

## Circle Carriers Legacy Project of Calling the Circle Foundation

The circle is a universal archetype that has shaped humanity for tens of thousands of years. Since the first campfire, it has provided a social/spiritual container that helped people tell and hear each other's stories, discover collective wisdom, make decisions, and organize human social structures. In the past several millennia, the social structure of circle has been largely replaced by hierarchy and the understanding of circle's powerful gifts nearly eradicated. Then, in the last decades of the 1900's, a small number of learners and leaders, in seemingly separate circumstances, in Anglo, Native, and African-American communities, began calling the circle back.

Articles of Incorporation for Calling the Circle Foundation 1998: *"It is the business of Calling the Circle Foundation to facilitate, sponsor, and promote educational materials and programs that introduce and apply the principles and practices of the circle as a social/spiritual movement. These materials and programs are designed to teach community-building skills, including cooperative accomplishment, reconciliation, and problem solving so as to increase education, communication, leadership, and well being of the human spirit. The Foundation will disseminate and develop the skills of calling the circle and foster a spirit-centered way of life. "*

The Calling the Circle Foundation, a 501(C)3 nonprofit organization, now seeks to record the stories of those visionaries who were inspired to bring the knowledge and use of circle into the modern world as well as medicine carriers who have upheld circle through the teachings of their lineages. This is a diverse and aging group. CtCF wishes to preserve these first generation voices, to hear the stories of how the circle came to be their life calling, and to explore the social arenas in which they have redeposited this ancient wisdom at a time of huge cultural shift.

We believe this is an historic moment. The return of circle has the potential to instill a new culture that combines the best of human experience and allows humanity to create a sustainable relationship with each other and with the earth. The movement is actually growing quickly and diversifying. Stories of people of all ages who have embraced circle and who are carrying circle forward in the culture are included in this Legacy Project.

We believe people want to know how the reintroduction of circle was sourced, who carried it forward, and to study how these innovators were attached to long cultural traditions. We also believe it is important to archive the on-going stories of how circle is impacting our lives. Out of our excitement, curiosity, and dedication to create an oral and visual resource, the board of the CtCF undertakes a series of interviews named: The Circle Carriers Legacy Project.

Our intention is to create an accessible, open resource on the Internet that is updatable as technology changes. The interviews are being conducted by members of the CtCF board and circle colleagues on a voluntary basis. They are being supplied with recording equipment and travel expenses are reimbursed by the foundation. The interviews are being recorded digitally in video and audio format. The raw footage will be archived with CtCF and with the organization or named holder of each person interviewed. CtCF and the interviewee will engage in a dialogue that leads to edited footage that will be hosted on the CtCF website ([www.callingthecircle.org](http://www.callingthecircle.org)). We invite full participation from other circle carriers and their organizations; we welcome sharing expenses and work-time for mounting and maintaining this resource.