

## Circles to Break the Poverty Cycle

At age 32, Sonia Holycross has "been there, done that" – lived in a broken home and joined a gang. But through the Circles™ Campaign, Holycross, a single parent of five and now an Americorps volunteer, has patched her life together, becoming stronger in the broken places. "The Circles Campaign is like mending a broken foundation with fresh cement," Holycross says.



Sonia Holycross's family forms one of 13 Circles in Troy, Ohio, participating in a Circles Campaign through Partners of Hope, an outgrowth of the Troy Council of Churches. Two of the 16 churches of the council are United Methodist – First United Methodist Church and Richards Chapel.

The United Methodist Church will be launching a pilot ministry – like the one in Troy, Ohio – to target poverty on two sites in three North Carolina counties: Anson, Wilkes, and Yadkin. The General Board of Global Ministries, using apportionment dollars and partnering with the denomination's Western North Carolina Conference, has set a goal to help 75 families climb out of the cycles of poverty that have affected them for two or more generations. Using the Circles™ poverty-elimination model and training developed by Move the Mountain Leadership Center in Iowa, Global Ministries is launching the first of five global models of ministry that seek to eliminate poverty.

Read more at [http://gbgm-umc.org/global\\_news/full\\_article.cfm?articleid=5452](http://gbgm-umc.org/global_news/full_article.cfm?articleid=5452).