



Introducing the Alternatives, Inc. Ambassadors Circle

As Alternatives, Inc. works to Expand the Circle of its programs and services, we ask that you join our Ambassadors Circle.

"I've learned that I am not alone and there are people that can help me."

- Counseling Participant

"What I've done in Urban Arts is show how much potential I have!" -Urban Arts Participant

Alternatives, Inc.

Since 1971, Alternatives, Inc. has been a leader and innovator among Chicago's youth-serving organizations.

Alternatives, Inc. empowers Chicago youth to build safer and more vibrant communities through a combination of youth development programs and counseling services. These programs and services impact more than 4,000 youth each year. We need your support to expand and build a more peaceful and equitable Chicago!

What is the Ambassadors Circle?

Alternatives' Ambassadors Circle is a group of committed individual donors who generously support Alternatives, Inc. with annual gifts of \$1,000 or more.

The strength of Alternatives' Ambassadors Circle comes from harnessing collective impact. It is a community of supporters who share a commitment to youth voice, youth leadership, and youth potential.

Alternatives, Inc. thrives when surrounded by your support

By joining Alternatives' Ambassadors Circle today, you will support our growth through the Expanding the Circle campaign. This campaign will enable us to provide our impactful programs and services to even more Chicagoans and open a new center on Chicago's South Side.

Expanding the Circle means working with youth and families to build a more peaceful and equitable Chicago.

Expanding the CIRCLE

For more information about the programs and services of Alternatives, Inc., please visit: www.alternativesyouth.org

We rely on support from engaged donors just like you. Please help Alternatives, Inc. Expand the Circle by becoming a member of the Ambassadors Circle today!

"I think the best thing I've done was helping to facilitate a circle that came to a positive solution. The best part is the encouragement from everyone to keep growing and improving. There was a lot of positive energy!"

- Restorative Justice Participant



The Practice of Circles

Circles are an important practice within all of Alternatives' programs and services. Circles both symbolize and generate many things that we value -- continuity, connection, healing, support, growth.

The practice of Circles brings people together for open and honest communication about significant issues or conflicts. Participants sit in a Circle and a trained Circle Keeper facilitates discussion by posing questions to the group. Going around the Circle one at a time, each participant has the opportunity to share his or her perspective and personal reflection without interruption.

Circles can nurture relationships in any setting (classroom, family, community, etc.). Participants learn how to listen without judgment and become vulnerable in the process of recognizing themselves in another person's story, which encourages healing. The deliberate structure of the Circle creates a space that fosters personal reflection, authentic dialogue, and positive solutions.

How are Ambassadors recognized?

- Special briefings on the organization's plans and activities through annual meetings
- Quarterly updates on our programs and plans
- Opportunities to visit our programs and speak with youth participants
- Invitations to program events and activities
- Special recognition in annual reports (unless anonymity is requested)

How does the Ambassadors Circle help Alternatives, Inc. and Chicago's youth?

Your support as a member of Alternatives' Ambassadors Circle will strengthen strategic investments in:

- Innovation to stay responsive to youth
- **Evaluation** to measure our impact and continually improve our programs
- Infrastructure to scale-up and improve efficiency
- **Communications** to amplify our work

Expanding the CIRCLE

For more information about the Alternatives, Inc. Ambassadors Circle, please contact:

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