



What they're saying about Giving Circles...

There are more than 400 giving circles in the US, with more than 12,000 participating donors, who have given away more than \$100,000,000. Giving circles are a formidable and growing force in community philanthropy. These quotes convey how some of these donors describe or define the giving circle model:

"...a giving circle can be a place for real conversations in order to fashion collective solutions..."

"...the difference between giving circles and giving to the United Way is that there is transparency. I own the process..."

"...a giving circle is a group who leverage their personal time, talents, and treasure to address social issues in their communities using thoughtful giving strategies..."

"...Collective giving models are a viable and effective way to help broaden the field of philanthropy to reflect the nation's changing demographics and provide and access ramp for groups that have organized their combined giving outside of institutional philanthropy's esoteric world."

The Impacts of Giving Together: Giving Circles as a Civic Engagement Strategy, The Community Investment Network, www.thecommunityinvestment.org

Members of COLA Gives, an emerging African American giving circle located in Columbia, SC, share their vision of their collective efforts:

"...a group of concerned individuals who have come together to combine their assets to "Bless" worthy non-profits with their time, talent and /or financial support..."

"...a newly created organization whose objective is to provide funds for organizations, small groups, or persons who need assistance to enhance mission."

"...a creative, non-bureaucratic, relatively low-cost and effective way to address localized needs, where the relationship between donor and recipient is both real and mutually beneficial."