



## SIX COMPONENTS OF CIRCLE

### Opening/Closing:

Marks the beginning and ending to the safe space that is created in Circle.

### Talking Piece:

Demonstrates that each person has equal opportunity to speak and be heard.

### Guidelines:

Made from our core values, each circle will be able to set a standard for how participants will conduct themselves in Circle.

### Consensus:

Group must come to a decision that all can agree to live with, and accept what decision is made together in circle.

### Storytelling:

When sharing our individual stories we present opportunities for others to connect with us, find common ground, and grow in relationship.

### Circle Keeping:

Is a shared leadership in order to empower all members of the circle.

## YOU CAN MAKE A POSITIVE DIFFERENCE IN MANY LIVES!

If you are interested in volunteering with the Restorative Justice Community Circles program, please contact us today.

**Renville County  
Restorative Justice**

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**Renville**  
COUNTY  
Service · Stewardship · Shared Responsibility

# Renville COUNTY Restorative Justice



**Community  
Circles**

## What is Restorative Justice?

Restorative Justice is a philosophy, point of view, and, for some, a way of life that uses structured processes such as Circles, or Conferencing for organizing effective group communication, building relationships to hold people accountable in problem solving the situation that brought them here.

## A Circle is a Circle...



Regardless of the reason the Circle is brought together, each Circle serves the same purpose; to provide

support, build relationships and hold each other accountable. The guidelines created in Circle foster a safe space to have difficult conversations; therefore, the name of the Circle does not limit the possibilities.

- Sharon Hendrichs and Jessi Jeppeson,  
YMC Restorative Justice

## Mission:

Acting through the Circle, all members of the Circle will play an equal role in encouraging and assisting participants to identify and enhance their strengths while holding them accountable.

## Community Volunteers Needed

You would have a key role in mentoring, and affecting positive change for those involved in the program. This is an opportunity to take a preventative and educational approach in efforts to keep families together.

## When and Where

Generally, Circle will meet twice a month, with each Circle lasting about two hours.

As the program gets started, Circles will meet in Olivia, in the basement conference rooms of the Renville County Government Services Center.

## The Outcomes We All Want

To jump into action and find solutions is a natural reaction for many. In order to do this successfully, the Circle process emphasizes the time needed to first establish a relationship in order to build trust prior to addressing issues, and then identifying solutions together.

## Referrals Sources

- Human Services
- Probation
- Attorney's office
- Courts
- Local Law enforcement
- Schools
- Community

## Voluntary for All Participants

- Participation is completely voluntary for all referrals.
- Circles are not a case requirement.
- Circles are not mandated by the court.
- Families or individuals are able to withdraw at any time after acceptance into the process.



***"I saw a lot of things from different perspectives. It was nice to hear what others had to say, look at things their way, and keep an open mind. You find out a lot about yourself too!"***

**- 2019 Volunteer**