



## Education and Housing Equity Project Records.

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*Choices for Community*  
*Community Circle Dialogues on Housing, Education & Race*

**Informational Planning Meeting for Potential and Committed Sponsors**

**AGENDA**

- |       |  |   |
|-------|--|---|
| 9:00  | Registration and Refreshments                  |   |
| 9:10  | Welcome  | Ken Fox, Dick Little                        |
| 9:15  | Introductions                                  | Dick Little<br>Participants                 |
| 9:20  | Video  |   |
| 9:40  | Overview and background of CC Project          | Dick Little                                 |
| 9:50  | Why Community Circles are Important            | Joy Sorensen Navarre                        |
| 10:00 | Details of Circle Discussions and Facilitation | Barbara Blackstone                          |
| 10:15 | Optional Break                                 |   |
| 10:20 | Details and Expectations of Sponsors           | Amy Rodquist                                |
| 10:45 | Steps to Success, goal setting                 | Amy Rodquist<br>Participants                |
| 10:50 | Questions                                      | Amy Rodquist<br>Dick Little<br>Participants |

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\* Each Person Received these 3 pieces

## Memorandum

**To:** Community Circle Committed and Possible Sponsors  
**CC:** Dick Little, Executive Director  
**From:** Education and Housing Equity Project  
Amy Rodquist, Community Circles Coordinator  
**Date:** 11/30/98  
**Re:** Informational Planning Meeting

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As I look at the calendar behind my desk, I see the 1999 Community Circles right around the corner! There is a lot to accomplish before our Kick Off Days in mid January, but the Education and Housing Equity Project is here to ensure that things run smoothly for everyone involved. We have scheduled an *Informational Planning Meeting* on **Wednesday, December 9<sup>th</sup> from 9-11 am**. The meeting will be held in the Conference Center at Hamline University (see attached map).

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- Scheduling dates and places
- Recruiting strategies
- Publicizing
- Distribution of discussion guides and other important materials

Please take time to familiarize yourself with the enclosed Sponsor Pledge of Participation sheet, it is an important document to understand, and will help you to form important questions regarding this project.

We look forward to meeting with you and partnering in what we believe to be the most successful round of Community Circles yet. Please RSVP by Tuesday, December 8<sup>th</sup> to Amy Rodquist, Community Circles Coordinator at 330-1505. If you are unable to attend, please feel free to send a representative in your place.

building inclusive communities

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COMMUNITY CIRCLES - INFO. MEETING



Name	Address	Zip	Phone
Martha McDonnell	City of St. Louis Park 5005 McKa Blvd 55416		612-924-2613
Lokinda Pearson	2215 W. Old Skokopu Rd. St. Mn 55431		612-948-8735
Rick Granberry	486 Marshall Ave	55102	612-291-8823
Ann Genie	1920 S. 1st St. 1403	55454	612-376-0045
Barbara Blackstone	MPLS 554		651-297-4635
P. Denise Tolbet	City of Mpls - Public Works Dept. Rm 203 CH.		(612) 673-2112
	350 South 5th St. Mpls, 55415		
Betty Allen	1st Lumenier Church 3400 Dupont Ave So	55408	612-871-6946
JUDY BROWN	360 Colbowe	55102	651-228-4348
PAUL	STP 55102 Office of Interdistrict Initiatives		
PAUL FRENCH			
RAMSEY ACTION PROGRAMS	450 SYNDICATE ST 55104		603-5811

pledge  
steps to success  
SPONSOR

[kmm@wilder.org](mailto:kmm@wilder.org)

#2. Community Circles - Intro. Meeting

Name	Address	Zip	phone
Stephen Dickinson	1885 Univ Ave #70 St Paul 55104	55104	651 646 8617
Bamb Rose	919 Lafand Ave.	55104	659-6031
Kate Murphy	Wilder Foundation 919 Lafand Ave	55104	642-2083
HECTOR GARCIA	1885 UNIVERSITY AVE STE. 55		659-0401
Cris Toffolo			
Pamela Jewson	4116 Vincent Ave S	55410	929-8395
Joy Sorenson Navarre	122 w. Franklin #30	55404	
<b>San Frankman</b> <b>St. Mprk's</b>			

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# Star Tribune Editorial

Our perspective

## Community circles

*Support talks on housing, education*

In many cultures, most notably Native American, the circle is an important symbol. It can stand for beginning and ending; it can represent the cycle of birth, life and death. Or it can simply be the way people organize themselves to discuss issues, solve problems or protect one another.

That symbolism is at the heart of a local effort to get folks thinking and talking about education, race and housing. A coalition of more than 20 Twin Cities partners, the Community Circle Collaborative, is wisely promoting a metrowide series of small group discussions on this question: How does racial and economic segregation of housing affect educational achievement and life opportunities?

The idea is to get at least 200 people (five to 15 at a time) actively involved in study circles. Ideally, each group will be as diverse as possible across racial, ethnic, economic, age and political lines. They will be urban and suburban, work from a common discussion/information guide and will meet several times for two to three hours. Sessions will take place early next year.

Among the organizing partner groups are the Minneapolis Initiative Against Racism, the Minnesota Minority Education Partnership, the Minneapolis, Edina and St. Louis Park public schools, the Institute on Race & Poverty and the Minnesota Fair Housing Center.

Do the organizers have an agenda? You bet. They start from the basic belief that racism and segregation hurt everyone. They know that many students who perform poorly in school

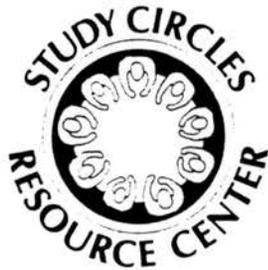
come from deep pockets of segregated, low-income housing. And they rightly agree these housing, family and economic questions must be addressed to help improve educational outcomes.

The Collaborative has a direction, but it doesn't have all the answers. And so, the small circles are designed to get civil, informed dialogue and analysis bubbling up from citizens. The questions and solutions will then be used to guide policies and practices of government, school boards, nonprofits, foundations, businesses and grass-roots groups. Community circles have been used successfully in other cities around the country to help form public policy and build public awareness and consensus.

All metro-area residents are huge stakeholders in this issue. Parents and singles alike pay for public schools, police, courts and prisons. Both the young and the old want safe neighborhoods and good housing. Whether you are black or white, rich or poor, well-educated children eventually help fuel a stronger economy and higher quality of life for everyone.

With help from the Bush and Bremer foundations, the Collaborative will provide recorders and train facilitators for each circle. For more details, attend the kick-off/information session on Tuesday, 9-11:30 a.m., at the St. Louis Park City Council Chambers, 5005 Minnetonka Blvd. Or call Dick Little, at the Education & Housing Equity Project, 871-8980.

Join the circle of those who want better housing and education opportunities in the Twin Cities.



**SCRC asks you to take part in**

## ***Beyond Busing***

**the first community-wide study circle program in  
the Twin Cities area**

### **Study circles in the Twin Cities**

The study circle process has been used for small-group deliberation in many Twin Cities projects over the last ten years. Programs like "Minnesota's Talking," the Minneapolis Quality Schools Study, and the Minnesota Study Circle Network were among the first in the nation to use the study circle format as a way of involving citizens in addressing public issues.

### **"Beyond Busing" and the Community Circle Collaborative**

The Community Circle Collaborative (CCC), a multi-sector coalition of over 20 Twin Cities organizations, is poised to take Minnesota's study circle tradition one step further. Over the last year, the CCC has been planning and organizing a community-wide study circle program on the challenges of segregation in the metropolitan area. The CCC is now enlisting individuals and organizations to serve as sponsors, facilitators, or participants in "Beyond Busing: A Metrowide Dialogue on the Challenges of Education and Housing Segregation." See the attached newsletter for information on how you can get involved.

### **What is a community circle?**

Many study circle organizers actually use different names for their small-group process than "study circle" – citizen circle, dialogue circle, and reader roundtable are some examples. The CCC is using the term community circle. Whatever the name, the process is the same:

- A community circle is comprised of 10-15 people who meet regularly over a period of weeks or months to address a critical public issue in a democratic and collaborative way.
- A community circle is facilitated by a person who is there not to act as an expert on the issue, but to serve the group by keeping the discussion focused, helping the group consider a variety of views, and asking difficult questions.
- A community circle examines many perspectives. The way in which study circle facilitators are trained and discussion materials are written helps the group explore areas of common ground.
- A community circle progresses from a session on personal experience ("how does the issue affect me?") to sessions providing a broader perspective ("what are others saying about the issue?") to a session on action ("what can we do about the issue here?").

### **What is a community-wide study circle program?**

The "Beyond Busing" project reflects what SCRC has learned from study circle organizers around the country. Study circles can take place within organizations, such as schools, unions, or government agencies. They have their greatest reach and impact, however, when organizations across a community work together to create large-scale programs. These community-wide programs engage large numbers of citizens in a community – in some cases thousands – in study

(over)

circles on a public issue such as race relations, crime and violence, or education. Broad sponsoring coalitions result in strong, diverse community participation. People participate in the study circles because they see that it provides an opportunity to make an impact on an issue they care about.

### **How do community-wide study circle programs come into being?**

Typically, a single organization such as a mayor's office, a school board, or a human relations commission spearheads and staffs the project. In most communities, the organizing begins when the initiating organization approaches other key organizations to build a sponsoring coalition. Most community-wide programs have 10-30 organizations as sponsors or endorsers. Grassroots organizations such as churches, neighborhood associations, businesses, schools, and clubs often take part.

### **What are the outcomes of community-wide study circle programs?**

By participating in study circles, citizens gain "ownership" of the issues, discover a connection between personal experiences and public policies, and gain a deeper understanding of their own and others' perspectives and concerns. They discover common ground and a greater desire and ability to work collaboratively to solve local problems – as individuals, as members of small groups, and as members of large organizations in the community. Community-wide study circle programs foster new connections among community members that lead to new levels of community action. They also create new connections between citizens and government, both at an institutional level and at the level of parents and teachers, community members and social service providers, residents and police officers.

### **Where are community-wide study circle programs going on?**

In 1992, Lima, Ohio, became the first city to create a community-wide study circle program. Since then, 26 communities have followed Lima's lead, ranging in size from Orford, New Hampshire, to Los Angeles, California. Over 100 other communities are in various stages of planning and organizing community-wide programs; the actual study circle phase of most of these programs will begin within the next year. SCRC also collaborates with a number of national organizations that are working with the community-wide study circle model, including the National Crime Prevention Council, the YWCA of the USA, the League of Women Voters, the Education Commission of the States, the National Association of Human Rights Workers, the National Council of Churches, and the Alliance for National Renewal.

# Community Circles Project Timeline

December 9, 1998	Sponsor Information and Planning Meeting
January 13, 1999	Sponsor Information and Planning Meeting
<del>January 20</del> February 4	Community Circles "Kick-Off" Event (East Metro)
January 21	Community Circles "Kick-Off Event (West Metro)
January 22	Community Circles Orientation Session for Facilitators
January 23	Workshop on Understanding Institutional and Community Racism (designed especially for facilitators and sponsor scribes)
February 1 – March 27	Community Circles meet (5 sessions, 2 hours each, 8 – 15 individuals per circle)
April/May	Community Action Forum  Citizens Summit with Minnesota Meeting and Minnesota Public Radio
June	Report to the Community is prepared and issued
Fall 1999	Possible second round of 1999 Community Circle Conversations (new groups)

# Prospective and Committed Meeting Sponsors and Recruiters 1999 Community Circles

12-9-99

Arden Hills Human Rights Commission  
Black Ministerial Alliance  
Bloomington Human Rights Commission  
Cathedral of St. Mark's Episcopal, Minneapolis  
Center for Asian and Pacific Islanders (CAPI)  
Commonbond Communities  
East Metro Women's Consortium  
Eden Prairie Human Rights and Diversity Commission  
East Metro/St. Paul Office of Inter-district Initiatives  
First Unitarian Church of Minneapolis  
First Universalist Church of Minneapolis  
Golden Valley Black History Committee and Human Rights Commission  
Governor-elect Ventura administration - transition team  
Hiawatha YMCA  
Hmong American Partnership  
Jefferson Center  
James J. Hill Magnet School, Saint Paul  
Linden Hills Neighborhood Association  
Macalester College Anti-Racism Initiative  
Metropolitan Interfaith Council on Affordable Housing (MICAH) - member congregations  
Minneapolis NRP and City of Minneapolis  
Minneapolis Public Schools, Libraries, Community Centers  
Minnesota League of Human Rights Commissions - metro area member commissions  
Minnesota Minority Education Partnership (MMEP) - member organizations  
Minnesota Center for Corporate Responsibility  
Metropolitan Council HRA  
MRA of the Twin Cities  
National Conference for Community and Justice, Minnesota Office  
North Metro Affordable Housing Coalition (NEMCAH)  
Project for Pride in Living  
Ramsey Action Program  
Ramsey International Fine Arts School, Minneapolis  
Richfield Diversity Connection  
St. Louis Park Board of Education and Human Rights Commission  
St. Paul Public Schools  
Stillwater Public Library and Bahai Faith Community  
Twin Cities Habitat for Humanity  
Unitarian-Universalist Metro Stability Task Force  
University of St. Thomas  
United Auto Workers Ford Local  
West Metro Education Program  
Whittier Alliance  
White Bear Lake Unitarian Church  
Wilder Foundation (Cities At Work)  
    Children's Initiative and Family Centers  
    Higher Education Consortium for Urban Affairs (HECUA)  
    Intergenerational Dialogue (Jim Gambone)  
    Mount Zion Synagogue  
    Multicultural Action Group/Americorps Volunteers  
    St. Paul Area Council of Churches (Congregations in Communities)  
    St. Paul Chamber of Commerce (Leadership St. Paul alumni and participants)  
    St. Paul District Councils

## **Invest in Strengthening Your Community: Sponsor a Community Circle**

The Education and Housing Equity Project (EHEP) invites **you** to join dozens of other community groups in sponsoring citizen discussions on the most pressing social, economic, and political issues facing our region. When you sponsor a Community Circle Conversation, negative conflict that discourages participation is replaced with productive conflict that invites everyone to take part in the conversation and work for the good of our community's future. As you invest your time and effort in the Community Circle Conversations, the rewards will come back to you in a multitude of ways. Sponsoring a Community Circle is a way for you to:

**S**trengthen your constituency base and become more visible on a metro wide level

**P**articipate in historical discussions on the topics of education, housing and segregation, helping to build cohesion and understanding in the Twin Cities region

**O**rganize and help impact key legislative decisions

**N**urture and build relationships with other organizations that share similar goals, concerns and mission statements

**S**harpener your awareness and gain deeper understanding on the most pressing issues facing our region

**O**ppose oppression and move communities towards social justice

**R**ecruit citizens who are anxious to make a difference in an organization like yours

The Education and Housing Equity Project sincerely believes that the solutions to serious and often divisive issues can be found if we put aside our fears and prejudices and work together, come join us, and be apart of the solution.

Education and Housing Equity Project (EHEP)  
2211 Riverside Ave, CB 185  
Minneapolis, MN 55455  
Phone: 330-1505 or Fax: 330-1507

# THE COMMUNITY CIRCLE PROJECT

## PLEDGE OF PARTICIPATION FOR: SPONSORS

The Education and Housing Equity Project (EHEP) is excited to partner with you as we anticipate the next successful round of Community Circle Conversations. As a sponsor, we invite you to thoughtfully review the Pledge of Participation form, carefully noting each responsibility and your capacity to complete the vital sponsor roles, ensuring the full success of this project.

### Responsibilities of Sponsors:

1. Recruit between 8 and 15 people for each community circle.
2. Arrange a meeting space and time for each community circle or recruit participants for a designated time and location.
3. Distribute discussion materials to each participant.
4. Promote the program by any means possible, including bulletins, newsletters, and personal contacts.
5. Participate in evaluation process of community circle.
6. Provide childcare and transportation services as needed by participants.
7. Provide hospitality for participants, ensuring light snacks and beverages, writing board and name tags at each meeting.
8. Keep records of participation for your Community Circle, complete with address and phone listings.
9. Designate a scribe for each Community Circle, capturing in written record the highlights of each conversation.

EHEP will work closely along side you, providing:

- Discussion Guide
- Trained facilitator (and training to your facilitators)
- Informative background materials
- Calendar of related events
- Information clearinghouse for pairing organizations
- Action Forum to connect citizens with service and action opportunities

All community Circles will be invited to take part in a Citizens Summit to be co-sponsored with the Minnesota Meeting and Minnesota Public Radio. Results will be shared with legislators and local officials.

Name of sponsoring organization or agency that you represent:	
Your name: (please print)	
Your address:	
Your telephone & fax:	
Your e-mail (if applicable):	

I understand the responsibilities of Sponsors and commit my organization to this project. This commitment is based on approval from our Board of Directors, Executive Director, or other appropriate authority.

In addition, my organization can provide the following:

\_\_\_ Co-Facilitator      \_\_\_ Media equipment      \_\_\_ Copying services      \_\_\_ Translator(s)  
\_\_\_ We will collaborate with the following organization(s) to jointly co-sponsor one or more circle(s): \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

To achieve greater diversity in our community circle, we would like to be paired with a group different from ourselves \_\_\_\_\_

Signature

Date

*Return to:*  
*Dick Little*  
*Education & Housing Equity Project*  
*2211 Riverside Ave CB 185*  
*Minneapolis, MN 55454*  
*tel: (612) 330-1505      fax: (612) 330-1507*

# Steps to Success

## Goal setting for sponsors

Hazy goals produce hazy results. Clearly define your goals. Write them down, make a plan for achieving them, set a deadline, visualize the results and go after them. Wishing will not bring success, but planning, persistence, and burning desire will. Success is an attitude, get yours right. It is astonishing how short a time it takes for very wonderful things to happen. —Barbara Smallwood

### Meeting Place and Schedule:

- What resources do you have available either with your organization or in your community? i.e., schools, libraries, community centers, churches, businesses, etc. \_\_\_\_\_
- Whom can you contact? \_\_\_\_\_
- Our organization will secure (number) \_\_\_\_\_ meeting spaces and dates for 5 community circle sessions by (date) \_\_\_\_\_
- Keep these things in mind: the participants may need childcare and transportation. How are you preparing for this? Is the location able to accommodate hospitality needs?

### Recruiting and Publicity:

- Where is your sphere of influence? How can you make this project known, i.e. newspapers, bulletins, personal contacts, other organizations, etc \_\_\_\_\_
- How can you achieve diversity? Race, ethnicity, age, gender, income, political ideology, etc \_\_\_\_\_
- Do you need pairing with another organization; if so, what other organizations could you pair with? \_\_\_\_\_
- Our organization will recruit (number) \_\_\_\_\_ participants by (date) \_\_\_\_\_

### Administrative:

- Who is your “go to” person? Overseeing details of: registration, troubleshooting, contact with EHEP, coordinating of details, etc? \_\_\_\_\_
- Who are other individuals on the “Team” that believe in this project and will work to make it successful? \_\_\_\_\_
- Who would make a good scribe for the community circle (good listener, observer, writer and reporter)? \_\_\_\_\_
- If know of an experienced, professional moderator or facilitator, please invite this person to contact us.

### Questions:

Please keep record of your questions throughout the morning, and we will take time to answer them at the conclusion of the session, or following the session.



## A comparison of dialogue and debate

Dialogue is collaborative: two or more sides work together toward common understanding.

*Debate is oppositional: two sides oppose each other and attempt to prove each other wrong.*

In dialogue, finding common ground is the goal.

*In debate, winning is the goal.*

In dialogue, one listens to the other side(s) in order to understand, find meaning, and find agreement.

*In debate, one listens to the other side in order to find flaws and to counter its arguments.*

Dialogue enlarges and possibly changes a participant's point of view.

*Debate affirms a participant's own point of view.*

Dialogue reveals assumptions for reevaluation.

*Debate defends assumptions as truth.*

Dialogue causes introspection on one's own position.

*Debate causes critique of the other position.*

Dialogue opens the possibility of reaching a better solution than any of the original solutions.

*Debate defends one's own positions as the best solution and excludes other solutions.*

Dialogue creates an open-minded attitude: an openness to being wrong and an openness to change.

*Debate creates a closed-minded attitude, a determination to be right.*

In dialogue, one submits one's best thinking, knowing that other peoples' reflections will help improve it rather than destroy it.

*In debate, one submit's one's best thinking and defends it against challenge to show that it is right.*

Dialogue calls for temporarily suspending one's beliefs.

*Debate calls for investing wholeheartedly in one's beliefs.*

In dialogue, one searches for basic agreements.

*In debate, one searches for glaring differences.*

In dialogue, one searches for strengths in the other positions.

*In debate, one searches for flaws and weaknesses in the other position.*

Dialogue involves a real concern for the other person and seeks to not alienate or offend.

*Debate involves a countering of the other position without focusing on feelings or relationship and often belittles or deprecates the other person.*

Dialogue assumes that many people have pieces of the answer and that together they can put them into a workable solution.

*Debate assumes that there is a right answer and that someone has it.*

Dialogue remains open-ended.

*Debate implies a conclusion.*

*Adapted from a paper prepared by Shelley Berman, which was based on discussions of the Dialogue Group of the Boston Chapter of Educators for Social Responsibility (ESR). Other members included Lucile Burt, Dick Mayo-Smith, Lally Stowell, and Gene Thompson. For more information on ESR's programs and resources using dialogue as a tool for dealing with controversial issues, call the national ESR office at (617) 492-1764.*

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7. Provide hospitality for participants, ensuring light snacks and beverages, writing board and name tags at each meeting.
8. Keep records of participation for your Community Circle, complete with address and phone listings.
9. Designate a scribe for each Community Circle, capturing in written record the highlights of each conversation.

EHEP will work closely along side you, providing:

- Discussion Guide
- Trained facilitator (and training to your facilitators)
- Informative background materials
- Calendar of related events
- Information clearinghouse for pairing organizations
- Action Forum to connect citizens with service and action opportunities

All community Circles will be invited to take part in a Citizens Summit to be co-sponsored with the Minnesota Meeting and Minnesota Public Radio. Results will be shared with legislators and local officials.

Name of sponsoring organization or agency that you represent:	
Your name: (please print)	
Your address:	
Your telephone & fax:	
Your e-mail (if applicable):	

I understand the responsibilities of Sponsors and commit my organization to this project. This commitment is based on approval from our Board of Directors, Executive Director, or other appropriate authority.

In addition, my organization can provide the following:

\_\_\_ Co-Facilitator      \_\_\_ Media equipment      \_\_\_ Copying services      \_\_\_ Translator(s)

\_\_\_ We will collaborate with the following organization(s) to jointly co-sponsor one or more circle(s): \_\_\_\_\_

To achieve greater diversity in our community circle, we would like to be paired with a group different from ourselves \_\_\_\_\_

Signature

Date

*Return to:*  
*Dick Little*  
*Education & Housing Equity Project*  
*2211 Riverside Ave CB 185*  
*Minneapolis, MN 55454*  
*tel: (612) 330-1505      fax: (612) 330-1507*

# Steps to Success

## Goal setting for sponsors

Hazy goals produce hazy results. Clearly define your goals. Write them down, make a plan for achieving them, set a deadline, visualize the results and go after them. Wishing will not bring success, but planning, persistence, and burning desire will. Success is an attitude, get yours right. It is astonishing how short a time it takes for very wonderful things to happen. —Barbara Smallwood

### Meeting Place and Schedule:

- What resources do you have available either with your organization or in your community? i.e., schools, libraries, community centers, churches, businesses, etc. \_\_\_\_\_
- Whom can you contact? \_\_\_\_\_
- Our organization will secure (number) \_\_\_\_\_ meeting spaces and dates for 5 community circle sessions by (date) \_\_\_\_\_
- Keep these things in mind: the participants may need childcare and transportation. How are you preparing for this? Is the location able to accommodate hospitality needs?

### Recruiting and Publicity:

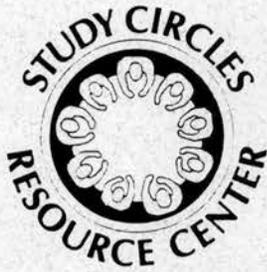
- Where is your sphere of influence? How can you make this project known, i.e. newspapers, bulletins, personal contacts, other organizations, etc \_\_\_\_\_
- How can you achieve diversity? Race, ethnicity, age, gender, income, political ideology, etc \_\_\_\_\_
- Do you need pairing with another organization; if so, what other organizations could you pair with? \_\_\_\_\_
- Our organization will recruit (number) \_\_\_\_\_ participants by (date) \_\_\_\_\_

### Administrative:

- Who is your “go to” person? Overseeing details of: registration, troubleshooting, contact with EHEP, coordinating of details, etc? \_\_\_\_\_
- Who are other individuals on the “Team” that believe in this project and will work to make it successful? \_\_\_\_\_
- Who would make a good scribe for the community circle (good listener, observer, writer and reporter)? \_\_\_\_\_
- If know of an experienced, professional moderator or facilitator, please invite this person to contact us.

### Questions:

Please keep record of your questions throughout the morning, and we will take time to answer them at the conclusion of the session, or following the session.



**SCRC asks you to take part in**

## ***Beyond Busing***

**the first community-wide study circle program in  
the Twin Cities area**

### **Study circles in the Twin Cities**

The study circle process has been used for small-group deliberation in many Twin Cities projects over the last ten years. Programs like "Minnesota's Talking," the Minneapolis Quality Schools Study, and the Minnesota Study Circle Network were among the first in the nation to use the study circle format as a way of involving citizens in addressing public issues.

### **"Beyond Busing" and the Community Circle Collaborative**

The Community Circle Collaborative (CCC), a multi-sector coalition of over 20 Twin Cities organizations, is poised to take Minnesota's study circle tradition one step further. Over the last year, the CCC has been planning and organizing a community-wide study circle program on the challenges of segregation in the metropolitan area. The CCC is now enlisting individuals and organizations to serve as sponsors, facilitators, or participants in "Beyond Busing: A Metrowide Dialogue on the Challenges of Education and Housing Segregation." See the attached newsletter for information on how you can get involved.

### **What is a community circle?**

Many study circle organizers actually use different names for their small-group process than "study circle" – citizen circle, dialogue circle, and reader roundtable are some examples. The CCC is using the term community circle. Whatever the name, the process is the same:

- A community circle is comprised of 10-15 people who meet regularly over a period of weeks or months to address a critical public issue in a democratic and collaborative way.
- A community circle is facilitated by a person who is there not to act as an expert on the issue, but to serve the group by keeping the discussion focused, helping the group consider a variety of views, and asking difficult questions.
- A community circle examines many perspectives. The way in which study circle facilitators are trained and discussion materials are written helps the group explore areas of common ground.
- A community circle progresses from a session on personal experience ("how does the issue affect me?") to sessions providing a broader perspective ("what are others saying about the issue?") to a session on action ("what can we do about the issue here?").

### **What is a community-wide study circle program?**

The "Beyond Busing" project reflects what SCRC has learned from study circle organizers around the country. Study circles can take place within organizations, such as schools, unions, or government agencies. They have their greatest reach and impact, however, when organizations across a community work together to create large-scale programs. These community-wide programs engage large numbers of citizens in a community – in some cases thousands – in study

(over)

circles on a public issue such as race relations, crime and violence, or education. Broad sponsoring coalitions result in strong, diverse community participation. People participate in the study circles because they see that it provides an opportunity to make an impact on an issue they care about.

**How do community-wide study circle programs come into being?**

Typically, a single organization such as a mayor's office, a school board, or a human relations commission spearheads and staffs the project. In most communities, the organizing begins when the initiating organization approaches other key organizations to build a sponsoring coalition. Most community-wide programs have 10-30 organizations as sponsors or endorsers. Grassroots organizations such as churches, neighborhood associations, businesses, schools, and clubs often take part.

**What are the outcomes of community-wide study circle programs?**

By participating in study circles, citizens gain "ownership" of the issues, discover a connection between personal experiences and public policies, and gain a deeper understanding of their own and others' perspectives and concerns. They discover common ground and a greater desire and ability to work collaboratively to solve local problems – as individuals, as members of small groups, and as members of large organizations in the community. Community-wide study circle programs foster new connections among community members that lead to new levels of community action. They also create new connections between citizens and government, both at an institutional level and at the level of parents and teachers, community members and social service providers, residents and police officers.

**Where are community-wide study circle programs going on?**

In 1992, Lima, Ohio, became the first city to create a community-wide study circle program. Since then, 26 communities have followed Lima's lead, ranging in size from Orford, New Hampshire, to Los Angeles, California. Over 100 other communities are in various stages of planning and organizing community-wide programs; the actual study circle phase of most of these programs will begin within the next year. SCRC also collaborates with a number of national organizations that are working with the community-wide study circle model, including the National Crime Prevention Council, the YWCA of the USA, the League of Women Voters, the Education Commission of the States, the National Association of Human Rights Workers, the National Council of Churches, and the Alliance for National Renewal.



## A comparison of dialogue and debate

Dialogue is collaborative: two or more sides work together toward common understanding.

*Debate is oppositional: two sides oppose each other and attempt to prove each other wrong.*

In dialogue, finding common ground is the goal.

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*Adapted from a paper prepared by Shelley Berman, which was based on discussions of the Dialogue Group of the Boston Chapter of Educators for Social Responsibility (ESR). Other members included Lucile Burt, Dick Mayo-Smith, Lally Stowell, and Gene Thompson. For more information on ESR's programs and resources using dialogue as a tool for dealing with controversial issues, call the national ESR office at (617) 492-1764.*

## Call for Community Circles Facilitators

- To:** Experienced facilitators - members of SPIDR, MN Facilitators Network, etc.
- What:** An invitation/opportunity to facilitate historic conversations to take place throughout the metropolitan area during February and March about the intersection of housing, education and race in our communities
- Who:** Sponsored by the Education & Housing Equity Project, MN Churches Anti-racism Initiative, Society of Professionals in Dispute Resolution and others
- Training:** *Friday, January 22, 1999, 5:30 - 9:00 p.m.*  
Community Circle Orientation Session for Facilitators  
*Saturday, January 23, 1999, 9:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.*  
A free one-day workshop on Understanding Institutional and Community Racism designed especially for Community Circle facilitators by Jim and Nadine Addington
- Where:** Augsburg College, Christensen Center, East Commons. Free parking available
- Info:** Barbara Blackstone - 651 - 297-4635

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## **Check List for 12/9/98 Sponsor Meeting:**

1. Name tags (40)
2. Sign In sheet (3)
3. Pens for nametags (3)
4. Overhead Projector
5. Discussion Guides (40)
6. Pledge Participation Form (40)
7. Agenda
8. Difference between dialogue and debate (40)
9. Steps to Success, Goal setting sheet (40)
10. Two Pocket Folders (40)
11. Overheads (Pledge form for sponsors, goal sheets)

BUT SC'S HAVE DONE - LARGER CITY, METRO AREA & STATES

### Sponsors' Meeting - Dick Little

Building on the experience of others throughout the country with Study Circles, and beginning in 1995, the Board of Directors of the Education and Housing Equity Project and I have worked to bring together both sponsors and funders to create Community Circles in the greater Twin Cities area. As you can see from your list (yellow sheet) we have of people + comm sponsors + partners with more joining continually. Our focus on how can we build racially + economically inclusive communities + schools in the TCMA is a high - of

round of Our first circles were held beginning in December of 1996. With the input that we have received from the over 500 citizens who have participated to date, we have created a new Discussion Guide (each of room) and collaborative w/ facilitators (SPIDR, etc) that focuses on the intersection of segregation, housing and education here in the Twin Cities region. You will hear more about the guide and the discussion process from Barbara Blackstone in just a few minutes.

Believing that conversations using the Study Circles format can enhance the quality and depth of understanding of the ramifications of the growing economic and racial segregation and disparities and possible solutions, we are planning to hold community circles throughout the metro area during February and March of 1999. Our purposes are many, but fundamentally three-fold:

- To raise awareness about the difficulties particular to the Twin Cities
- To deepen understanding of the complexities of the problems / to pull people together
- To generate collaborative and creative action agendas to truly address economic and bridge our cultural + racial divide / differences in our comm. (to make a better comm.)

We have invited you here today to learn more about how you can be a part of this historic effort.

Joy Sorensen Navarre of MICAHA, one of our sponsors, will share with you some of her organization's interests. Why SC'S are important + how they make a difference -

*Choices for Community  
Community Circle Dialogues on Housing, Education & Race*

**Informational Planning Meeting for Potential and Committed Sponsors**

**AGENDA**

- |       |  |   |
|-------|--|---|
| 9:00  | Registration and Refreshments                  |   |
| 9:10  | Welcome  | Ken Fox, Dick Little                        |
| 9:15  | Introductions                                  | Dick Little<br>Participants                 |
| 9:20  | Video  |   |
| 9:40  | Overview and background of CC Project          | Dick Little                                 |
| 9:50  | Why Community Circles are Important            | Joy Sorensen Navarre                        |
| 10:00 | Details of Circle Discussions and Facilitation | Barbara Blackstone                          |
| 10:15 | Optional Break                                 |   |
| 10:20 | Details and Expectations of Sponsors           | Amy Rodquist                                |
| 10:45 | Steps to Success, goal setting                 | Amy Rodquist<br>Participants                |
| 10:50 | Questions                                      | Amy Rodquist<br>Dick Little<br>Participants |

# Prospective and Committed Meeting Sponsors and Recruiters 1999 Community Circles

12-9-99

Arden Hills Human Rights Commission  
Black Ministerial Alliance  
Bloomington Human Rights Commission  
Cathedral of St. Mark's Episcopal, Minneapolis  
Center for Asian and Pacific Islanders (CAPI)  
Commonbond Communities  
East Metro Women's Consortium  
Eden Prairie Human Rights and Diversity Commission  
East Metro/St. Paul Office of Inter-district Initiatives  
First Unitarian Church of Minneapolis  
First Universalist Church of Minneapolis  
Golden Valley Black History Committee and Human Rights Commission  
Governor-elect Ventura administration - transition team  
Hiawatha YMCA  
Hmong American Partnership  
Jefferson Center  
James J. Hill Magnet School, Saint Paul  
Linden Hills Neighborhood Association  
Macalester College Anti-Racism Initiative  
Metropolitan Interfaith Council on Affordable Housing (MICAH) - member congregations  
Minneapolis NRP and City of Minneapolis  
Minneapolis Public Schools, Libraries, Community Centers  
Minnesota League of Human Rights Commissions - metro area member commissions  
Minnesota Minority Education Partnership (MMEP) - member organizations  
Minnesota Center for Corporate Responsibility  
Metropolitan Council HRA  
MRA of the Twin Cities  
National Conference for Community and Justice, Minnesota Office  
North Metro Affordable Housing Coalition (NEMCAH)  
Project for Pride in Living  
Ramsey Action Program  
Ramsey International Fine Arts School, Minneapolis  
Richfield Diversity Connection  
St. Louis Park Board of Education and Human Rights Commission  
St. Paul Public Schools  
Stillwater Public Library and Bahai Faith Community  
Twin Cities Habitat for Humanity  
Unitarian-Universalist Metro Stability Task Force  
University of St. Thomas  
United Auto Workers Ford Local  
West Metro Education Program  
Whittier Alliance  
White Bear Lake Unitarian Church  
Wilder Foundation (Cities At Work)  
    Children's Initiative and Family Centers  
    Higher Education Consortium for Urban Affairs (HECUA)  
    Intergenerational Dialogue (Jim Gambone)  
    Mount Zion Synagogue  
    Multicultural Action Group/Americorps Volunteers  
    St. Paul Area Council of Churches (Congregations in Communities)  
    St. Paul Chamber of Commerce (Leadership St. Paul alumni and participants)  
    St. Paul District Councils

## **Invest in Strengthening Your Community: Sponsor a Community Circle**

The Education and Housing Equity Project (EHEP) invites **you** to join dozens of other community groups in sponsoring citizen discussions on the most pressing social, economic, and political issues facing our region. When you sponsor a Community Circle, productive dialogue that invites everyone to take part in the conversation and work for the good of our community's future replaces the negative conflict that discourages participation. As you invest your time and effort in the Community Circle Conversations, the rewards will come back to you in a multitude of ways. Sponsoring a Community Circle is a way for you to:

**S**trengthen your constituency base and become more visible on a metro wide level

**P**articipate in historical discussions on the topics of education, housing and segregation, helping to build cohesion and understanding in the Twin Cities region

**O**rganize and help impact key legislative decisions

**N**urture and build relationships with other organizations that share similar goals, concerns and mission statements

**S**harpener your awareness and gain deeper understanding on the most pressing issues facing our region

**O**ppose oppression and move communities towards social justice

**R**ecruit citizens who are anxious to make a difference in an organization like yours

The Education and Housing Equity Project sincerely believes that the solutions to serious and often divisive issues can be found if we put aside our fears and prejudices and work together. Come join us, and be apart of the solution to strengthen our community.

Education and Housing Equity Project (EHEP)  
2211 Riverside Ave, CB 185  
Minneapolis, MN 55455  
Phone: 330-1505 or Fax: 330-1507

# Community Circles Project Timeline

December 9, 1998	Sponsor Information and Planning Meeting
January 13, 1999	Sponsor Information and Planning Meeting
January 20	Community Circles "Kick-Off" Event (East Metro)
January 21	Community Circles "Kick-Off Event (West Metro)
January 22	Community Circles Orientation Session for Facilitators
January 23	Workshop on Understanding Institutional and Community Racism (designed especially for facilitators and sponsor scribes)
February 1 – March 27	Community Circles meet (5 sessions, 2 hours each, 8 – 15 individuals per circle)
April/May	Community Action Forum  Citizens Summit with Minnesota Meeting and Minnesota Public Radio
June	Report to the Community is prepared and issued
Fall 1999	Possible second round of 1999 Community Circle Conversations (new groups)

# THE COMMUNITY CIRCLE PROJECT

## PLEDGE OF PARTICIPATION FOR: SPONSORS

The Education and Housing Equity Project (EHEP) is excited to partner with you as we anticipate the next successful round of Community Circle Conversations. As a sponsor, we invite you to thoughtfully review the Pledge of Participation form, carefully noting each responsibility and your capacity to complete the vital sponsor roles, ensuring the full success of this project.

### Responsibilities of Sponsors:

1. Recruit between 8 and 15 people for each community circle.
2. Arrange a meeting space and time for each community circle or recruit participants for a designated time and location.
3. Distribute discussion materials to each participant.
4. Promote the program by any means possible, including bulletins, newsletters, and personal contacts.
5. Participate in evaluation process of community circle.
6. Provide childcare and transportation services as needed by participants.
7. Provide hospitality for participants, ensuring light snacks and beverages, writing board and name tags at each meeting.
8. Keep records of participation for your Community Circle, complete with address and phone listings.
9. Designate a scribe for each Community Circle, capturing in written record the highlights of each conversation.

EHEP will work closely along side you, providing:

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Name of sponsoring organization or agency that you represent:	
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\_\_\_ Co-Facilitator      \_\_\_ Media equipment      \_\_\_ Copying services      \_\_\_ Translator(s)

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Signature

Date

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- What resources do you have available either with your organization or in your community? i.e., schools, libraries, community centers, churches, businesses, etc. \_\_\_\_\_
- Whom can you contact? \_\_\_\_\_
- Preferred location, day of week, time of day: \_\_\_\_\_
- Our organization will secure (number) \_\_\_\_\_ meeting spaces and dates for 5 community circle sessions by (date) \_\_\_\_\_
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### Administrative:

- Who is your "go to" person? Overseeing details of: registration, troubleshooting, contact with EHEP, coordinating of details, etc? \_\_\_\_\_
- Who are other individuals on the "Team" that believe in this project and will work to make it successful? \_\_\_\_\_
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### Questions:

Please keep record of your questions throughout the morning, and we will take time to answer them at the conclusion of the session, or following the session.



## A comparison of dialogue and debate

Dialogue is collaborative: two or more sides work together toward common understanding.

*Debate is oppositional: two sides oppose each other and attempt to prove each other wrong.*

In dialogue, finding common ground is the goal.

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# INFORMATIONAL PLANNING MEETING FOR POTENTIAL AND COMMITTED SPONSORS

## AGENDA

MAXIMUM  
TIMES

// Goal of cutting 3 minutes

~~WELCOME~~

TABLE

9:00

REGISTRATION & REFRESHMENTS

9:10

WELCOME ~~AND~~ INTRODUCTIONS

KEN FOX

DICK LITTLE

9:15

INTRODUCTIONS

9:20

(18 MINUTES)

VIDEO "STORY OF A COMMUNITY-WIDE

STUDY CIRCLE PROGRAM IN LIMA, OHIO -

AND BACKGROUND

Very important in helping the work - DL  
to start; we as whites must not think that people of color

Get most publicity, participation, coverage, + impact.

9:40

OVERVIEW OF THE COMMUNITY CIRCLE PROJECT  
- NARROW DOWN TO 3 POINTS - DL

9:50

~~FOR~~ WHY COMMUNITY CIRCLES ARE IMPORTANT  
AND WHAT THEY CAN DO FOR OUR COMMUNITIES  
JS

10:00

WHAT WILL HAPPEN DURING THE CIRCLE  
DISCUSSIONS - INTRODUCTION TO THE DISCUSSION  
GUIDE AND FACILITATORS  
BB

BREAK

10:15

NUTS AND BOLTS - WHAT IS EXPECTED OF  
SPONSORS AND WHAT WILL THEY BE GETTING

10:20

GOALS SHEET

10:45

QUESTIONS AND DISCUSSION

11:00

ADJOURN

X # LOCATIONS BY 12-31-98

X DEADLINE FOR SETTING DATES & PLACES FOR CIRCLES

X IDENT. ALL OF OUR LOCATIONS BY END OF DECEMBER

X 40-50 LOCATIONS

WAY TO BE FRAME IT

<sup>3</sup> A LOT OF GOOD CONTACTS = DEALING W/ DIFFERENT PEOPLE & CONTACTS.

MAP OF METRO AREA

X # LOCS. IN MPLS AND ST. PAUL / CORE

CARVE UP MAP - QUADRANTS -

SCATTERED

Where do we need some addit locations.

VARIETY OF SITES - W/ CHOICES of where people can feel comf.

(WHAT WORKS)

PARAMETERS

TIMETABLE

VOID = GO TO <sup>MPLS</sup> NRP, ST. PAUL DISTRICT COUNCILS.

EVERY week + AVAIL. OF A SNOW DAY. / SYMBIONESE

- SIGN-IN SHEET
- NAME TAGS
- PENS / MARKERS
- PARKING PERMITS
- OVERHD PROJECTOR / SCREEN (TRANSPARENCIES)
- PACKET / FOLDER

DISCUSSION GUIDE

SPONSOR PLEDGE FORM

DIFFERENCE BETWEEN DIALOGUE + DEBATE

A GOALS SHEET (FOR THEIR USE)

+

SCHEDULE OF DATES & PLACES

~~R~~ TIPS FOR RECRUITING / RECRUITING STRATEGIES

PUBLICIZING -

CC BROCHURE

TRANSPARENCIES -

SPONSOR PLEDGE FORM

THE GOALS SHEET

THE 5 SESSIONS

A PLACE FOR QUESTIONS ON THE GOAL SHEET

# \* Getting diversity in recruiting

## OVERVIEW

What is this about / what are we doing

Why are we doing this

What do we hope / expect to come out of this

## LOGISTICS

Ken - Pastries & ~~and~~ Beverages

## Phone Calls

Incl. message re: parking stickers

Print out a cheat sheet of names + phone #'s

## Ken

Pastries + Coffee (25-30)

OHP + screen

Room layout - Theatre / U shaped

Signage -

Table in front

(White Board → markers)

## COMES

8:30 AM

DELIB.  
SUSTAINED  
OPPORT. TO TALK/ACTION

MAYOR BURGER

\* I believe the

Race has been the largest  
unresolved, silent, most  
silent issue of our community

\* Unless we deal on  
this level, we'll never  
create real, sustained  
change.

Talking about race and coming up w/ insight.

Have to talk about where we've been  
in order to understand where we can go.

\* The talk that has to proceed action, &  
it has to happen w/ enough people  
(critical mass) before action that  
makes sense. in order to have

\* The way that people work together —  
you prob., my prob. ———→ our problems.

Dream — every —

# Steps to Success

## Goal setting for sponsors

Hazy goals produce hazy results. Clearly define your goals. Write them down, make a plan for achieving them, set a deadline, visualize the results and go after them. Wishing will not bring success, but planning, persistence, and burning desire will. Success is an attitude, get yours right. It is astonishing how short a time it takes for very wonderful things to happen. —Barbara Smallwood

### Meeting Place:

- What resources do you have available either with your organization or in your community? i.e., libraries, community centers, businesses, etc. \_\_\_\_\_
- Whom can you contact? \_\_\_\_\_
- Keep these things in mind: the participants may need childcare and transportation. How are you preparing for this? Is the location able to accommodate hospitality needs?

### Recruiting:

- Where is your sphere of influence? How can you make this project known, i.e. newspapers, bulletins, personal contacts, etc. \_\_\_\_\_
- How can you achieve diversity? Race, age, gender, income, political ideology, etc \_\_\_\_\_
- Do you need pairing with another organization, if so, what other organizations could you pair with? \_\_\_\_\_
- Our organization will recruit (number) \_\_\_\_\_ participants by (date) \_\_\_\_\_
- Our organization will secure (number) \_\_\_\_\_ meeting spaces and dates for 5 community circle sessions by (date) \_\_\_\_\_

### Administrative:

- Who is your “go to” person? Overseeing details of: registration, troubleshooting, contact with EHEP, coordinating of details, etc? \_\_\_\_\_
- Who are other individuals on the “Team” that believe in this project and will work to make it successful? \_\_\_\_\_

### Questions:

Please keep record of your questions throughout the morning, and we will take time to answer them at the conclusion of the session.

# Steps to Success

## Goal setting for sponsors

Hazy goals produce hazy results. Clearly define your goals. Write them down, make a plan for achieving them, set a deadline, visualize the results and go after them. Wishing will not bring success, but planning, persistence, and burning desire will. Success is an attitude, get yours right. It is astonishing how short a time it takes for very wonderful things to happen. —Barbara Smallwood

### Meeting Place and Schedule:

- What resources do you have available either with your organization or in your community? i.e., schools, libraries, community centers, churches, businesses, etc. \_\_\_\_\_
- Whom can you contact? \_\_\_\_\_
- Our organization will secure (number) \_\_\_\_\_ meeting spaces and dates for 5 community circle sessions by (date) \_\_\_\_\_
- Keep these things in mind: the participants may need childcare and transportation. How are you preparing for this? Is the location able to accommodate hospitality needs?

### Recruiting and Publicity:

- Where is your sphere of influence? How can you make this project known, i.e. newspapers, bulletins, personal contacts, other organizations, etc \_\_\_\_\_
- How can you achieve diversity? Race, ethnicity, age, gender, income, political ideology, etc \_\_\_\_\_
- Do you need pairing with another organization; if so, what other organizations could you pair with? \_\_\_\_\_
- Our organization will recruit (number) \_\_\_\_\_ participants by (date) \_\_\_\_\_

### Administrative:

- Who is your “go to” person? Overseeing details of: registration, troubleshooting, contact with EHEP, coordinating of details, etc? \_\_\_\_\_
- Who are other individuals on the “Team” that believe in this project and will work to make it successful? \_\_\_\_\_
- Who would make a good scribe for the community circle (good listener, observer, writer and reporter)? \_\_\_\_\_
- If know of an experienced, professional moderator or facilitator, please invite this person to contact us.

### Questions:

Please keep record of your questions throughout the morning, and we will take time to answer them at the conclusion of the session, or following the session.

# THE COMMUNITY CIRCLE PROJECT

## PLEDGE OF PARTICIPATION FOR: SPONSORS

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The Education and Housing Equity Project (EHEP) is excited to partner with you as we anticipate the next successful round of Community Circle Conversations. As a sponsor, we invite you to thoughtfully review the Pledge of Participation form, carefully noting each responsibility and your capacity to complete the vital sponsor roles, ensuring the full success of this project.

### Responsibilities of Sponsors:

1. Recruit between 8 and 15 people for each community circle.
  2. Arrange a meeting space and time for each community circle or recruit participants for a designated time and location.
  3. Distribute discussion materials to each participant.
  4. Promote the program by any means possible, including bulletins, newsletters, and personal contacts.
  5. Participate in evaluation process of community circle.
  6. Provide childcare and transportation services as needed by participants.
  7. Provide hospitality for participants, ensuring light snacks and beverages, writing board and name tags at each meeting.
  8. Keep records of participation for your Community Circle, complete with address and phone listings.
  9. Designate a scribe for each Community Circle, capturing in written record the highlights of each conversation.
- 

EHEP will work closely along side you, providing:

- Discussion Guide
- Trained facilitator (and training to your facilitators)
- Informative background materials
- Calendar of related events
- Information clearinghouse for pairing organizations
- Action Forum to connect citizens with service and action opportunities

All community Circles will be invited to take part in a Citizens Summit to be co-sponsored with the Minnesota Meeting and Minnesota Public Radio. Results will be shared with legislators and local officials.

Name of sponsoring organization or agency that you represent:	
Your name: (please print)	
Your address:	
Your telephone & fax:	
Your e-mail (if applicable):	

I understand the responsibilities of Sponsors and commit my organization to this project. This commitment is based on approval from our Board of Directors, Executive Director, or other appropriate authority.

In addition, my organization can provide the following:

Co-Facilitator     
  Media equipment     
  Copying services     
  Translator(s)  
 We will collaborate with the following organization(s) to jointly co-sponsor one or more circle(s): \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

To achieve greater diversity in our community circle, we would like to be paired with a group different from ourselves \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

*Return to:*  
 Dick Little  
 Education & Housing Equity Project  
 2211 Riverside Ave CB 185  
 Minneapolis, MN 55454  
 tel: (612) 330-1505      fax: (612) 330-1507

# Memorandum

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**To:** Community Circle Committed and Possible Sponsors  
**From:** Education and Housing Equity Project  
Amy Rodquist, Community Circles Coordinator  
**CC:** Dick Little, Executive Director  
**Date:** 12/07/98  
**Re:** Informational Planning Meeting

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As I look at the calendar behind my desk, I see the 1999 Community Circles right around the corner! There is a lot to accomplish before our Kick Off Days in mid January, but the Education and Housing Equity Project is here to ensure that things run smoothly for everyone involved. We have scheduled an *Informational Planning Meeting* on **Wednesday, December 9<sup>th</sup> from 9-11 am**. The meeting will be held in the Conference Center at Hamline University (see attached map).

As a sponsor, you are responsible for many important details. During our planning meeting, we will clearly define your role and brainstorm with you on ideas and strategies that will ensure your success with this project. We will cover:

- Scheduling dates and places
- Recruiting strategies
- Publicizing
- Distribution of discussion guides and other important materials

Please take time to familiarize yourself with the enclosed Sponsor Pledge of Participation sheet; it is an important document to understand, and will help you to form important questions regarding this project.

We look forward to meeting with you and partnering in what we believe to be the most successful round of Community Circles yet. Please RSVP by Tuesday, December 8<sup>th</sup> to Amy Rodquist, Community Circles Coordinator at 330-1505. If you are unable to attend, please feel free to send a representative in your place.

**1998 Community Circle**  
**Partners**

**Faith-based**

SPEAC  
Catholic Office of Social Justice  
Jewish Community Action  
Unitarian-Universalist Metro Stability  
Project  
Interfaith Action

**Housing**

MICAH  
MN Fair Housing Center  
Jobs and Affordable Housing  
Campaign  
MN Housing Partnership  
MN Coalition for Affordable Housing  
Housing Discrimination Law Project,  
Legal Aide Society of Minneapolis  
Simpson Housing Services  
Southside Neighborhood Housing  
Services  
Community Stabilization Project

**Education**

MMEP  
Mpls. Public Schools  
HHH Center for School Change,  
Twin Cities Charter School Initiative  
Pacer Center  
WMEP  
Achievement Plus  
Seed Academy/Harvest Prep School  
Summit Academy/OIC

**Community-Focused**

Urban Coalition  
Mpls Urban League  
Mpls. NAACP  
Communities of Color Institute

**Social Service**

Ramsey Action Programs  
Hennepin County Children and  
Family  
Services  
Family and Children Services

Greater Mpls Day Care Assoc.  
Northwest Hennepin Human  
Services  
Council

**Metropolitan**

Alliance for Metropolitan Stability

**Transportation**

Transit for Livable Communities

**Civic**

League of Women Voters  
Citizens League

**Labor**

United Auto Workers, Ford Plant  
Local

**Business**

MN Center for Corporate  
Responsibility

**Media**

MPR Civic Journalism Initiative  
MN Journalism Center  
Minnesota Citizens Forum  
Hungry Mind Review  
KMOJ and KFAI

**Academic**

Institute on Race and Poverty  
Active Citizenship School  
Humphrey Center for Citizenship and  
Democracy  
Humphrey Forum  
CURA

**Human RightsEden Prairie Human  
Rights Comm.**

Mpls and St. Paul Civil Rights  
Comm.

**Municipal and Neighborhood**

Mpls NRP  
Mayor's Groups

**Facilitation/Mediation**

Society of Professionals in Dispute  
Resolution (SPDR)  
Minnesota Facilitators Network  
(MFN)

**Anti-Racism**

Minnesota Churches Anti-Racism  
Initiative  
Minneapolis Initiative Against  
Racism

**National**

Study Circles Resource Center  
(SCRC)

## 1998 Community Circle

### Partners

#### **Faith-based**

Interfaith Action  
SPEAC  
Catholic Office of Social Justice  
Jewish Community Action  
Unitarian-Universalist Metro Stability  
Project

#### **Housing**

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MN Fair Housing Center  
Jobs and Affordable Housing Campaign  
MN Housing Partnership / **MN Right to Home Campaign**  
MN Coalition for Affordable Housing  
Housing Discrimination Law Project,  
Legal Aide Society of Minneapolis  
Simpson Housing Services  
Southside Neighborhood Housing  
Services  
Community Stabilization Project

#### **Education**

MMEP  
Mpls. Public Schools, Community Ed  
HHH Center for School Change,  
Twin Cities Charter School Initiative  
Pacer Center  
WMEP  
Achievement Plus  
Seed Academy/Harvest Preparatory  
School  
Summit Academy/OIC

#### **Community-Focused**

Urban Coalition  
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Mpls. NAACP  
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Northwest Hennepin Human Services  
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Humphrey Forum  
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Mpls NRP  
Mayor's Groups

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Resolution (SPDR)  
Minnesota Facilitators Network (MFN)  
Study Circles Resource Center (SCRC)

#### **ANTI-RACISM**

**Minneapolis Initiative Against Racism**  
**MN CHURCHES ANTI-RACISM Initiative**

**Alliance For Metropolitan  
Stability**