The dynamic seems familiar - donors give + clients receive = the work of a nonprofit is done. Sometimes, though, the equation adds up differently:

It was a busy Saturday at Circle Of Concern. Lots of volunteers and lots of clients – one of whom brought in her two young children. This family receives food from the pantry and makes use of the Back To School and other programs. Being clients didn’t stop these siblings from wanting to give back, though. The children had visited every apartment in their complex collecting money for Circle and presented a baggie to the staff that contained $40.30. The children were proud, their mother beamed, more than one volunteer cried and another client looked at me and said, “If every child could learn to look at the needs of others, beyond their own, no one would ever be hungry again.”

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For 50 years, Circle has existed for the sake of the families we serve. It is our mission to feed the hungry and provide help to families struggling with poverty. Sometimes, though, our clients serve in return.
IN MEMORY OF:
from 8/1/2016 to 11/30/2016
Don & Dora Ames
Jack Barker
Kenneth Berrigler
Nora & Charles Bircher
George Bossman
James Buckley
Kenneth Buermann
Ethel Buntin
Charlie & Helen Burkhardt
Julia M. Burleson
Melburn & Gladys Caesar
Earle Wesley Clifford
Connie Conrad
Esther Cornelius
Robert Creus
Vernie Davidson
G. Rouer & Pat Davis
Drusilla Delisle
Moose & Missy Demstorff
Stephen Dermody
Don Drier
Howard Erlanger
Josephine Fillman
Laurreal Finley
Lloyd Ford, Jr.
Ruth & Pird Fox
Danny Franck
George Franck
Eugene Frey
Melua Gerstner
Albert Gleason
Hilda Schrieber
Nancy & Al Schikore
Bill Salmon
Reuben Salazar
Mary Reckamp
Annie Pounders
Kathleen Piskulic
Donald Piekarski
Virginia Pickard
Michael Ortinau
Michael Ortiman
Joan Oppliger
Sharon Terry Oatis
Ruthie Nichols
Sharon Terry Oatis
Joan Oppliger
Michael Ortman
Michael Ortinau
Virginia Pickard
Donald PiekarSKI
Kathleen Piskulic
Darla* and her husband worked hard as a two-income family. Life was comfortable. There weren’t a lot of luxuries, but they had the necessities that make you feel secure.

Then Darla’s company was sold and she lost her job. While searching and searching for a job, her health declined, which led to a kidney transplant. Her husband’s job of more than 20 years had a salary reduction due to cutbacks. Two children are working their way through college, and Darla has the care of a grandbaby.

Circle stepped in to share groceries, financial support, holiday programs and Back To School supplies. Over time, as Darla’s family struggled to stabilize, Circle also became a much-needed source of encouragement and hope. As Darla shared, “We are grateful and blessed for Circle’s positive impact in our lives. You certainly have helped us in endless ways, and not just with the food, which we also appreciate.”

*Name changed to protect privacy

November Stats:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number of people fed</th>
<th>Financial Assistance</th>
<th>Volunteers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
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<tr>
<td>1,992</td>
<td>32 families</td>
<td>179 volunteers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of bags distributed</td>
<td>$6,074.00</td>
<td>2,107 hours</td>
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<tr>
<td>3,217</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of families</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>662</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cost</td>
<td>$92,601.35</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A Client Story

A Circle History Moment

Western County Churches Form ‘Circle of Concern’

Lutherans Join Ecumenical Group To Minister to Community Needs

An interfaith and interdenominational “Circle of Concern” has been formed around an area of western St. Louis County. The circle was formed last March, by five churches in the Chesterfield-Grover-Palmwood community to responsibly coordinate, communicate and, sometimes, challenge each other on issues and worldly matters.

One of the participating churches is St. Mark’s Lutheran Church of Chesterfield. At the time the circle was formed, one member of the church was concerned with the number of Christmas gifts her grandchildren had.

“We decided to do something different,” she said. “We decided to help another child.”

The group established a fund to support and distribute food, clothing, and toys to the needs of ten families. The money was raised through contributions from members and the community.

The Circle of Concern has since expanded its efforts to include support for a local shelter, and financial assistance for families in need.

The group is seeking additional members and financial contributions to continue its work.

1967 - Circle Of Concern is established to minister to community needs.
Save The Date!

13th Annual Charity Golf Tournament
May 8 at Aberdeen Golf Club, Eureka
Hosted by the Deacons of St. Mark
Presbyterian Church

4th Annual Run Circles Around Hunger 5K
September 16 at Valley Park

50th Anniversary Dinner
November 4 at Forest Hills County Club
Celebrate a half century of caring for families in west St. Louis County

Watch for more information in the coming months!

IN HONOR OF:
from 8/1/2016 to 11/30/2016

IN MEMORY OF:
from 8/1/2016 to 11/30/2016

A Note From Cyndi

As we enter 2017, we reflect back on a wonderful 2016 holiday season. Our community was so generous, and our client families — so grateful. We saw tears of joy and gratitude as families received turkeys and hams, toys for their children, and carefully selected gifts of clothing, housewares and more through our holiday adoption program.

Bringing folks in need together with those who want to help is what we’ve done at Circle for 50 years now, and it is a privilege to be a part of it! And, what we have seen throughout is a “full circle” story where those who once were the recipients of help return to share with others.

In recent weeks we received a $103.00 money order with a note that read, “You helped me once, now I want to give back.” We later reconnected with a gentleman who, several years ago when between jobs, received help from Circle. He came by in December to adopt a family for the holidays, and he couldn’t have been more excited to do so. It’s a magical thing to facilitate the joy that comes from helping others. We look forward to another year of “full circle” stories.

Cyndi

Holiday Thanks
Thank You for the Gift of You!

Thank you to all our committee chairs, volunteers, donors, community partners and all others who made our Thanksgiving Basket, Holiday Adoption and Toy Day holiday programs such a success! Your generosity of spirit assured a joyful season for hundreds and hundreds of west St. Louis County families. Thank you, and Happy New Year!

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IN HONOR OF:
from 8/1/2016 to 11/30/2016

Nancy Akred for Christmas
Sherry Barrett
Barbara Bess
Dianne & Rod Bishop
Batulinski Family
Juliet Byington-Holden
Sandra E. Decker
Pat Drentlaw
Ken Duenke
Ray Evans for Christmas
Steve Goldberg
Jim & Cheryl Harmon
Maru & Pattie Herpel
Mike Higgins
Calvin Holderby
Britt & Sharon Holt
Greg & Joyce John
Boyd & Barbara Jones
Victor Leuchtefeld
Sally McDonough’s Birthday
Jo Ellen Miller’s Birthday
Rose Nale
Nancy Netsch
Mr/Mrs Ed Neuman for Hanukkah
Mr/Mrs Ross Osiek for Christmas
Mr/Mrs Tim Osiek for Christmas
Mr/Mrs Todd Osiek for Christmas
Wayne & Karen Pennington
Emma Jean Phillips
Marylee Pratt Baygents
Amelia Raua
Ellen Rawls
Joy & Bob Rouse
Stephen Sachs
Schmidt Family Christmas
Bill Totty
Nancy Troutman
Gwen Welch’s Birthday
Otto & Delores Wirgau
January 2017

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What Goes Around…

**Current Needs:**
- Jelly – CRITICAL
- Canned Pasta
- Rice/Dry Beans/Dry Potatoes
- Snacks (crackers, granola bars)
- Cereal
- Canned Fruit
- Bar Soap – CRITICAL
- Baby Wipes

**Our Mission:**
Circle Of Concern feeds the hungry and provides assistance to low-income families living in west St. Louis County.

**Our Vision:**
Improving every life in our community by reducing hunger and poverty.

Feeding Families is Just the Beginning

January 23 General Membership Meeting
7:30 p.m. St. Mark Presbyterian Church, 601 Claymont, Ballwin

May 8 13th Annual Charity Golf Tournament
Aberdeen Golf Club, Eureka

September 16 4th Annual Run Circles Around Hunger 5K
Valley Park

November 4 50th Anniversary Dinner
Forest Hills Country Club

We share many donations with our clients:
- Food, Canned and Packaged
- Fresh Garden Produce
- Dry Pet Food, Litter
- New School Supplies
- New Toys
- New Blankets, Hats, Gloves

Donations are accepted:
Mon, Tue, 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 [www.circleofconcern.org](http://www.circleofconcern.org).

**STAFF DIRECTORY** ................................................................. 636.861.2623

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Michelle Lepak, Pantry Director ................. michelle@circleofconcern.org .............. ext. 107
Niki Vandalbe, Client Services Director ...... niki@circleofconcern.org .................. ext. 108