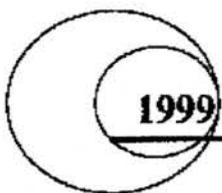




## Education and Housing Equity Project Records.

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# 1999 Cities at Work Community Circle Dialogues

## ATTENDANCE ROSTER

Date 5/4/99

SPONSOR \_\_\_\_\_

LOCATION Merriam Park Library PH# \_\_\_\_\_Facilitator: Marilyn McKnightPh#/Fax/E-mail (612) 835-3688; (612) 835-3689; emi@ericksonmediation.comCo-Facilitator: Mary WinnettPh#/Fax/E-mail (651) 647-5069; (612) 371-0289; mwinnett@justice.comScribe: Cindy CrosbyPh#/Fax/E-mail (612) 835-3688; (612) 835-3689; emi@ericksonmediation.com

### ✓ Meetings

1	2	3	4	5	Name	Address	Phone/Fax
✓	✓		✓	✓	MEGAN GUENINGSMAN	2338 MARSHAL AVE #5B ST. PAUL, MN 55104	651/645-3385
✓		✓	✓	✓	Anna Murphy	2338 MARSHAL AVE #5B ST. PAUL MN 55104	651-645-3385
✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Bob Hopkins	1183 Benton Way Arden Hills MN 55112	651-483-6870
✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Claude Jones	767 N. VICTORIA ST PAUL 55104	651 4872964
✓	✓			✓	Michelle Campa	<del>1220</del> 5331 Barthel Ind. Dr. # 203 Allerthville, MN 55301	612-497-8050

# 1999 Cities at Work Community Circle Dialogues Evaluation Form

## Participant Feedback

This circle dialogue is part of a pilot project. Your thoughtful comments and criticism will be valuable in shaping future community circles. Please take the time to give us your suggestions and ideas.

1. How would you rate your overall experience as a participant in this community circle dialogue:

Terrible	Poor	O.K.	Good	Very Good	Fantastic
1	2	3	4	5	6

2. Please identify one or two things you gained from participating in this community circle.

1. BECAME MORE FAMILIAR WITH LOCAL PROBLEMS  
 2. GOT TO KNOW OTHERS OF SIMILAR VIEWS  
 3. BECAME MORE SENSITIVE TO ISSUES OF RACE

3. What would have made this experience better?

TO HAVE FOCUSED ON ONE OR TWO PRIORITY ISSUES

4. Do you think that your participation in this dialogue will have any effect on your thoughts or actions in the future?

Yes Please describe: MORE of a commitment to local problem  
 No Why not?

5. What issues would you suggest community circle dialogues address in the future?

MAINTAINING STABLE NEIGHBORHOODS  
 ACHIEVING EXCELLENCE IN SCHOOLS

(Over)



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1. How would you rate your overall experience as a participant in this community circle dialogue:

Terrible	Poor	O.K.	Good	Very Good	Fantastic
1	2	3	4	5	6

2. Please identify one or two things you gained from participating in this community circle.

That there are concerns that we might not have the answer for but we are looking for solutions and continue to work on

3. What would have made this experience better?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

4. Do you think that your participation in this dialogue will have any effect on your thoughts or actions in the future?

Yes Please describe: knowing that we continue to work on school & social issues

No Why not? \_\_\_\_\_

5. What issues would you suggest community circle dialogues address in the future?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

(Over)

6. How useful were the discussion materials? Terrible Poor O.K. Good Very Good Fantastic  
1 2 3 4 5 6

7. How could the discussion materials be improved?

FOR THE MOST PART THEY WERE THOROUGH!  
MAYBE LISTING CHANCES TO PARTICIPATE  
IN COMMUNITY OUTREACH PROGRAMS WOULD  
BE GOOD.

8. Overall, how effective was your facilitator? Terrible Poor O.K. Good Very Good Fantastic  
1 2 3 4 5 6

9. What did your facilitator do especially well?

INCLUDED EVERYONE AND GOT DISCUSSIONS GOING  
AND REDIRECTED WHEN IT WAS NEEDED.

10. How could your facilitator be more effective in the future?

EVERYTHING GREAT!!

11. Would you recommend this program to others?

Yes Please describe: EACH PERSON CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE  
 No Why not? \_\_\_\_\_

12. Other comments?

\_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

THANKS!

# 1999 Cities at Work Community Circle Dialogues Evaluation Form

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<i>Terrible</i>	<i>Poor</i>	<i>O.K.</i>	<i>Good</i>	<i>Very Good</i>	<i>Fantastic</i>
1	2	3	4	5	6

2. Please identify one or two things you gained from participating in this community circle.

LISTENING TO OTHERS EXPERIENCES AND VIEWPOINTS  
AND IT GAVE ME A CHANCE TO DIRECTLY SIT  
DOWN AND RETHINK THESE ISSUES AND  
REASONS FOR THESE ISSUE.

3. What would have made this experience better?

FOCUS ON ONE MAIN ISSUE OR TWO.  
HAVE MORE ACTION PLANS.

4. Do you think that your participation in this dialogue will have any effect on your thoughts or actions in the future?

Yes Please describe: I WILL BE MORE APT TO ACT  
WITH MY COMMUNITY.  
 No Why not?

5. What issues would you suggest community circle dialogues address in the future?

TO REACH A WIDER AUDIENCE AND PEOPLE  
WHO ARE MORE DIRECTLY AFFECTED BY  
THESE HUGE ISSUES.

(Over)



# 1999 Cities at Work Community Circle Dialogues Evaluation Form

## Participant Feedback

This circle dialogue is part of a pilot project. Your thoughtful comments and criticism will be valuable in shaping future community circles. Please take the time to give us your suggestions and ideas.

1. How would you rate your overall experience as a participant in this community circle dialogue:

Terrible	Poor	O.K.	<b>Good</b>	Very Good	Fantastic
1	2	3	4	5	6

2. Please identify one or two things you gained from participating in this community circle.

- heard other's ideas and news on issues  
 - learned more about housing & education issues in the St Paul district.

3. What would have made this experience better?

a larger group - action take place - include persons whom issues affect Advertise group.

4. Do you think that your participation in this dialogue will have any effect on your thoughts or actions in the future?

Yes Please describe: more knowledgeable on issues  
 No Why not?

5. What issues would you suggest community circle dialogues address in the future?

teen issues (pregnancy, violence etc)  
 homelessness (shelters avail? etc)

(Over)



# 1999 Cities at Work Community Circle Dialogues Evaluation Form

## Participant Feedback

This circle dialogue is part of a pilot project. Your thoughtful comments and criticism will be valuable in shaping future community circles. Please take the time to give us your suggestions and ideas.

1. How would you rate your overall experience as a participant in this community circle dialogue:

Terrible	Poor	O.K.	Good	Very Good	Fantastic
1	2	3	4	5	6

2. Please identify one or two things you gained from participating in this community circle.

I think this was a really neat group I learned that we can sit down & share ideas w/o agreeing.

3. What would have made this experience better?

More sessions.

4. Do you think that your participation in this dialogue will have any effect on your thoughts or actions in the future?

Yes Please describe: I am interested in more groups like this.  
 No Why not?

5. What issues would you suggest community circle dialogues address in the future?

same ones -- but we need more sessions & need to focus more & get more in depth

(Over)



# Community Circle Report Form

## Session #1: Getting Started

Sponsoring Organization: Hoodwired Pastor Seals / Merriem Park Community Council Date: 3-22-99

Meeting Location: Hoodwired Bldg. Number of Participants: 6

Facilitator: Addi Battica Scribe: Sherilyn Young

Harry Greenberg

\*\*\*\*\*

Please describe two or three main themes or ideas about experiences with racism or segregation which your group discussed today: (1-2 sentences each)

1. Building community is important to us as individuals.

2. Generally we grew up in communities where most everyone was the same race. People watched out for other people's kids. Today's society is not like that. People are afraid to "raise a community" together. Generally we still live in and associate with the same, single race communities.

3. Thinking about race is generally something we do/have done after reaching maturity. We didn't do this much as children or youth.

4. Please use this space to note action ideas, if any, that were mentioned in today's discussion:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

# Community Circle Report Form

Session #2: What are the reasons for segregation in the Twin Cities?

Sponsoring Organization: Goodwill / Easter Seals Date: 3/29/99

Meeting Location: Como Goodwill Number of Participants: 10

Facilitator: Harry Scribe: Teq Getman

\*\*\*\*\*

Please describe two or three main themes or ideas about the reasons for segregation in the Twin Cities that your group discussed today: (1-2 sentences each)

1. There seems to be prejudice/prioritization by some landlords and realtors which interfere with minorities finding housing in certain areas.
2. There is limited public transportation in the Twin Cities. The poor (heavily minority) often need to live near bus routes and often don't have easy access to transportation to good jobs which are often in the suburbs.
3. The greatest segregation and obstacles may be ~~for~~ <sup>faced by</sup> single minority mothers. A major contributing factor is the high incarceration rate for minority men (especially adolescent males).
4. Please use this space to note action ideas, if any, that were mentioned in today's discussion:  
Many of us take white privilege for granted; it's hard for us to "see" it.
5. <sup>Being in the</sup> Majority does not always give us rights
6. We may have to have an uneven playing field for a while.
7. It was suggested that we all evaluate our personal friendship circles and, if they are not mixed, consider why and evaluate what we are doing about it.

# Community Circle Report Form

Session #3: How can we address the housing challenges in the Twin Cities?

Sponsoring Organization: Goodwill/Easter Seals Date: 4-12-99

Meeting Location: Corporate Headquarters Number of Participants: 10

Facilitator: Larry Greenberg Scribe: Deana Hiceth

\*\*\*\*\*

Please describe two or three main themes or ideas about the housing challenges we face in the Twin Cities that your group discussed today: (1-2 sentences each)

1. Enforcing anti-discrimination laws is very important and needs to be consistent as other areas are explored and worked on.

2. We shouldn't overlook the role of the economic marketplace. Could corporations take on the burden of building affordable housing? Perhaps they could take homes they buy and turn them around.

3. We should invest in the construction & preservation of affordable housing. (Good) used buildings are being taken down that could be rehabilitated. It might provide for better landlords.

Example: Habitat for Humanity  
4. Churches - Home of Hope Presbyterian Church/Churches in Chicago  
Please use this space to note action ideas, if any, that were mentioned in today's discussion:

a. Look into state land use planning. (Oregon)  
Look into mass transit.

b. Create dialogue with public officials or decision makers about more affordable housing.

c. People are leaving out of the Cities because of high property taxes. Redesign the tax system. Non-homebased tax rates are so high.

d. Encourage developer with new things or low tax rates, including use of condemnation proceedings & building partnerships.

# Community Circle Report Form

## Session 4: What can we do about the achievement gap in our public schools?

Sponsoring Organization: Goodwill/Easter Seals      Date: April 19, 1999

Meeting Location: Goodwill/Easter Seals      Number of Participants: 8

Facilitator: Harry Greenberg      Scribe: Diana Huseth

\*\*\*\*\*

Main themes or ideas about the achievement gap in our schools.

1. Schools should be in neighborhoods ;close to home. Parent involvement would be better.
2. Perhaps busing offers choice, but advantages children gain more.
3. Charter schools make a lot of promises. All in all they are too new and people aren't convinced if they provide quality education.
4. Not one group participant believed in vouchers for private school education.
5. Private schools are breaking the back of public schools. Also few scholarships are available to attend private schools.
6. Money might be the same, in many school districts but the needs are not.
7. Having mentors and role models of color for children are so important. It is necessary for some students and should be supported. When we teach culture, we use the 'tourist method". (Look at the Seed Academy) We cannot forget that math and science need to be taught.
8. Separate grades 1,2,3. Focus on them to give everyone an even chance. These years are so important.
9. Number 8 about reversing the patterns of de facto residential segregation to truly desegregate schools is the best long term solution, but other things need to happen in the meantime. Discrimination laws need to be enforced.
10. Test have cultural bias. Setting up competitive standards creates a deterrent.

## Action Ideas:

- Look at resources (business and community) to supplement instruction.
- "Do unto others as they want to be done unto."
- Improve teacher training.
- Get ride of bad teachers.
- Everyone needs to take advantage of teachable moments, especially with children.
- Schools are too big (class size and the schools)
- Run schools more as businesses.
- Partner with businesses.
- Have grade level center schools; each grade level has different needs.
- Encourage parent involvement. Have employers allow parents time off to volunteer with schools.
- Follow some discipline policies.
- Get everyone on the same page.
- Look at financing of schools.
- Plan for life as it is today; not the past.

# Community Circle Report Form

## Session # 5: Making a Difference

Sponsoring Organization: C/E S Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Meeting Location: \_\_\_\_\_ Number of Participants: \_\_\_\_\_

Facilitator: \_\_\_\_\_ Scribe: \_\_\_\_\_

\*\*\*\*\*

While there may not be consensus within your group about how to best address some of the challenges discussed, there may be ideas or solutions which have emerged over the last few weeks and are supported by most participants.

1. What are two or three of the most powerful steps *individuals* can take to make a difference?

broader personal social circles

shop/<sup>eat</sup> at minority owned businesses

2. What are two or three of the most powerful steps *groups or organizations* can take to make a difference?

broader diversity / address related issues

encourage schools and other agencies  
to sponsor community circles

(over)

# Community Circle Report Form

## Session # 5: Making a Difference

Sponsoring Organization: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: 4-26-99

Meeting Location: Cyrene will Easter Seals Number of Participants: 8-12

Facilitator: Harry Scribe: \_\_\_\_\_

\*\*\*\*\*

While there may not be consensus within your group about how to best address some of the challenges discussed, there may be ideas or solutions which have emerged over the last few weeks and are supported by most participants.

1. What are two or three of the most powerful steps *individuals* can take to make a difference?

Stop the violence.  
Get more Involved in your Community, Your Neighborhood  
as you see things going on.  
Do

2. What are two or three of the most powerful steps *groups or organizations* can take to make a difference?

They can donate money's that is taxable.  
Open up to change for growth in the communities.  
Except your part as a citizen

(over)

(Session #5 report form continued)

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3. What are two or three of the most powerful steps our community or region can take to make a difference?

Stop making weapons acceptable.  
build the community and stop tearing it down

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4. What are some of the things participants said they would do differently in the future as a result of being part of this community circle dialogue?

I am very worried about the housing issue. I grew up poor and without a lot of common things, but when you see the hardship of the world and the racism, prejudice, these are things that would decrease when people can have a little more pride.

# Community Circle Report Form

## Session # 5: Making a Difference

Sponsoring Organization: C/ES Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Meeting Location: \_\_\_\_\_ Number of Participants: \_\_\_\_\_

Facilitator: \_\_\_\_\_ Scribe: \_\_\_\_\_

\*\*\*\*\*

While there may not be consensus within your group about how to best address some of the challenges discussed, there may be ideas or solutions which have emerged over the last few weeks and are supported by most participants.

1. What are two or three of the most powerful steps *individuals* can take to make a difference?

\* Reachout to an organization or group, or person that's different from your dominant group...

\* Speak out more!!

2. What are two or three of the most powerful steps *groups or organizations* can take to make a difference?

\* Start Community Circles in at the middle school level and H.S. level to discuss and deal w/ relevant issues...

\* Start dialogue at nursing homes and community centers, etc. (over)

(Session #5 report form continued)

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3. What are two or three of the most powerful steps our community or region can take to make a difference?

1 Sponsor a year-long push to involve MANY groups - through schools, churches, work places - start at the discussion level

4. What are some of the things participants said they would do differently in the future as a result of being part of this community circle dialogue?

- get involved in Citizens' League  
- broaden <sup>diversity of</sup> social circle

# Community Circle Report Form

## Session # 5: Making a Difference

Sponsoring Organization: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: 4-26-99

Meeting Location: Goodwill Easter Seals Number of Participants: 8-12

Facilitator: Harry Scribe: \_\_\_\_\_

\*\*\*\*\*

While there may not be consensus within your group about how to best address some of the challenges discussed, there may be ideas or solutions which have emerged over the last few weeks and are supported by most participants.

1. What are two or three of the most powerful steps *individuals* can take to make a difference?

Stop the violence.  
Get more involved in your community, your neighborhood  
as you see things going on.  
Do

2. What are two or three of the most powerful steps *groups or organizations* can take to make a difference?

They can donate money's that is taxable.  
Open up to change for growth in the communities.  
Except your part as a citizen

(over)

# Community Circle Report Form

## Session # 5: Making a Difference

Sponsoring Organization: C/ES Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Meeting Location: \_\_\_\_\_ Number of Participants: \_\_\_\_\_

Facilitator: \_\_\_\_\_ Scribe: \_\_\_\_\_

\*\*\*\*\*

While there may not be consensus within your group about how to best address some of the challenges discussed, there may be ideas or solutions which have emerged over the last few weeks and are supported by most participants.

1. What are two or three of the most powerful steps *individuals* can take to make a difference?

\* Reachout to an organization or group, or person that's different from your dominant group...

\* Spent out more!!

2. What are two or three of the most powerful steps *groups or organizations* can take to make a difference?

\* Start Community Circles in at the middle school level and H.S. level to discuss and deal w/ relevant issues...

\* Start dialogue at nursing homes and community centers, etc. (over)

(Session #5 report form continued)

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3. What are two or three of the most powerful steps our community or region can take to make a difference?

\* Stop talking and start doing!

\* Educate our youth on all these topics from "Real people!"

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4. What are some of the things participants said they would do differently in the future as a result of being part of this community circle dialogue?

\* Continue sharing thoughts & ideas with others!

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# Community Circle Report Form

## Session # 5: Making a Difference

Sponsoring Organization: C/ES Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Meeting Location: \_\_\_\_\_ Number of Participants: \_\_\_\_\_

Facilitator: \_\_\_\_\_ Scribe: \_\_\_\_\_

\*\*\*\*\*

While there may not be consensus within your group about how to best address some of the challenges discussed, there may be ideas or solutions which have emerged over the last few weeks and are supported by most participants.

1. What are two or three of the most powerful steps *individuals* can take to make a difference?

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2. What are two or three of the most powerful steps *groups or organizations* can take to make a difference?

Partners - LEARN from one another.  
Leverage each others strengths to  
~~ABILITIES~~ maximize potential -  
By joining forces

(over)

Do some common  
in an uncommon way  
Go to a Hmong Funeral -  
VISIT A Black Church -

(Session #5 report form continued)

3. What are two or three of the most powerful steps our community or region can take to make a difference?

work together on regional problems  
i.e. Metro Council - More commitment &  
dedication to jointly solving & examining the  
CRITICAL issues that affect all of us in  
one way or another

4. What are some of the things participants said they would do differently in the future as a result of being part of this community circle dialogue?

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# Community Circle Report Form

## Session # 5: Making a Difference

Sponsoring Organization: G/ES Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Meeting Location: \_\_\_\_\_ Number of Participants: \_\_\_\_\_

Facilitator: \_\_\_\_\_ Scribe: \_\_\_\_\_

\*\*\*\*\*

While there may not be consensus within your group about how to best address some of the challenges discussed, there may be ideas or solutions which have emerged over the last few weeks and are supported by most participants.

**1. What are two or three of the most powerful steps individuals can take to make a difference?**

- a. Invite city council members to come as a citizen to a community circle.
- b. Get to know people and individuals.
- c. Participate in other circles.
- d. Join advocacy groups.
- e. Recommend attending circles to others.
- f. Validate the good.
- g. Become active in faith & school groups.

**2. What are two or three of the most powerful steps groups or organizations can take to make a difference?**

Organizations should work together & support one another.

Many are seen in the agendas of organizations work together not to have affirmative action

(over)

(Session #5 report form continued)

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3. What are two or three of the most powerful steps our community or region can take to make a difference?

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4. What are some of the things participants said they would do differently in the future as a result of being part of this community circle dialogue?

*Attend "Citizens At Work"*

*Become part of another circle.*

*Speak out more.*

*Join groups & work for change.*

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Community Circles  
Final Session: Making a Difference What is the Community's Responsibility?  
Bryant Square Park  
Thursday, November 19, 1998  
Recorder: Lynette Utez  
Facilitator: Bill Hannon

***The following is the summary from the Community Circles group that met for several weeks, at Bryant Square Park, to examine the challenges surrounding the issues of education, housing, and segregation in the Twin Cities Metro area. The following notes are a summation of the groups' discussions that took place over the weeks.***

**QUESTION:** What were some of the main area of agreement in your discussions over the last few weeks?

1. Busing is not a solution
2. We need to have a positive attitude towards our schools
3. We shouldn't blame the kids. Any child would have troubles if put into the environment some kids live in (i.e. poverty, single parents)

**QUESTION:** In thinking back to the past sessions, what seemed to be the key ingredients of the solutions you chose?

**Session 2:** Consensus was on Viewpoint #3 (Institutional racism in housing, hiring and education leads to inequities) as the biggest factor, although, all viewpoints could be included as *part* of the problems.

**Session 3:** Consensus on viewpoint #4 (Reinvest in the core cities and inner-ring suburbs) although challenged the idea of homeownership as the only means of investing in the core cities.

Also viewpoint #5 (Focus on jobs and transportation). There was discussion around the perception of a contradiction of corporate subsidies and living wages NOT being paid to employees. Wondered if we are allocating our subsidies appropriately in a way that reflects communities needs and values.

Consensus was also on part of viewpoint #7. They didn't like the title of the viewpoint (let the market regulate itself) but rather liked the last sentence of the description – "If government would stop over-regulating land use and eliminate unnecessary administrative processes for builders, building affordable housing would be more appealing to the private sector and more units would be built. "