

Circle Of Concern



P.O. Box 444
Valley Park, MO 63088-0444
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AROUND THE CIRCLE

CIRCLE OF CONCERN OUR COMMUNITY'S CHARITY

AUGUST 2010

Circle Of Concern our community's charity

Mission Statement:

Circle Of Concern feeds the hungry and provides long-term and emergency assistance to low-income families in western St. Louis County. We create opportunities for needy families to re-establish themselves as productive members in our community.

This edition of Around the Circle was
mailed on August 11, 2010

112 St. Louis Ave. * Valley Park, MO 63088 *
636.861.2623

www.circleofconcern.org
Donations are accepted
weekdays 9 am-3 pm
and Saturdays 9 am - Noon.
Please call for additional hours.

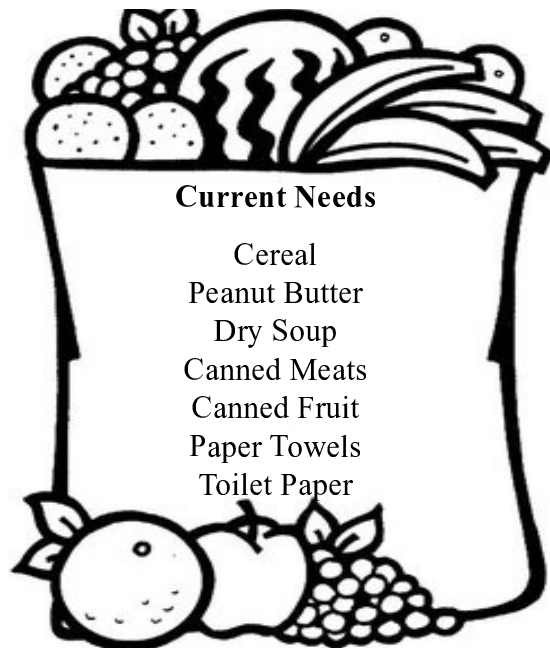
Circle Of Concern is a member of:
Chesterfield Chamber of Commerce
Fenton Area Chamber of Commerce
West County Chamber of Commerce
Interfaith Partnership
Metro St. Louis Food Pantry Association
Metropolitan Volunteer Management Association
Valley Park Business Association

Keep Connected With Circle Of Concern

Want to know more about Circle more often? There are many options for you to increase your connection with Circle.

- Find us on Facebook ... like our fan page and friend us!
- Join our E-News by submitting your email on our website.

More information can be found at circleofconcern.org



Current Needs

Cereal
Peanut Butter
Dry Soup
Canned Meats
Canned Fruit
Paper Towels
Toilet Paper

Board of Directors

Jerry Caesar, President
Doug Schaeffler, VP
Nancy Parker, Secretary
Sally Edmiston, Treasurer
Rod Bishop
Brad Burton
Ted Heitmeyer
Tom Howard
Vic Leuchtefeld
Pat Shannon
Barb Staniszewski

Executive Director
Glenn Koenen

Pantry Director
Linda Johnson

Director of Programs & Volunteers
Emily Fishman

July Services

Food Pantry
1,772 people fed with
2,798 bags of food
\$65,932.02 worth of
donated food shared

Financial Services
\$7,889 aid to
63 families.

Volunteer Support
189 gave 1,868.5 hours
of their time

Trivia Night Recap

Have you ever wanted to know which state has the largest ball of string?

On July 31st Circle hosted our first annual trivia night. Themed for Back To School with rounds such as Math, Geography & Glee Club.

This event was a huge success in collecting donations for our Back To School program.

Throughout the night 144 participants had the opportunity to bid on silent auction items and buy 50/50 raffle tickets.

Changes Now and Later

As you have probably noticed, the design of this newsletter has been changing. We have a new duplicator which creates more options for our layout. And, we are re-thinking what items we include in every issue.

We want to give you a quick overview of all that's happening at Circle – and direct

The event brought in \$6,241 - with a special thank you to the 50/50 raffle winners and the 2nd & 3rd place teams who donated their winnings back to Circle.

Other thanks you's for the evening:

Commerce Bank for sponsoring the event.

Manchester United Methodist Church for providing the location.

Chris Regnier from FOX 2 for hosting the night.

you to our website for more detailed information. For example, we will soon feature more stories of the People We Help on our website.

Please let us know what you think about these changes. Remember that we're always open at www.circleofconcern.org.



June Schroeder & Stacy Shelby for organizing the silent auction.

Kristin Hoffman, our intern over the summer.

Thank you to all who came out for the evening!

For photos visit us on facebook!

We hope you will plan to attend next year's trivia night!

Don't forget to find Circle Of Concern on facebook!

And be sure to join our Circle E-News by submitting your email to us on our website our on our facebook pages!

From the President

Can you imagine outfitting 700 kids for the new school year?

Every summer a dedicated volunteer takes on this incredible task. Joan Ticacek manages this project in addition to being a receptionist at our center. She recruits volunteers to collect and sort the tremendous amount of supplies we receive.

Friends at Twin Oaks Presbyterian Church share their space in July and August for this major effort. We cannot thank them

enough for their generosity.

On August 7 all the hard work resulted in hundreds of happy kids and parents. Each child received a new backpack and a bag of supplies, plus a gift card for school clothes or other necessities.

Thanks to Joan and every one involved in our summer extravaganza. Thanks to you for your wonderful donations to this worthy effort.

~Jerry Casear

The People We Help

Cecil lost his job when the Chrysler plant closed. He hadn't been there long enough to get the full package of benefits, leaving his family (including two kids in college) very short of money.

A family man in his 40's, he had worked all his adult life. He provided a solid, middle class lifestyle for his wife and daughters.

When Cecil first came to Circle it was obvious he was new to poverty. He hadn't noticed the past due penalties on his utility bills. He struggled figuring out which bills to pay out of his unemployment

and what his wife earned from a local store.

Circle helped the family stay warm last winter and volunteers signed them up for the Holiday Program. They received food orders each month too.

Thanks to a grant for displaced workers, Cecil was able to start community college classes.

Through all the bad times Cecil never gave up hope. Late this spring he got a new job. He enjoys the work and is now earning enough to take care of family. He thanked Circle's volunteers for the help he received.

bag filled with pencils, pens, scissors, crayons, filler paper, notebooks, highlighters, markers and a binder.

Middle school students were able to get a solar scientific calculator. Families were also able to pick up extra items

The Music Continues

Every summer Circle sponsors camperships and other opportunities for young people in the families we help. For two summers one young lady took guitar



lessons in classes Circle coordinated. Unfortunately, the little girl didn't have a guitar to practice what she learned because her mom could not afford to buy one.

Friends at Fazio Frets & Friends in Ellisville changed that: They provided a guitar to the young lady.

Holiday Programs

Wishing for snow yet?

Preparation for our Holiday Programs began several weeks ago – we ordered turkeys for Thanksgiving Baskets in mid-June! This month Circle volunteers will begin collecting wish-lists from families for Holiday Adoption.

This year a record number of

families will be eligible for Circle's Holiday Program. We need to gather food, gifts, toys and other items to share with our neighbors. We hope you and your friends can help

To learn more visit the Holiday Program section under Our Programs on the home page at circleofconcern.org

Good News Department

• The West St. Louis County Jaycees donated the proceeds from their 50th Anniversary party to Circle.

• Hailey Benting of Ballwin collected a cart full of school supplies at her Birthday Party.

such as Post-It-Notes.

All families also received a \$15 gift card to Wal-Mart to buy any items that were specific requests from a child's teacher.

A special thank-you to St.

• After seven years together Girl Scout Troop 3491 has 'graduated.' Their last act was to make a special gift to Circle.

• Circle received food from a special drive on Kiwanis Night at the July 16th River City Rascals Game.

Timothy's Episcopal Church in Creve Coeur for assisting with the cost of the gift cards.

Costco donated 200 bookbags filled with supplies.

We appreciate everyone's donations for this program!

Finding What's Special

While on vacation in Denver I met a very nice young man who filled the elevator: He wasn't as big as a Rocky Mountain but could have made it in the Ozarks.

The next day I bumped into this young man, loaded down with as many stuffed animals as he could carry. His group had gone to an amusement park and, well, "I'm a pretty good pitcher." He had kept one of each different animal after giving away other armloads to his friends.

Most of us have unexpected talents, special skills we sometimes get to share.

At Circle we have begun a quest to find a new pantry director. Linda Johnson is retiring at the end of the year. We know we can't find another Linda. She constantly, effortlessly keeps the pantry humming along in her own way.

We will find another person – with their own approach – to the pantry director's job. Our challenge is to discern their special skills and utilize them for the benefit of the families we help.

The pantry director's job includes countless little things and scores of major tasks to learn. To give the new director a fighting chance, we're bringing our new person on board in October. That will give them three months to learn from the master.

By January they'll be able to keep the pantry running smoothly. Maybe they'll be good at amusement parks too.

Glenn Koenen

Memorials

Mathew Bleilinger
Tom Bryne
Patricia Callahan
Daniel Clayton's Grandma
Tom Cuppy
Vimla Devi
Pat Dowd
Megan A. Eller
Rita Elsea
Glendolyn Ericsod
Zoe Ann Franek
Riette Frank
Mary Gennaro
Francis Gilligan
Albert I. Gleason
Molly Gleason
Jac Griswold
Bob Grote
Patricia Hartog
Alvin Heimos
Harvey Henricks
Peter Hunt
Jim Jennewein
Truman Johnson
Ginny & Harry Knobbe
Susan Kuhnert
Bill Lally
Ruth Lewis
Mary Moder

Terry Moore
Rita Murphy
Gus Nations
Sam Palazzolo
Dodi Pelafo's
Brother & Sister
Sharon Walker Pratt
John Riemer, JR.
Celia Jones Roberts
Ralph "Bud" Roetto
Ray Ronecker
Joan Schmieder
Gregory Sullivan
Jack VanDover
Vicki Weissgerber
Rita Westerfield
Amy Marie Woods

Honorariums

Jill Albano
Karen Aubuchon
Robynne & Brad Baum
Ms. Jess Clawson
J. Cloy
John DeGuire
Forrest & Beulah Edwards
Drew & Betsy Ehrhardt
Donna Engel
Claire & Myla Ewing
Bill Fischer

Kay Folsom
Lydia Hagedorn
Betty & Jerry Hoevelman
Cindi Klingert
Courtney Klose
Glenn Koenen
Chris Korkoian
Tracy Lakin
Ray & Kay Lamb
Eva Lanphere
Phillip Larkin
Tom Lemmonds
Frank & Lynn May
Marianne Maynard
Ronna McDaniel
Jim & Margaret Nicholson
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Noonan
Mary Pederson
Walter Robbins
Colleen Roth
Gary Shannon
Dorothy Showman
Andrew Simonson
Mary Ann & George Tasch
Betty Verser
Clayton Wallick
Jane Walsma
Ed Wheatley
Andrea White
Chris Wiley

JOIN US for an EVENT WHERE
GIVING WON'T JUST FEEL GOOD,
IT'LL TASTE GOOD.

We're having a fundraiser at California pizza kitchen. Just bring in this flyer on the date listed below, present it to your server when ordering, and 20% of your check will be donated to our organization.

 **Sunday, August 29, 2010**
California Pizza Kitchen
Chesterfield Mall
636.536.6910

Eligible groups include non-profit schools and 501(c)3 charitable organizations. Donation amount excludes proceeds from tax, gratuity, gift card and retail purchases. Valid for dine-in, take-out and curbside service. Not valid on delivery. Manager, please attach this flyer to the guest check. Event proceeds void if flyers are distributed in or near restaurant.