



# THE CIRCLE CONNECTION

*New Opportunities for New Hampshire Girls*

## *Circle Girls Collaborate & Create a Full Value Contract*

Dressed in shorts and Circle girl t-shirts, six girls sit in a circle with their two camp counselors and Program Director Paula Ferenc. Each Circle Program Camp cabin group, acting as an independent unit, gathers to brainstorm, discuss, collaborate and create their part of the summer's "Full Value Contract" – an agreement each girl will work to uphold as a valued member of the camp community.

Back in 1993 when the Circle Program was founded, its staff and board enthusiastically endorsed many of the tenets of *Project Adventure, Inc.* program including the idea of the "Full Value Contract" (FVC). The Circle Program's version of the FVC asks the girls to come to a consensus on values and behaviors that will promote full participation and the best possible learning environment for all Circle girls. The idea is that the best learning occurs when a girl (or any individual) understands what's expected and consciously chooses to help the group reach its collective goals.



*Circle Girls build lockers for a homeless shelter with Girls at Work, Inc.*

Our current group of Circle girls created their 2009/2010 Full Value Contract by defining their top five goals, promising to: 1) stay positive; 2) focus; 3) avoid put-downs of other people; 4) make a full commitment; and 5) be safe at all times. Throughout their stay at Circle Camp, the girls re-visited these goals and used them as a guideline for team-building, making friends, resolving conflicts and solving problems. In only three weeks time, we saw girls grow tremendously in strength of character and integrity. Circle's FVC not only created the best possible learning environment, but also a nurturing habitat for healthy summer fun and for growing a sense of extended family.

Our Circle mentors are women who embody the idea of the FVC and who have taken similar goals to heart in all their mentoring activities. Our mentors agree to remain positive – each serving as an affirmative role model who will make a difference in the life of their girl. Mentors focus on their girl's needs – giving her unconditional acceptance. They believe in our mission and rather than criticize their girl or her family for their personal challenges, our mentors find new ways to provide their girl with resources, friendship and support.

Through the support of our mentoring program, our Circle girls have learned that community service means not only being thankful for what you receive (*"gratitude is the attitude"*), but also appreciating the importance of giving back through personal service. The girls' commitment to service re-affirms the goals of their FVC.

The staff at Circle is fond of saying that our long-standing mission is suddenly "in vogue" with the current times. We have been promoting community service through volunteerism since our early founding days. Today's trends focus on inclusionary service activities that expand non-profits – directly helping people in the community and supporting successful local programs. As one of our "circle of friends," you have been instrumental in supporting Circle's growth and expanding our mentoring program to serve more New Hampshire girls. Thank you for your generosity!

Now, as 2010 approaches, let's learn a lesson from our Circle girls who will be the future leaders of our New Hampshire families and communities. Whether working within our family or school environment, on the job, at town meetings, or as part of a corporate board, let's create our own Full Value Contract! Our goals will transform our environment for the better as our Circle girls take a leadership role – fully engaged in service to their community and in improving the quality of life for all.

Sincerely,

Kathleen M. Kearns, Executive Director

# Graduate Program Fans

Each year as girls complete the core Circle Program (ages 9-11), more of them choose to remain attached to Circle (through junior high and high school) as members of the Graduate Program. Our graduates now include forty-two area girls and we anticipate continued growth at this level in the years to come. The increased retention of girls says a lot about our Graduate Program Director, Fox Smith and her enthusiastic efforts, and the value that the girls themselves place on the new opportunities and experiences they have had through their association with Circle.



Kamah Shar, one of our graduate girls and a current Leader-in-Training, recently sent us her perspective on her experiences in the Circle Program:

*"My name is Kamah Shar and I am fifteen years old. I have been in the*

*Circle Program for close to seven years. Circle has been a very important part of my life and has helped shape me into the young woman I am today. I started Circle when I was nine, and throughout the camp session, I learned many life lessons that have continued to benefit me in my adolescent years.*

*Now that I have gone through both the Circle Core and Circle Graduate programs, I am an LIT or Leader-in-Training. The LIT Program allows me to give back to Circle and help younger girls with hygiene, confidence, and other values they may not receive at home. I have also made many friends during my time at Circle. It is really nice to see them at camp*

**Kamah Shar**

*and at various events during the year. Some of the girls that I met my first year are still my friends today. The amazing bond we share from being Circle Girls is like no other. In the camp session, we are like a family. My favorite part of Circle, though, is the new experiences I would never have had without the program. I have gone to a high ropes course and also learned how to kayak through the Circle Program.*

*Every girl should have the opportunity to be a Circle Girl because you learn about self-respect and self-confidence. You have the chance to give back to your community and learn how to clean and organize. Spending time with my mentor is also one of the top reasons I love Circle. In between the months when all the girls do activities together, I meet with my mentor. We often go to museums or see shows at the Capital Center for the Arts. Sometimes we will even hang out at her house while we bake cookies or just catch up. I am very connected to my mentor; she is a good person for me to look up to and trust. Circle has changed my life and that of many others. I look forward to every future Circle event and I am so proud to be a Circle Girl."*

*Yours truly,*

*Kamah Shar*



*Graduate Girls attend Circle Camp*





## Circle Program Wish List

The Circle Program relies on the support of generous volunteers and donors. There are many ways to support our work and make a difference in the lives of our Circle girls:








**Become a Mentor:** We always have a waiting list of girls who want to be part of the Circle Program. We are ready to support these girls if we can find a way to team each girl with an adult mentor. We are in need of mentors who are willing to serve as a role model and friend to a girl on a regular basis, all year-round. If you or a friend would enjoy the company of a girl and like the idea of making a difference in a girl's life, please let us know. It's a fun and rewarding experience and no special skills are required other than your caring presence. Our staff offers regular mentor training sessions to help our mentors develop a supportive relationship with their mentee.

**Sponsor a Circle Girl:** With your gift of support, you can sponsor a Circle girl to participate at Circle Camp, or sponsor a girl by helping to fund her year-round participation in the camp and mentoring program. Please help us provide new opportunities for our New Hampshire girls through your generosity!

**Other Ways to Help:** We are in need of the following personal items for our Circle girls:

-  Toiletries and hygiene products such as a toothbrush, toothpaste, floss, shampoo, conditioner, body wash, hand soap and a hairbrush and/or comb.
-  Clothing items such as underwear, socks and fleece.
-  Crocs or other waterproof footwear, sizes 6 – 10, for rainy days at camp (when their sneakers are already saturated).
-  Rain ponchos to go along with the waterproof footwear.

**Help by Donating Woodworking Supplies:** Our girls have regularly enjoyed woodworking with Elaine Hamel of *Girls at Work, Inc.* ([www.girlswork.org](http://www.girlswork.org)) Elaine has been giving workshops at Circle Camp and throughout the school year, teaching our girls to learn how to use power tools while building things. Her workshops have been so popular and the woodworking projects so successful that we are now in the process of creating our own woodworking shop at camp. Here are some of the items we could use if you'd like to support this initiative (more than one of each item will be great as several girls work on projects at the same time):

-  Hand held power sanders.
-  Tape measures, levels and other measuring tools.
-  Large shop-style push brooms; small whisk brooms and dust pans.
-  Power screwdrivers.
-  Power drills and drill bits.
-  Coping saws, hacksaws and other hand held saws.
-  Safety glasses.

**Help us by Donating No-Sew Fleece Yardage:** A favorite Circle Camp craft project is a no-sew fleece blanket made from all-fleece material. Girls tie together two sections of fleece (each section is a 1½ yards length of fabric); one section is of print fleece fabric which is tied to another section that is a solid matching-color fleece fabric.

**Help by Donating Battery-Operated Camp Lanterns and Batteries:** Our Circle Camp cabins do not have electricity, so the girls use battery-operated lanterns at night. We can use some new lanterns and lots of batteries (usually size D) so they keep going and going and...!

# From our Brothers and Friends at Camp Mayhew

## Mayhew: A "Can Do" Experience

Since 1969, the Mayhew Program has been challenging and helping at-risk New Hampshire boys to believe in themselves, work well with others and find their best. How and why does it work for the boys? How does Mayhew, at 40, retain and build on its never-rest-on-its-laurels approach to improving its service to them?

In 1995, there was a cabin group here, The Volunteers, with a special credo, "We'll do it!" For me, this captures a Mayhew universal, that *can do* spirit. Boys decide to come to Mayhew because, at some point, they make the decision, "Hey, I CAN do this hard/exciting/fun/scary/boosting experience." Everyone here behind the boys decides to come to Mayhew after reaching their own *can do* moments. Once we're all on Newfound Lake's Mayhew Island together, we keep the place afloat with this same spirit. And what makes us Mayhew off-Island, year-round, years and years and years afterward is, well, the same buoying sense and striving. To paraphrase our inaugural catchphrase for Link-Up, our graduate program, Mayhew is a state of mind. And it sure is a privilege to be in this state together with everyone who makes Mayhew!

To find out more about Mayhew, please contact us, (603) 744-6131 or [Mayhew@mayhew.org](mailto:Mayhew@mayhew.org), we'd be very happy to hear from you!

Warmly,

**Jim Nute**

Executive Director

*Mayhew's Mosquito Incognito Cabin Group*



## Grammie "Laine" and the Circle Tea Party



*Circle Girls at Grammie Laine's Tea Party at "The Old Parsonage"*

During the Circle Camp session this past summer, our Circle girls received a special invitation to tea from Elaine Crandall who lives in "The Old Parsonage," her home in Hebron Village which was built in the late 1800's. Affectionately known by the girls as "Grammie Laine," Elaine served a formal

tea to over thirty Circle girls over a two day period. No detail was overlooked. All the girls and their counselors received a vintage hat to wear: some with bows and veils, some straw – the kind of hats which would have been worn back in the day of the girls' great, great-grandmothers.

The girls were dazzled by the whole experience. Grammie Laine had invited her friend Nancy Sycamore (also known as "Grammie Neenee") over to read "Tea for Ruby," the book written by the Duchess of York about going to tea with the Queen. Priscilla Gemmill, a member of the Circle Board, a.k.a. "Nonna" helped out with the afternoon. Grammie Laine had three tables set in three different rooms of the Old Parsonage – with linen napkins, tablecloths, and fine china. There were china tea pots, tea cups and cozies and tiered fancy dishes with tarts and pastries to go with the tea. The three Grammies helped serve tea, homemade tarts and spice cookies made from a family recipe.

The girls had all arrived with their hair beautifully braided and received the gift of a "pinky ring" to wear. They really got into the spirit of the formal tea party! As the afternoon progressed, the conversation became politely vintage in nature ... "Would you please pass the tarts, my dear?!"

As the girls got ready to return to Circle Camp, they received a parting gift from Grammie Laine – a tiny heart-shaped spiral notebook to keep

as a memento. Nonna remembers fondly the moment that one girl hugged Elaine bringing tears to her eyes as she said, "Thank you, Grammie Laine, you made me feel like a princess!" The afternoon was just one more great Circle Camp memory and another example of what being a Circle girl is all about!

## New Hampshire Marathon News

Organizers of the New Hampshire Marathon were proud to report that this year's race broke all previous records for the number of participants. Organized by the Newfound Chamber of Commerce, the 10K Road Race plus 5K Race Walk and Health Walk drew both casual and serious athletes from all around the United States.



*Circle "mans" the water station*

Proceeds of the October 2009 race generously supported three area non-profit programs: the Circle Program, the Mayhew Program, and the Tapply-Thompson Community Center. Representatives from the Circle Program (including girls, Circle staff and board, and mentors) helped "man" the water station at Idle-A-While for athletes as they passed by. We'd like to thank the New Hampshire Marathon organizers for their on-going support of the Circle Program during every year's marathon!

**Circle Goes High-Tech** Find us on Facebook



## Circle Shout-out for E-mail Addresses:

Please send your e-mail to [info@circleprogram.org](mailto:info@circleprogram.org) so we can stay in touch! Thanks.




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## Happy Holidays!



*Festival of Trees*

Visit the Comman Man of Plymouth to see and vote for the Circle Program's Christmas tree between December 5th and January 1st!

## Circle Board of Directors

- Martha M. Macomber, *President*
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*Circle girls reading books donated by Zita Bello as they gather at the Campfire Circle.*

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### Staff

- Kathleen M. Kearns, *Executive Director*
- Paula Ferenc, *Program Director*
- Fox Smith, *Graduate Coordinator*
- Andrea Sutherland, *Office Administrator*

The Circle Program is an independent non-profit organization that belongs to the Upper Valley United Way.

