

# A WIDER CIRCLE

A unique, holistic approach to ending poverty

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To Our Great Volunteers,

Since 2001, A Wider Circle has served over 85,000 of this region's most vulnerable children and adults- using an efficient, low-cost system of transferring items from families that have more than they need to families that have nothing.

The key to our organization's work is unquestionably volunteers. The following excerpt is an example of the impact our volunteers make in the lives of these families:

***"I am watching my kids sleep on their beds right now. They are five and six years old and this is the first night they have slept on a bed."***

**Mary, A Wider Circle client and mother of two**

Today, you will have the opportunity to help individuals like Mary who are working hard to get out of poverty. Volunteer opportunities in our Neighbor-to-Neighbor Program might include:

- going out on a truck to collect furniture from donors
- cleaning and organizing certain areas in the storage facility
- sorting donations of furniture and household goods
- helping families select and load furniture onto trucks to take to their homes

The economic downturn has hit our region's impoverished families the hardest, and we have seen demand increase sharply for our Neighbor-to-Neighbor Program. We now have more than 1,000 families on our waiting list to receive life's essentials. Now, more than ever, your time is crucial in helping these families raise themselves out of poverty.

Thank you for volunteering; be sure to sign in and fill out a volunteer waiver and an information sheet before you start. Please consider coming again; we welcome volunteers any day of the week!

Thanks for being part of the solution,



Mark Bergel, Ph.D.  
Founder, Executive Director  
A Wider Circle

As a complement to our furniture distribution program - and in response to growing requests for support from those we serve - we are collecting *The Essentials*:

**Healthy non-perishable food**

- Whole grain pasta
- Pasta sauce
- Brown rice
- Low-sodium canned beans
- Dried beans and lentils
- Low-sodium vegetable soup
- Low-sugar oatmeal
- Low-sodium canned vegetables

**Personal care items**

- Soap
- Toothpaste and toothbrushes
- Wet wipes
- Toilet paper
- Deodorant
- Lotion
- Shampoo

**Non-toxic cleaning supplies**

- Dish soap
- Sponges
- Toilet cleaner and brushes
- Laundry detergent
- Cleaning sprays
- Mops and Brooms

We welcome donations of these items in new condition- unopened please.

A great project for SSL hours,  
scout troops, families, religious groups,  
schools and more!



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## Neighbor-to-Neighbor Volunteer Information Sheet

Thank you for volunteering with A Wider Circle's Neighbor-to-Neighbor Program! Like all of our programs, the success of Neighbor-to-Neighbor depends largely upon volunteers like you.

Every day, A Wider Circle receives hundreds of phone calls from families that are living without the basic need items that many of us take for granted: beds, dressers, kitchen tables etc. By collecting furniture and home goods from local donors, we are able to furnish the homes of families moving out of homeless shelters, displaced by tragic circumstances or other low income situations. Your help today allows us to serve more of our neighbors in need.

**As you work today, please keep the following guidelines in mind:**

- **Please be respectful and courteous to all people at all times. When you are here, remember that you represent A Wider Circle. This means not engaging in potential offensive behavior including cursing, horseplay and wearing clothes that are potentially offensive.**
- **Communication should be professional at all times. Everyone is here to serve and help others, and that should be the spirit of every interaction – with donors, clients, and other volunteers.**
- **Slow down! Rushing to unpack and move items causes injury to people and furniture.**
- **Remember to lift items properly (with your knees, not your back), and to take breaks when you need them.**
- **Be kind to the floor and walls. Please do not drag furniture as it may scuff or damage the floor. Maneuvering items can be tricky; please be patient and plan accordingly.**
- **Please do not fill empty shelves with items that don't belong there. If there is no space in the designated area, please ask a staff member for assistance.**
- **If a piece of furniture is taken apart, please tape together and label all of the pieces. Disassembled and unlabeled items are not selected by our clients and are eventually trashed.**
- **Remember, you are not expected to be an expert. If you are uncertain of anything, please ask a staff member, intern, or an experienced volunteer for help.**

Again, thank you for taking your time to help others through A Wider Circle!

I have read these statements and by initialing below, I agree to adhere to these guidelines.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Initials

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

## Neighbor-to-Neighbor Volunteer Waiver

Please initial next to each of the following statements:

\_\_\_\_\_ I understand that volunteering with the Neighbor-to-Neighbor Program poses the risk of accident, injury, death, and property damage, and, therefore, volunteers are required to follow the instructions of A Wider Circle staff and interns at all times. Volunteers may be asked to carry heavy items, work in areas with low vertical clearance, operate vehicles, and perform other tasks that can be considered dangerous. By signing this form, I verify that I understand that I am exposing myself or my child to accident, injury, death, and property damage through volunteering with the Neighbor-to-Neighbor Program.

\_\_\_\_\_ I understand that illegal use of a controlled substance will not be tolerated. Any volunteer possessing or using a controlled substance will be required to immediately leave the premises.

\_\_\_\_\_ I have disclosed any pertinent information regarding any criminal background, and understand fully that A Wider Circle has a zero tolerance policy for drugs, alcohol, sexual harassment, criminal activity and unprofessional communication while you are associated with the organization.

\_\_\_\_\_ I have read and initialed the volunteer information sheet.

\_\_\_\_\_ I agree that A Wider Circle may take photographs of myself or my child and use these images to promote the purposes of A Wider Circle with no compensation due to me. ( Check here if you would prefer NOT to have you or your child's photograph taken.)

I shall at all times indemnify, defend, and save A Wider Circle and its agents harmless from, any and all damages, losses, claims, including claims and actions relating to injury to or death of any person or damage to property, demands, suits, recoveries, costs and expenses, court costs, attorney fees, and all other obligations by or to third parties, arising out of or resulting from participation in A Wider Circle's aforementioned activity, except in cases of gross negligence or intentional wrongdoing by A Wider Circle or its agent.

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Signature of Volunteer OR Parent/Legal Guardian if under 18*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Date*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Print Name of Volunteer & Parent/Legal Guardian if under 18*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Please do not add me to your email list.  Please do not add me to your mailing list. (approx. 3 mailings per year)

How did you hear about A Wider Circle? \_\_\_\_\_

Please check the box that corresponds to your age:  5-12  13-17  18-25  26-49  50-64  65+

**In the event of an emergency, the following person should be contacted:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Name of contact (print)*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Relationship*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Phone*

**Parental Consent (for volunteers under 18 unaccompanied by an adult):**

\_\_\_\_\_ has my permission to participate in this A Wider Circle event.

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Name of volunteer*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Signature of Parent/Legal Guardian*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Date*