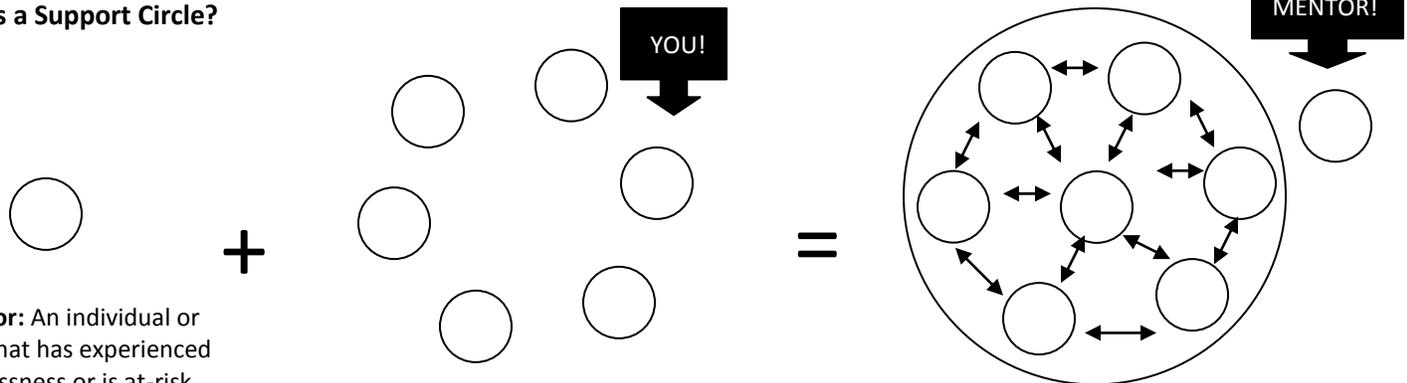


support circles

The Mission: Empowering groups from local congregations and the broader Nashville community to enter into supportive relationships that foster hope, stability, and wholeness with people at-risk, or recovering from homelessness.

What is a Support Circle?



Neighbor: An individual or family* that has experienced homelessness or is at-risk.

**Volunteers through Catholic Charities will be matched to families with school-aged children*

Support Circle Volunteers: Four to six people from a local community group or faith congregation.

Support Circle: A mutually beneficial relationship established by a covenant agreement between Neighbor and Volunteers, guided by a **Mentor** (a professional in social work or related field)

Why are Support Circle Volunteers important? Everyone who experiences homelessness has experienced a loss of support networks in their lives. If a person's homelessness is caused, in part, by lack of community, then part of the solution is rebuilding community around that person. Community groups come alongside individuals or families to foster friendship, hope, stability, and wholeness. The friendship that forms, however, is not a one-way street and you may find your own sense of hope and wholeness in the process.

What kind of person is a Support Circle Volunteer? Volunteers come from all walks of life. They are patient, open-minded people who have a desire to provide consistency and build relationship with others experiencing challenging situations. Volunteers must undergo a background check.

How much time does it take? Neighbor and Volunteers agree to a one-year commitment. The monthly hours required range from 4-10 hours per month. Face-to-Face contact between Neighbor and at least one Volunteer is required once a month and weekly contact via phone, text, or face-to-face is encouraged.

Are volunteers trained and mentored? Three hours of orientation and initial training will be required by each SC Volunteer and additional learning opportunities will be offered throughout the year. Each group will be connected to a Mentor. The Mentor may be a social worker, or someone who has experience working with those in poverty. The mentor can provide guidance and support for the Support Circle throughout the year.

Are you interested in becoming a Support Circle Volunteer or Mentor? Email SupportCircles@cctenn.org to sign up and to find out about upcoming informational sessions and trainings.

