

April 2016

Celebrating 49 years
of service to the
St. Louis community



AROUND

THE

CIRCLE

The Circle Of Concern Food Pantry Newsletter

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

CIRCLE OF CONCERN

feeds the hungry and
provides assistance to
low-income families
living in west
St. Louis County.

We envision improving
every life in our
community by
reducing hunger
and poverty.

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.

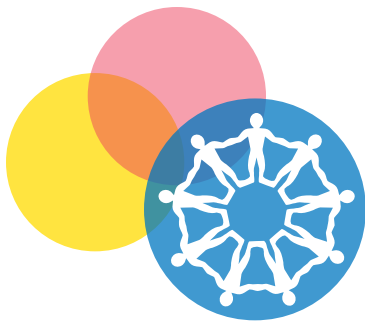
Birthday wishes often don't come true.
Adequate school supplies might be an

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.

Feeding Families is Just the Beginning



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.

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.



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



FEBRUARY SERVICES



FOOD PANTRY

Number of people fed = 1,722
Number of bags distributed = 2,949
Number of families = 599
Value of Food = \$78,988.97



FINANCIAL AID

33 families received
\$5,443.26 in financial services



VOLUNTEERS

178 volunteers shared
2,042 hours



The 12th Annual
Circle of Concern
Charity Golf Tournament
Monday, May 9, 2016



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

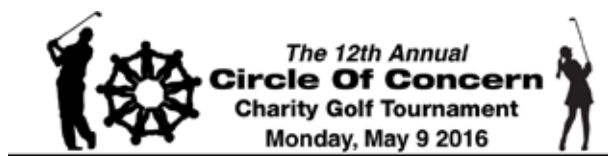
\$125 Golfer
\$500 Foursome

**Hole, Contest & Event
Sponsorships are still
available!** Visit
[discoverstmark.org/
Events](http://discoverstmark.org/Events) for information!



Register to play today!

Payment options on reverse.



Register today before our
plate 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!

GOLFER #1/Team Captain

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Payment Enclosed? Yes or No

Additional Golfers

GOLFER #2

Name: _____

Email: _____

Payment Enclosed? Yes or No

GOLFER #3

Name: _____

Email: _____

Payment Enclosed? Yes or No

GOLFER #4

Name: _____

Email: _____

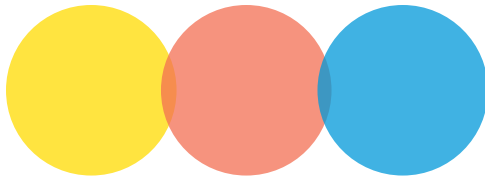
Payment Enclosed? Yes or No

Dinner Only \$30

Name: _____

Email: _____

Payment Enclosed? Yes or No



A Letter From the President

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.

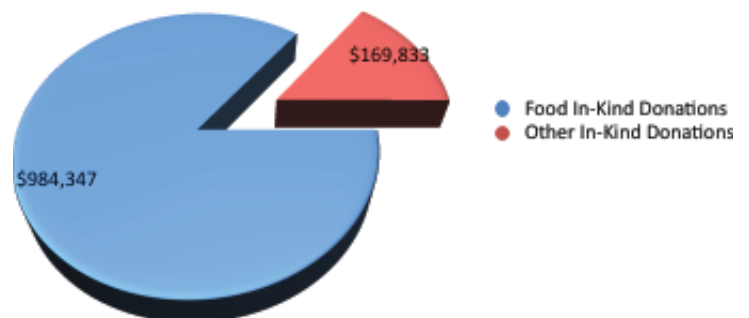
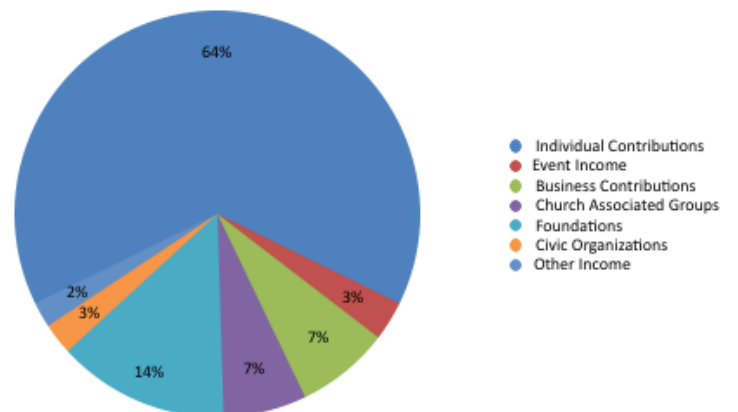
Steven Ernst
President, 2016

**Client names changed to protect privacy*

Statement of Financial Condition

	2015	2014
Income	(unaudited)	
Contributions	883,526	1,036,892
Other/Interest/ Investment	19,251	3447
Dollar More	6,042	10224
Event Income	29,203	11,550
Donated Food	984,347	1,044,727
Other In Kind	163,791	15,923
Total Income	2,086,160	2,122,763

Expenses		
Depreciation	59,492	58,961
Business Operations	121,748	107,846
Payroll/Benefits	223,650	253,229
Fundraising & Marketing	49,136	41905
Purchased Food	291,467	270,119
Donated Food	972,552	1,042,283
Financial Aid	63,642	74,464
Scholarships	27,246	27,607
Other Programs	242,645	268,756
Total Expenses	2,051,578	2,145,170





Circle Of Concern Food Pantry

Feeding Families is Just the Beginning

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

The State of the Circle 2016

BOARD of DIRECTORS

Steven Ernst
PRESIDENT

Doug Paul
VICE PRESIDENT

Calvin Holderby
SECRETARY

Matt Claflin
TREASURER

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



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



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 |

STAFF DIRECTORY

Cyndi Miller, Executive Director, cyndi@circleofconcern.org	636.861.2623 x117
Juliet Holden, Senior Director, juliet@circleofconcern.org	x106
Michelle Lepak, Pantry Director, michelle@circleofconcern.org	x107
Niki Vandable, Client Services Director, niki@circleofconcern.org	x108