

# BRIDGING FORWARD ALLY JOB DESCRIPTION

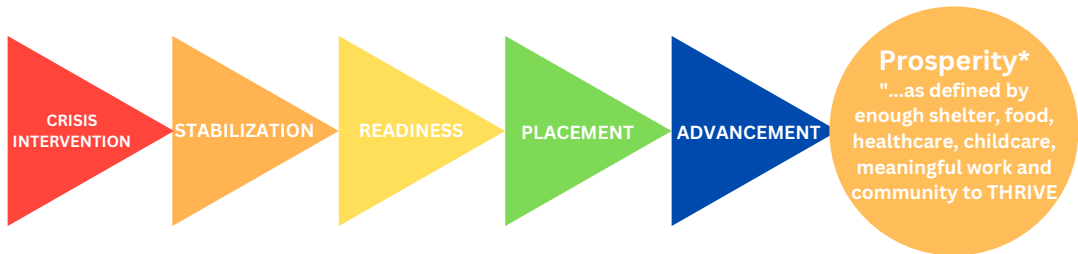
**ALLY: AN ALLY IS A VOLUNTEER IN THE COMMUNITY THAT ASSISTS A CIRCLE LEADER, THE PARTICIPANT, IN ACHIEVING THEIR GOALS TO LEAVE POVERTY BEHIND.**

## What is Bridging Forward?

An intensive initiative to reduce poverty 30% by 2030 and build community within South Central Nebraska. Bridging Forward is a wonderful way to connect, build relationships among a diverse group of people and have an opportunity to make a real difference. "Circle Leaders" are Bridging Forward participants who are committed to increasing their personal and financial stability, enhancing their own and their family's well being while helping others do the same. They are matched with volunteer Allies who walk alongside them and support their work on a Prosperity Pathway, while creating an intentional friendship. All that are involved have support from over 40 area nonprofits, programs and community groups.

## Poverty Alleviation System

Bridging Forward is built on a Poverty Alleviation Model that capitalizes on community-wide support for under-employed individuals with a goal of increasing monthly income for families. The model begins with identifying the needs and location of the Circle Leader along the Prosperity Pathway, as seen below. The Leaders, Allies and knowledgeable professionals work together using an intentional plan to 'bridge forward' into the next stage of their journey.



Info Session Sign Up:

<https://bit.ly/3TaK9PI>



### The Ally Commitment when you say YES:

- Take part in Ally Training
  - 2-3 hours online training at your pace
- Attend Matched Circle meetings every other Monday, 5:30-7:30 pm

### Info Session sign-up dates:

- March 18th, 5:00p-6:30 pm
  - Peace Lutheran Church
  - 906 N. California, south doors
  - dinner provided
- March 19th, 5:00p-6:30 pm
  - Grace United Methodist
  - 1832 W 9th, west doors
  - dinner provided
- March 25th, 5:00p-6:30 pm
  - Peace Lutheran Church
  - 906 N. California, south doors
  - dinner provided
- April 1st, 5:00p-6:30 pm
  - Peace Lutheran Church
  - 906 N. California, south doors
  - dinner provided
- April 2nd, 5:00p-6:30 pm
  - Grace United Methodist
  - 1832 W 9th, west doors
  - dinner provided

### Support you will receive as an Ally:

- In-depth training, peer support and ongoing brainstorming for resources in the community from the team
- Being part of a community committed to lifting each other up and working together
- Support from past Circle Leaders to provide context and different perspectives from their own lived experiences
- Bridging Forward Staff and Resource Teams available to answer questions and provide guidance wherever needed for support

### What the Circle Leaders will appreciate:

- Meeting someone new who is also just like they are; anxious about building new relationships, trying out something challenging, being a little nervous
- Working with someone who will stick it out! Saying 'yes' to being an Ally means you will be there through thick and thin for one year
- Being with someone who can introduce themselves as who they are, not just what they do
- Working with someone who can be themselves and come as they are to the meetings, just as the Circle Leaders do
- Teaming up with someone who is interested and willing to support

### Still considering becoming an Ally?

- YOU can make a difference in the community.
- YOU can build a lasting relationship and meet people from all walks of life.
- YOU can be part of someone's support system by walking alongside them.
- Allies must maintain confidentiality and respect for their Circle Leaders. This includes non-judgmental conversations about faith and other sensitive topics.

*"I became an Ally because I wanted to help others in our community. I had no idea how much it would impact me personally! I strongly recommend everyone become an Ally!"*

Bridging Forward Ally

*"Bridging Forward has made a difference for me, my kids and my outlook. I have gotten a better job and no longer stress about where our food is going to come from."*

Bridging Forward Participant