



join the

circle

We are looking for volunteers particularly from the faith community who can commit themselves to walking with ex-offenders in their quest to lead a new life.

We need 4-6 volunteers for each circle. The initial 2-3 months may require 1-2 commitments per week.

As the ex-offender adjusts, the demands on each member decrease. A minimum of twice a month contact is necessary for several years.

If you can help, please contact:

MCC Ontario Circles of Support & Accountability

Toronto Office
6 Trinity Square, 3rd Floor
Toronto, ON M5G 1B1
Phone: (416) 596-9341
Email: mcccos@look.ca

Peterborough Contact
Phone: (705) 741-4172
Email: mcccos@look.ca

Hamilton Contact
Phone: (905) 522-7653
Email: mcccos@look.ca

Volunteers Needed



Building safer communities by providing circles of support and accountability for released sex offenders.



A project of
Mennonite
Central Committee
Ontario

Circles of Support & Accountability

is a project of the Mennonite Central Committee Ontario that seeks to reduce the risk of re-offense by released ex-offenders, to ease their transition into the community, and to open an avenue for victims in their journey toward restoration and healing.

Community

The risk for the community lies in the possibility of re-offense. Our first concern is the safety of the community, as sexual offenses against children are among the most abhorrent.

Victim/s

We recognize the need to create safe places for victims of sexual offenses to seek support and begin healing.

Ex-offender

We endeavour to hold him accountable to the terms of his voluntary covenant for responsible behaviour, and to support him in making a healthy reintegration into the community.

Circles:

A covenant relationship

The Project involves volunteers from the community forming a “Circle of Support and Accountability” to allow for the safe reintegration of offenders released without supervision.

For its part, the circle helps provide a healthy environment for the ex-offender. It also fulfills a number of roles including:

Advocating

with various systems. The circle co-operates with the police, neighbourhood groups, victims and professionals.

Confronting

the ex-offender, when necessary, about his attitude and behaviour.

Walking

with him through emergencies.

Mediating

community concerns.

Celebrating

anniversaries and milestones and all the small victories in a person’s journey to reintegration.

Guiding Principles

We affirm that the community bears a responsibility for the reintegration of offenders and the restoration of victims.

We believe in a loving and reconciling God who calls us to be agents of healing work in this world.

We acknowledge the ongoing pain and need for healing of victims of sexual abuse.

We welcome the offender into community with accountability. We seek to “re-create community” in responsible, safe, healthy, and life-giving ways.

We accept God’s call to radical hospitality, sharing our lives with one another in community and taking risks in the service of love.

the Circle

The circle serves both as a caring community, offering support, and as a responsible community, concerned that public safety not be compromised.