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[Volunteer Spotlight: Community Services Circles Campaign](#)



Lola Freeland, a local small business owner, started volunteering with Circles in September 2010 and since then she believes she has become a “joy junkie” because of the amazing experience she is having being a Circle Ally volunteer.

The Circles Campaign is an innovative national movement to end poverty in our community, one family at a time. Allies work with Circle Leaders and Circle Leaders are the head of a family in poverty who has gone through a 15 week training course and is ready to lead their family out of poverty. Rather than providing financial or material support for people leaving poverty, the Circles Campaign focuses on developing social capital (primarily relationships and resources) in support of long-term empowerment and self-sufficiency. Lola started because helping someone get out of poverty was something that she was interested in and she thought that the commitment of two meetings a month (about 6-12 hours) was something she could work into her busy schedule as the proprietor of her own business/life coaching operation. Now, she attends almost every meeting that she can and she often talks to her Circle Leader more than a few times a week by phone or email. She calls herself a “joy junkie” because her time with Circles has provided so many moments of joy that have become addicting. Her Circle Leader has made great advances in her quest to leave poverty behind and with the help of Lola and her other Allies. She has even become a small business owner since June of this year and will be focusing on expanding her business with the help of her Allies.

Lola says that her job as an Ally is to be open and listen very closely and clearly to what the Circle Leader says is important to her. From that listening, she says the goal and direction will naturally present themselves. Then the next step is to support the Circle Leader in whichever way possible. In all this, Lola knows that one of the most fundamental principles of being an Ally is creating a bond with the Circle Leader. In the case of Lola that bonding experience has been one of the largest joys of being involved with Circles.

To find out more about being an Ally, contact Eliberto Mendoza – Circles Coordinator – at 303.441.1503 or email at emendoza@bouldercounty.org . For more information about Circles visit our website at www.bouldercountycircles.org