

Around The Circle

news from Circle Of Concern
our community's charity

June 2009

From the President...

As you may know, our Executive Director, Glenn Koenen, had a heart attack on May 16th in Des Moines, Iowa. As I write, he is recovering from open heart surgery. We wish him a quick recovery.

For years, Glenn's energy and dedication have driven this charity to where it is today. Right now, it is critical that his absence be absorbed by the charity. At the May 18th board meeting, we made plans to continue daily operations until Glenn's return.

Our overall strategy for the near term is to focus exclusively on our client base and their ongoing needs. As a charity, we will address only the jobs required to complete our mission to Circle clients.

This means that the Grand Opening of the new building, originally scheduled for June 7th, had to be postponed until September 27th.

Thanks for your continued support.
~Jerry Caesar

May 2009 Services

FOOD PANTRY:

1,216 people fed
2,009 bags of food shared

FINANCIAL SERVICES:

\$6,029 aid to 32 families

Volunteer Support

175 volunteers worked
2155.5 hours

Grand Opening Rescheduled

Circle is lucky in many ways; not only do we have a wonderful new facility, but more importantly we are ecstatic that Glenn Koenen is with us after suffering a heart attack at his daughter's graduation ceremony on May 16th. After surgery in Des Moines, Glenn returned to St. Louis for recovery. We are all grateful for the kind thoughts from everyone during this ordeal.

Due to this unexpected incident, the Grand Opening was cancelled and will be rescheduled for September 27th. Stay tuned for more details!

Last Call for Engraved Bricks!



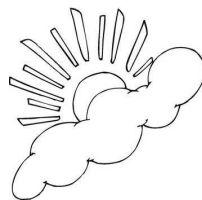
If you would like to have a brick engraved and placed in the front of Circle's new center please place your order.

For \$100 you can get a 4x8 brick and for \$250 an 8x8 paver.

Please complete the order online through the Today & Tomorrow page on our website, www.circleofconcern.org or call for an order form at, 636.861.2623. **Deadline to place orders is August 18, 2009.**

(If you sent in a check for \$100 or \$250, but did not specify you wanted a brick, please be sure to let us know if you do by 8/18/09.)

Summer General Meeting June 22 @ 7:30pm



Join us for our first General Meeting to be held at the new center, 112 St. Louis Avenue, directly behind the location of the old building.

Come view our great new facility and hear what is going on this summer at Circle Of Concern.

Successful Letter Carrier's Food Drive



On Saturday May 9th Circle received 81,000 lbs of food from the Ballwin Post Office. This is a record for this event.

We would like to thank Lori Kitrel for organizing volunteers, as well as everyone who came to help collect and sort this food. Circle will rely on this supply to keep our warehouse full until our fall food drive.

Glenn's Column ~ Iowa Souvenir

The People We Help

I had planned on a relaxing, three-day trip to Des Moines to cheer as my daughter, Cassie, got her diploma from Drake University.

Well, I saw her get her diploma, late in the day in an intensive care room at Mercy Medical Center. Drake President David Maxwell, Arts & Science Dean Joe Lenz and Vice President for Admissions Tom Delahunt graciously stopped by to confer the degree. My nurses felt bad that I felt bad about ruining Cassie's moment. The ladies made a few phone calls and things took on a life of their own until Cassie and I were on CNN Monday morning.

It was media coverage I gladly would have missed.

The good news is that people do respond to need. An emergency room nurse and paramedic who happened to be close kept me going until an automatic external defibrillator could zap my heart rhythm back. A lot of Des Moines paramedics and firemen arrived, getting me packed-up and moved out. Within a few minutes I was in the emergency room at Mercy Medical Center. (By early afternoon I was eating a hamburger.) If a number of strangers—whom I have yet to meet—hadn't stepped in, I would be gone.

In many ways that's the story of Circle. Anonymous people helping us so that we can help others. As you have read over the years in these pages, most of the families we help have fallen victim to bad luck. This year more families are coming to us and we are sharing more food, more help with utility and rent bills. Circle will continue to be here for them because so many of you respond.

Two weeks into my three-day trip I returned home with scars from coronary by-pass (my second in 10 years) and strict orders to take some time to heal. I won't be as common around the new center for a few weeks, but please rest assured that Circle's work will continue.

~ Glenn Koenen

Joyce first came to Circle in 2006. She, her three-year-old son and four-year-old daughter were living in a tiny West County apartment. A shelter for abused women, in which the family had resided for almost a year, had recommended Joyce contact Circle of Concern. Joyce and the children were barely scraping by as she attempted to obtain her college degree. A part-time job, two small scholarships, a grant and food stamps were keeping them afloat but well below the poverty level.

The Circle Pantry was able to supplement Joyce's food stamps each month so that the family never went hungry. Circle's intake workers listened, counseled and encouraged Joyce in her quest for education and a better life for her children. Joyce's family was signed up for Circle's Birthday Club, Back To School, Thanksgiving and Holiday Adoption programs. One month, when money was exceptionally tight, Circle was able to keep the family's electric power connected.



Joyce will graduate in December, 2009 with a degree in social work and already has the promise of fulltime employment. She is grateful for all Circle has done and admits she will miss the Circle volunteers, many of whom she now counts as friends. She's excited at the prospect of financial independence and very eager to begin her new job.

Joyce will be working at the very shelter for abused women at which she and her children resided that year! You see, despite school, part-time job and caring for her two children, Joyce never failed to find some time to volunteer at that shelter in gratitude for what they had done for her family.

This edition of
Around The Circle
was mailed on June 10

In recent months Circle Of Concern has received a large number of special gifts honoring special people.

Honorariums

Barbara Brown
 Carolyn & George Burr
 Jerry Caesar
 Bruce Cranston
 Don Dempski
 Ollie & Margie Ekstedt
 Kay Folsom
 Judy Glaser
 Gladys Hannasch
 Dan & Sharon Imig
 Caitlin Pierce & Weston Kisse
 Cindi Klingert
 Glenna Maser
 Marylou McBride
 Sally J. Morton
 Jennifer Erin Oyler
 Sam Palazzolo
 Madeline Raile
 Colleen Roth
 Sam & Diana Roy
 Samit Spencer Roy
 Henry Marshall Seidel
 Bill Shelton

JoAnn Travis
 Betty Verser
 Gwn Zamberlan

Memorials

Jerry Balcer
 Joseph J. Bauer
 Kathryn Bettis
 Kristin Blaha
 Carl Bradley
 Jim (Carter)
 Thomas Comerford
 Jerry Conway
 Lilla M. Cunningham
 Zona Davis
 Florence DeBasio
 Fred Dyer's Mother
 Madaline Edwards
 Rosezell Emerson
 Lance Ewing
 Doug Flavin
 Gary Gervich
 Albert Gleason
 Molly Gleason
 Delores Golden
 Tommie Gress
 Margaret Hedeman
 Roger Heitland
 Mathilda Henricks
 Ervin L. Heyde
 Ann Kaminsky

Gilbert & Juanita Koewing
 Paul Linhoff
 Bob Lofton
 William Luedde
 Patricia Martin
 Misa Matsutani
 Irmgard A. McGlynn
 Roy W. Miller
 Dick Mosley
 Helen C. Muhlenbruch
 Sanford Nathanson
 Tracy Nichoalds
 Pam Nicholson
 Mary Jane Banks Pool
 Joseph Rademacher
 Ray E. Ronecker, JR.
 Patricia Schillinger
 Marian B. Stillman
 Fae Taylor
 JoAnn Thee's Father
 Patricia Tignor
 Betty Wendel
 Rita Westerfield

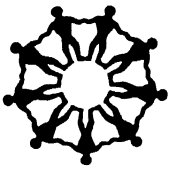
Gifts are used for the purpose requested by the donor. The person honored, or their family, receives a note from Circle stating who made a gift in their honor.

Good News Department

- A special thanks to **Rich & Mimi Schnettler, Lou Mannig, Jeanne Karr, Dennis Reichert, Joan Tichacek & Jackie Concellor** for attending the Tea Party on 4/15, collecting \$630 and filling Circle's van with food.
- To **Windsor Crossing** for collecting & delivering two large truck loads of food to Circle's pantry.
- To everyone who helped & donated to this year's **Letter Carrier Food Drive**. Circle received 81,000 lbs of food—the most in the history of the food drive. Special thanks to **Lori Kitrel** for her efforts in coordinating the day's volunteers.

Looking for Ways to Help Circle?

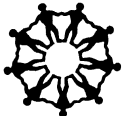
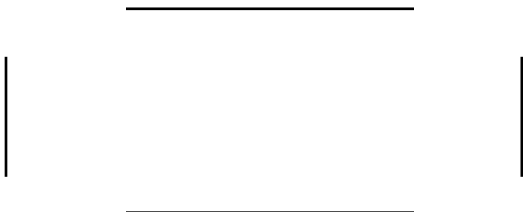
- Over the summer Circle will distribute Kid Bags. To fill these bags Circle is looking for "kid friendly" food: Mac & Cheese, PB & J, Canned Pasta, Snacks and we'll also be putting in activity items.
- Gift Cards to restaurants, discount retail (Target, Wal-Mart, Marshalls, etc) or even some "luxury" places like bowling alleys or movies will give a little extra to our clients in need.
- Brown paper grocery bags are needed. We have gotten many, much-appreciated plastic bag donations and now need paper bags.



Circle Of Concern
our community's charity
P.O. Box 444
Valley Park, MO 63088-0444

Address Service Requested

NONPROFIT ORG.
U S POSTAGE
PAID
VALLEY PARK, MO
PERMIT NO. 444



Circle Of Concern
our community's charity

Providing emergency food and other aid to families residing in the Parkway, Rockwood, and Valley Park school districts. All services are by appointment. Donations are tax deductible and appreciated. Call 636-861-2623 for information.

Valley Park Center
112 St. Louis Avenue
Valley Park

Open every Monday, Wednesday & Friday 9:30 am to 2 pm.
1st, 2nd & 3rd Wednesday Evenings from 4-7pm
2nd, 3rd & 4th Thursday Afternoons from 1-5pm
2nd, 3rd & 4th Saturdays from 9:30-2pm

Donations accepted weekdays 9:00 a.m. till 3:00 p.m.
and on Saturday mornings.

Circle Of Concern
P. O. Box 444
Valley Park, MO 63088-0444
Phone 636/ 861-2623
www.circleofconcern.org
circleofconcern@att.net

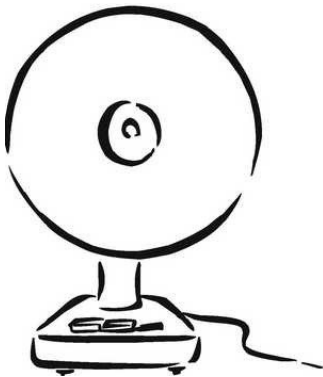
Glenn Koenen - Executive Director
Linda Johnson - Food Pantry Director
Emily Fishman - Assoc. Director of
Programs & Volunteers

Member:

Chesterfield Chamber of Commerce
Fenton Area Chamber of Commerce
Interfaith Partnership
Metro St. Louis Food Pantry Association
Valley Park Business Association
West St. Louis County Chamber of Commerce

Around The Circle

To donate to Circle using your debit or credit card, call Emily at Circle at **636/861-2623** during business hours or visit circleofconcern.org



Hot Weather Ahead!

This summer Circle will again share box fans and window air conditioners with the families we help. (The air conditioners are reserved for seniors and people with serious health issues.)

You can help with a special gift to buy 20" box fans (they cost about \$15 each) or 110 volt window air conditioners (\$95 each). Please write-in "fans/AC" on your check or on the Circle envelope in this newsletter.

CIRCLE NEEDS

Breakfast Cereal
Jelly & Peanut Butter
Paper Towels
Large Diapers (4-6)
Canned Meat
Paper Grocery Bags

