

# A WIDER CIRCLE

*Furniture | Clothing | Careers | Community*

# Mission

To advance equity in the greater Washington, DC region by fostering the exchange of goods, skills, and connections from neighbor to neighbor, and by engaging in advocacy to address the root causes of poverty.

“Our task must be  
to free ourselves by  
widening our circle  
of compassion.”

-Albert Einstein

# Overview

- Nonprofit established in 2000 in Silver Spring, with an additional location in DC (formerly Shaw, now Washington Highlands)
- Team of 65 staff members
- We offer no-barrier and low-barrier services for people experiencing poverty, rooted in dignity and equity
- We serve thousands of neighbors each year through the free distribution of clothing, baby items, and household goods; our SE DC drop in center; and our career support program
- We work to create a region where children and adults are able to live safe, stable, and comfortable lives and have the opportunity to succeed



# Essential Support: Furniture

- Average of 15 families per day
- Up to a whole household of furniture free of charge – beds, couches, dressers, dining tables – even linens, dishes, and much more
- No eligibility or paperwork requirements
- No need for organizational referral
- Client calls 301-608-3504, answer brief assessment of need, then get scheduled (average wait time is 3 months)
- Client's only requirement is to bring a truck to their appointment



# Essential Support: Baby Items

- Average of 5 families per day
- Strollers, cribs, pack-and-plays, carseats, baby clothing, and much more
- Client calls 301-608-3504, answer brief assessment of need, then get scheduled
- Timing is based on availability of items and due date



# Essential Support: Professional Clothing

- Average of 120 adults per month
- Up to a week's worth of professional clothing free of charge
- Mainly office-setting attire, but a growing collection of scrubs.
- People use for job seeking, new jobs, court, places of worship, and more.
- No eligibility/paperwork requirements
- No need for organizational referral
- Client calls 301-608-3504 and then get scheduled (average wait time is about one week)



# Career Support

- Average of 40 clients per month
- A holistic, strengths-based, and personalized approach to professional development and career advancement
- Most neighbors come to us out of work, or seeking a better job or career path
- Aim is to help people experiencing poverty generate energy and enough income to live comfortably
- Three staff members meet in person and virtually
- One-one-one counseling, coaching, skill-building
- Weekly workshops and networking opportunities
- We do not offer job placement or credentialing
- Get started right away - no fees, referrals, time limits
- Call 301-608-3504 or [careersupport@awidercircle.org](mailto:careersupport@awidercircle.org)





# Ward 8 Hub

**M-Th 9am-4pm | 400 Atlantic St SE | 202-891-7894**

Our drop-in center is a safe space for Washington Highlands neighbors to gather, share skills, and build a strong, connected community

- Health and exercise workshops
- Individual and group therapy
- Career coaching and counseling
- Long term family support
- Food, household supply, clothing pantry
- Narcan distribution
- Resource navigation
- Microgrants, and more

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# Beyond Daily Service

## Advocacy and Engagement

- In coalition with The Poor People's Campaign and The Way Home Campaign
- Key issue areas are affordable housing and living wage employment
- We have successfully advocated for anti-rent gouging laws, increased funding for affordable housing, and a new non-congregant shelter

## Volunteer support

- We host more than 10,000 volunteers each year – from age 4 to 94, with varying abilities
- A wonderful place for community service



# How We Can Work Together?

1. Tell families about our free services – have them visit [awidercircle.org/get-help](https://awidercircle.org/get-help) for details
2. Refer students for community service at [awidercircle.org/volunteer](https://awidercircle.org/volunteer)
3. Tell us how we can better help you support students and families experiencing homelessness

**Thank you!**

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