Ann, Virginia D. Jackson Home for Women, Case Management Program, and Circles in Columbus

"Open Door believed in me, but Circles allowed me to believe in myself."

Prior to joining Circles in Columbus, Ann considered herself a lost cause. The mother of a beautiful daughter, she faced cyclical unemployment and drug addiction. Her inability to cope thwarted every attempt to turn her life around, and she spiraled further into despair.

Suicidal, she could only focus on two things: her pain and her daughter. Thankfully, a mother's love won out and Ann reached for the phone for help. The voice on the other end directed her to a mental health facility. She soon relocated to Columbus where she found herself sober, yet homeless. She prayed for paths to be made clear and for doors to be opened, and God did just that. A month after her arrival, space became available in Open Door's Virginia D. Jackson Home for Women.

A year into her stay and working several dead-end jobs, Ann was ready to do more than just get by. Word had made its way around the Jackson Home for Women about Circle Leader training, and she knew it was her answer. Ann joined Circles in Columbus as she moved out of the Jackson Home for Women and into independent living.

Circles provided Ann with much needed structure and the family she always craved. Finally, she had a place where she could voice her dreams and had help planning them out. Ann made a commitment to improve her financial, physical, and educational resources. Her allies provided much needed emotional support, challenged her to focus, and empowered her to lead with confidence. She graduated from Circles with a credit score more than 200 points higher! Ann is taking on leadership responsibilities inside and outside of Circles including co-facilitating a local AA meeting. She's proven to be a shining example for her daughter, who graduated from college Suma Cum Laude with prestigious job offers. Ann has prevented poverty from becoming a cycle in her family and credits Circles with showing her anything is possible.

