

Why Diversity Circles?

"Manitowoc County has always been culturally diverse. The first people who made this area their home came from all over the European continent. This heritage provides us with a rich background, and the understanding that we do need each other. As different cultures get together to discuss common areas of beliefs and concerns, it can only strengthen our commitment to growing together. Working with each other will move our great county in only one direction-forward!"

*Jim Brey, Chairperson
Manitowoc County Board of Supervisors*

"I feel I am not alone now".

Diversity Circle Participant

"I would like to thank you ... for all the hard work you are doing to bring our community together, no matter what background we are from. It is a pleasure to be part of the diversity circle, and an honor to meet a wonderful group of people who all have same common goals."

Diversity Circle Participant

"Diversity Circles give us a chance to witness our own history repeat all over again for a new generation of families that will become the building blocks of life in our community."

*Bob Ziegelbauer
Manitowoc County Executive*

Ways to Get Involved in Diversity Circles

To become a trained Diversity Circles facilitator, or to make a donation to Diversity Circles, contact:

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Manitowoc County Diversity Circles



Building a Dynamic and Diverse Community

Coordinated by
Manitowoc County UW-Extension and
UW-Manitowoc



What is a Diversity Circle?

A Diversity Circle is a tool to build and strengthen our dynamic, diverse, growing, and changing communities in Manitowoc County. The Circles are coordinated by Manitowoc County UW-Extension and UW-Manitowoc with dozens of community, civic, business, and educational institutions providing support for this effort.

How Does It Work?

Utilizing curriculum from the National Study Circle Center, two trained facilitators lead a group of 8 - 12 residents, engaging them in an open dialogue about racial, ethnic, and cultural aspects of life in Manitowoc County. Discussion is respectful of all beliefs, attitudes, and cultures, and is intended to increase understanding.

Several community residents across Wisconsin and the country are currently conducting Diversity Circles. Manitowoc County began its commitment to this community-based effort in 2005. Since then, hundreds of residents have expressed their commitment to the effort by volunteering time, attending an Action Forum, joining a committee, and/or participating in a Circle.

The Mission of Diversity

Circles is to strengthen the county by engaging diverse citizens in dialogue that focuses on racial issues ... fostering understanding, awareness, cooperation, and community involvement among all residents of Manitowoc County. This mission includes all members of the county in dialogue - people diverse by race, ethnicity, age, gender, religion, socioeconomic level, sexual orientation, political affiliation, and every other dimension of human identity.

Diversity Circle Goals

To build a sense of community within Manitowoc County, across racial and ethnic lines, reducing current or future tensions.

To develop solutions to current or future concerns via a diverse countywide network of people.

To benefit and enrich our county through innovative communication and newly formed relationships.

How Do I Get More Information?

To learn more about Circles, go on line at

manitowocdiversitycircles.org

or contact

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Registrations can be made on line using the web address above.

Translation services are available upon request.