CIRCLE
Feeding Families is Just the Beginning

CURRENT NEEDS:
- Jelly
- Canned Chicken
- Dinner “Helpers”
- Vegetable/Olive Oil
- Dry Pasta, Sauce
- Chili and Stew
- Did we mention Jelly?
- Dish Soap
- Bar Soap
- Toilet Paper

A Child’s Life

The little boy and his mother—let’s call her Theresa*—came to Circle for the first time. After meeting with an intake volunteer, they came into the food pantry to get their groceries. While waiting for their cart, the boy asked his mom, “Why aren’t we going to our regular grocery store?” The reasons were as evident as the pain etched on Theresa’s face. Her husband had left, leaving no money but a lot of fear, fear that Circle would work hard to ease.

The single largest group of people who come to Circle are single mothers like Theresa with school-age children. We have programs available to help them re-establish themselves - food from the pantry, possible financial assistance, mentorship to get a new job. These help stabilize the family, but we also recognize that children who grow up hungry and poor face special challenges.

Birthday wishes often don’t come true. Adequate school supplies might be an impossible expense. Free and reduced-price breakfasts and lunches end with the start of summer vacation. The fees to join sports team or to go to summer camp can be way out of reach. Holiday celebrations and the chance for college might be mere pipe dreams. Many of the common trappings of childhood are elusive.

Circle helps. A personalized stack of gifts from our Birthday Club celebrates our youngest clients. Back To School distributes age-appropriate supplies so the school year starts off right. Summer Kid Bags closes the summer meal gap. Summer Opportunities underwrites summer enrichment to build skills and social interaction. Toy Day and Family Adoption warm the holidays.

If you would like to help make life easier for children at Circle—or to learn about all of our programs for families—contact Niki@circleofconcern.org or call 636.861.2623 x108.
A Client Story

The Circle Mentoring Program is proud to be helping many clients find the resources and develop the skills necessary for securing employment, and we are so pleased to share some of the successes from the program each month.

“Kevin”, a Circle client working with a mentor has now secured a full-time position as a caseworker for the state of Missouri. Kevin met with his mentor, and interviewed for a position at a large metro area hospital, but did not secure that position. However, that experience and the guidance and advice he had from working with his mentor helped him land this job. Congratulations to Kevin! We all wish him continued success in his field and for his family.

Kevin’s story is just one of many. Clients from all walks of life are looking for mentors. If you are interested in helping, please contact Circle for more information. It is very rewarding service and the need is great.

Circle By The Numbers

You make the work of Circle possible. Take a look at what you accomplished in 2015:

... Fed 23,507 People
... Shared 38,281 Bags of Groceries
... Gave 848 Child-Friendly Kid Bags
... Kept Utilities On and Averted Evictions with $60,320.78 in Financial Assistance

... Made College Possible with $31,000 in Scholarships
... Celebrated Birthdays for 490 Young Children
... Sent 90 Children to Summer Camp
... Sent 638 Children Back To School With Adequate Supplies
... Guaranteed a Thanksgiving Feast for 449 Families
... Adopted 266 Families for the Holidays
... Put Holiday Toys in the Hands of 604 Children

Two Dates To Watch!

Support Circle at your own front door with these popular events!

April 16 – April Showers!
Girl Scouts will collect personal care items.

May 14 – Stamp Out Hunger!
The annual Letter Carriers Food Drive feeds families into the summer.
Join us for the golf event of the year at the Country Club at the Legends!

A beautiful Robert Trent Sr.-designed golf course, The Legends is located in the rolling hills and thick woods off the bluffs of the Meramec River Valley. Challenging holes - including the signature island-green 8th hole - promise a good day on the links, all to benefit Circle Of Concern!

Proudly hosted by the Deacons of St. Mark Presbyterian Church

What
- Golf Scramble
- 4-Golfer Teams
- Captain’s Choice, Best Ball Format
- Longest Drive, Men & Women
- Closest To The Pin
- $10,000 Hole-In-One
- Putting Contest
- Silent Auction
- Light Dinner

When
Monday, May 9, 2016
- 8:30 a.m. Check-In
- 10 a.m. Shotgun Prizes & Dinner

Where
The Country Club at The Legends
625 The Legends Pkwy
Eureka, MO 63025

Cost
- $125 Golfer
- $500 Foursome

Hole, Contest & Event Sponsorships are still available! Visit discoverstmark.org/Events for information!

Register to play today!
Payment options on reverse.
Register today before our slate is full! There are two ways to pay:

**Pay by check** - Complete this form with your name and those of additional golfers and dinner guests. Mail it with your check, payable to **St. Mark Presbyterian Church** to:

**St. Mark Presbyterian Church**
**Circle Golf Tournament**
**601 Claymont Drive**
**Ballwin, MO 63011**

**OR**

**Pay by credit card** by calling Circle Of Concern at 636.861.2623. Ask for Cyndi (ext. 117) or Juliet (ext. 106)

(Have your player names ready!)

Proceeds from the tournament support Circle’s food pantry and other programs to help our West County neighbors. If you don’t golf but would like to help, please visit [circleofconcern.org](http://circleofconcern.org)!
The work of Circle Of Concern draws a person in. For me, my support of this worthwhile organization began when my wife and I shared the joy of the season with Circle clients through the Holiday Adoption program.

It’s been my honor to work food drives, deliver heaters for the winter and contribute to the Board of Directors.

Most recently, I’ve been very involved with our Mentorship program. Clients pair up with experienced volunteers to develop their resumes, videotape mock interviews, research job prospects. We’re seeing amazing results! I worked with one client, Henry*, who had lots of experience, but his resume was crowded and hard to read. Once we better highlighted what he could offer an employer, Henry took the initiative to sign up for a networking seminar to promote his skills. Before long, he got a job offer in his field plus additional prospects to consider. Another client – Carla* - was laid off from an accounting firm. Besides shining up her job-hunting skills, she also finished up her degree that prepares her for her dream job – art teacher. She is energized to better support her family doing work that she loves!

Helping our clients find meaningful work and relief from hunger is all part of Circle’s mission; the work is not without challenges. Food prices can be unpredictable due to weather and market conditions; we use our financial resources wisely to ensure we can continue to offer a variety of healthy foods. Donations of food are generous, but during several points in the year, our pantry shelves are pretty lean. Many clients still struggle with un- and under-employment, disability, fixed incomes and other circumstances—often beyond their control—and need our help.

I am proud to affirm that the state of Circle is strong, and —with your help—we are willing and able to take on each challenge and assist each client. It is through your kindness and your generosity that families are fed, job-seekers are up to the task of finding work, children are equipped for school, holidays are warm and so much more. Along with our hundreds of dedicated volunteers and our small staff, I thank you for your ongoing support of all of Circle’s programs that make life better for Henry and Carla and all the rest of our clients who rely on us for help.

Steven Ernst
President, 2016
*Client names changed to protect privacy

### Statement of Financial Condition

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<tr>
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<th>2015</th>
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<td>2,051,578</td>
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The State of the Circle 2016

DONATIONS

We share many donations with our clients:

- Food, Canned and Packaged
- Fresh Garden Produce
- Dry Pet Food, Litter
- School Supplies, Toys
- Blankets, Hats, Gloves
- More!

Donations are accepted:
Mon, Tues, Thur, Fri................. 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Wednesday............................. 9 a.m. - 7 p.m.
Saturday.................................. 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

“LIKE US” on facebook and visit us online at circleofconcern.org

STAFF DIRECTORY

Cyndi Miller, Executive Director, cyndi@circleofconcern.org x117
Juliet Holden, Senior Director, juliet@circleofconcern.org x106
Michelle Lepak, Pantry Director, michele@circleofconcern.org x107
Niki Vandable, Client Services Director, niki@circleofconcern.org x108

IMPORTANT DATES

April 16   Girl Scouts “April Showers”
           Pick-up Watch for your bag!
April 25   General Membership Meeting
           7:30 p.m., St. Mark
           Presbyterian Church
           601 Claymont Drive, Ballwin
April 30   Disney’s Planes: Fire & Rescue
           Firehouse Family Movie Night
           Hosted by Metro West Firefighters
           for Circle, 6:15 at Station #1
           14835 Manchester Rd., Ballwin
May 9     12th Annual Golf Tournament
           The Legends in Eureka
May 14    Letter Carriers Food Drive Pick-up
           Watch for your bag and envelope!
May 28, 30 Circle Closed for Memorial Day

BOARD of DIRECTORS

Steven Ernst
PRESIDENT

Doug Paul
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Calvin Holderby
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Matt Claflin
TREASURER

Karen Aubuchon
Michael Bauer
Lana Biondo
Sue Hoffman
Greg Shoemaker
Carol Vandable
Amy Vollmer

112 St. Louis Ave.
Valley Park, MO 63088
Address Service Requested

Circle Of Concern
Food Pantry
Feeding Families is Just the Beginning