

Dayton Circles Campaign

2010 Mid-Year Report

Since January 2010, there have been significant changes in the Dayton Circles Initiative. The first change came in February when Think Tank was able to hire a part-time Circles Coach to work intensively with the 8 matched Circles. A new Getting Ahead class began in March 2010, facilitated by Tim Zecchini, an AmeriCorps VISTA with six members in the class. Of the six in the class, 5 graduated in June 2010.

Think Tank now has a 20 hour per week Coach, a full-time VISTA, and a part-time Recruiter working on the initiative. The funds for these positions have come from the Mathile Foundation as well as several private donors.

The Guiding Coalition made a shift in January 2010 from being a meeting that is held during the workday to a meeting group that is held as one of the Weekly Meetings at Fort McKinley. Carleen Suttman is the Chairwoman of the Guiding Coalition and has brought leadership and structure to the initiative. When asked about the first six month of 2010 she says, "I have seen the *idea* of Circles become the *reality* of Circles during the past year." She is excited about the steps that have been taken and the growth potential that Circles has in the coming year.

But most importantly are the stories from our Circle Leaders that are inspiring the community to end poverty. The Circle that is helping a newly graduated college student to find a job, the single mother who is pregnant to find stable, safe, affordable housing, and the Circle that has assisted in getting children into mentoring programs. These are the little steps along the way that make a BIG impact on a person's ability to build a solid foundation to getting out of poverty ~ these are the steps necessary to inspire our community to get involved.

Total number of low-income persons to begin:	30
Total number of low-income persons to graduate:	25
Total number of graduates to become Circle Leaders:	13
Total number of community members begin Ally Training	53
Total number of community members complete Ally Training	30
Total number of Allies matched with Circle Leaders	21
Total number of people who attended training events	697
Total number of persons involved since inception	780

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