLES?

Circles Laurel Highlands Region is a volunteer-driven organization offering networking opportunities and resources to participants so they may achieve their goals. This local chapter is part of a larger, national organization, Circles USA®, with Fayette County Community Action as the lead organization. Participants start their journey by attending classes that include family budgeting, financial management, social capital, SMART goals, essential skills, and career planning. This curriculum is provided thru weekly meetings that begin with a meal for the family. After dinner, children and adults separate in to respective groups to further their education on various topics.



IN NEXT MONTH'S LOOP...



The Circles Quilting Circle

Keep watch in next month's Loop for an article about this neat group of Circles people who have "pieced" together their own quilting Circle. It just may have you in "stitches"!

Open House in Markleysburg

Also, next month's Loop will cover an Open House Event at Union Chapel Church on March 16th.



Circles Fundraising Event



We are currently planning a fundraising event for the end of summer. Can you guess what the theme might be?

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