HUMAN CIRCLES

Focus: Teamwork, Cooperation, Leadership, Group problem solving

Time: 10-minutes

Objectives:

1. To work together to solve a problem
2. To understand the process of group problem solving
3. To practice effective leadership skills

Materials needed: none

Introduction:

This activity works best with large groups. The purpose of this activity is to create a feeling of cooperation within departments as well as to provide an opportunity to demonstrate teamwork, leadership, and group problem solving skills.

Directions:

1. Divide the group into two.
2. Ask one group to form a circle and hold hands. Call this circle Group 1.
3. Ask the second group to form another circle outside the first one and also hold hands. Call this circle Group 2.
4. Now you have two human concentric circles. The problem is to have the circles exchange places. That is the inner circle becomes the outer circle and vice versa.
5. Teams have to achieve this without letting go of each others’ hands.
6. Once the groups have solved the problem ask them to interchange places again, but this time they cannot use the same technique that they used to solve the problem the first time.

Discussion Questions:

1. Did a leader emerge?
2. Were there different leaders at different times during the process?
3. Was the group willing to try the suggestions of others?
4. As you have seen, there is more than one way to solve a problem. Discuss workplace situations that you have witnessed where colleagues used effective leadership and teamwork to solve a problem or complete a task.
5. Discuss workplace situations that you have witnessed where colleagues did not use effective leadership and teamwork? What was the result?