

July 2016

Celebrating 49 years
of service to the
St. Louis community



AROUND

THE

CIRCLE

The Circle Of Concern Food Pantry Newsletter

CURRENT NEEDS:

- Dry Dinners
- Spaghetti Sauce
- Jelly
- Mac & Cheese
- Canned Pasta
- Canned Meat
- Rice/Dry Beans/
Dry Potatoes
- Peanut Butter
- Disposable Razors
- Low-Dose Aspirin

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.

How Do You Circle?

A lot happened in 1967. The world's population hit nearly 3.5 billion. Thurgood Marshall became the first black Supreme Court justice. PBS was formed. Closer to home, the Cardinals won the World Series, and the trams started running within the Gateway Arch. And in the western edge of St. Louis County, history was being made.

In 1967, Circle Of Concern came into its own. After its inception a few years earlier as a project of local churches, Circle became a stand-alone nonprofit organization, serving families in need with a variety of programs.

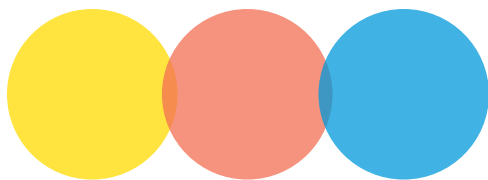
Next year in 2017, we will mark the 50th birthday of Circle, and we couldn't be more proud! For five decades, Circle has become a model of how to ease the effects of poverty in our area, through programs to share food, scholarships, financial assistance and so much more.

We've done this work together! For nearly 50 years, with your help—and that of all our donors, volunteers and other stakeholders—we've served our community well. It's time to celebrate what's been done and time to look forward to the work ahead. To do that, we are planning several events late this year and throughout 2017—and we'd like you to take part!

**IAmCircle50@
circleofconcern.org**

Have you been a Circle volunteer? Tell us when and what your role was. A donor? What drew you to this effort? A client? Please share your experience at Circle. Email IAmCircle50@circleofconcern.org and tell us about how you are part of the Circle family. Your story will become part of Circle's history...as we all become part of Circle's future!

Feeding Families is Just the Beginning



Scholarship Winners

Congratulations to the 2016 Circle Of Concern student scholarship winners. These 17 scholarship awards are given to local graduating high school seniors, and to college freshman who won a scholarship last year, based on academic success, need and a rigorous interview process. These young people will attend college in the fall with Circle by their side.



High School Seniors:

Parkway West –
 Dahlia Abdulsattar (Maryville U.)
 Rockwood Summit –
 Mahmood Altamimi (Meramec Community College), Devaney Banks (Benedictine College), Sarah Gibbs (Lindenwood U.), Jordan Sampson (Fontbonne U.), Marissa Hill (Truman State)
 Marquette –
 Gabrielle Blosser (U. of S. Indiana)
 Parkway South –
 Angel Green (Lindenwood U.)
 Eureka –
 Joshua Hartmann (Missouri State Tech), Cassidy Webb (U. of Alabama)
 Lafayette –
 Kaylee Kombrink (Milwaukee Art Institute)
 Parkway Central –
 Sierra Downing (Kansas U.)

College Freshmen:

Christopher Buehrig (Missouri State)
 Jorden Grossett (Rolla)
 Ross Kurczynski (Rolla)
 Cole Schubbe (Mizzou)
 Lydia Kentch (Missouri State)



Members of the National Association of Professional Organizers in St. Louis

Thinking Outside the Circle

National Association of Professional Organizers

That wise soul, Unknown, once said, "For every minute spent organizing, an hour is earned." If that's true, then Circle earned countless hours to serve our families, thanks to members of the St. Louis chapter of the National Association of Professional Organizers, or NAPO. The team didn't just sort through storage and clear out clutter; they gave us a system to stay on a tidy track. While they normally work in family homes to put things to rights (find out about their home-work at napostl.com), our friends from NAPO got Circle in ship-shape!



Before the Dice Rolls!

Call your Bunco BFFs today and reserve your seats at the 2nd Annual Bunco Fun-Raiser on July 15. No skill is required, just a willingness to laugh, meet new people, shop the silent auction, enjoy a snack and maybe try a nice cocktail or two.

Visit circleofconcern.org to register for only \$20 per person, and we'll see you on July 15!



MAY SERVICES



FOOD PANTRY

Number of people fed = 1,772
 Number of bags distributed = 2,888
 Number of families = 593
 Cost (@\$53.57) = \$81,212.12
 Kids bags distributed = 33



FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

32 families received
 \$6,091.41 in financial services



VOLUNTEERS

182 volunteers shared
 1,969 hours



5K RUN/WALK

benefiting

CIRCLE OF CONCERN FOOD PANTRY

Are you ready to make a difference in the lives of hungry families? Then hit the trail on Valley Park's scenic Meramec River Trail on September 17 to Run Circles Around Hunger! Timed for runners or perfect for a casual walk with family and friends - all proceeds benefit Circle Of Concern's food pantry and programs for our neighbors.

Music by School of Rock • Food • Fun • CrossFit Warm-Up

WHEN: Saturday, September 17, 2016

WHERE: Arnold's Grove Trail Head Park
4 Meramec Station Road
(Hwy 141 & Marshall)
Valley Park, MO 63088

TIME:
7 a.m. Check-In
8 a.m. CrossFit Warm-Up
8:30 a.m. 5K Run/Walk Start
9-10 a.m. Music, Food & Fun
9:30 a.m. Winners Presented

COST: \$25 per person
(Children 10 & Under FREE*)
* T-shirt not included in free registration

- Race is chip-timed for Runners
- Register by August 26 to guarantee t-shirt
- Packet pick-up at Circle on September 14 from 3 to 7 p.m. or at event check-in

Thanks to our Platinum Sponsor!



EXPRESS SCRIPTS®

REGISTER NOW!

Register online at www.circleofconcern.org or complete the following info for each participant and mail to: **Circle Of Concern, Attn: Alva, 112 St. Louis Avenue, Valley Park, MO 63088**

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____ Runner or Walker? (circle one)

T-shirt size (Adult S - XXXL available): _____ Age: _____

Payment: ☐ VISA ☐ MASTERCARD ☐ DISCOVER ☐ CHECK

of Participants _____ x \$25 per participant = \$ _____ (Teams of 10+ only \$20 each)

Card # _____ Exp Date _____ Security # _____

Can't Attend But Want to Help?

Register online or use this form with VIRTUAL next to your name. All the T-shirt, none of the sweat!

Run Circles Around Hunger 5K Run/Walk



September 17, 2016
Arnold's Grove Trail Head, Valley Park

Promote your business or family by **sponsoring** this 3rd Annual Run/Walk. You'll also help feed your community by supporting the food pantry and programs of Circle Of Concern, serving local families in need since 1967.

Sponsorship Levels

- ☐ **Platinum Sponsor** **\$2,500**
 - Prominent Company Name and Logo Placement on Race Shirts and all Race Materials, Print Ads and Race Signage
 - On-Site Booth Space
 - 10 Race Entries for your Company Team
 - Circle Newsletter Ad
 - Social Media Recognition
- ☐ **Gold Sponsor** **\$1,000**
 - Logo on Race Shirts and Print Ads
 - Race Signage
 - On-Site Booth Space
 - Circle Newsletter Ad
 - Social Media Recognition
- ☐ **Silver Sponsor** **\$ 500**
 - Logo on Race Shirts, Race Signage and Print Ads
 - Social Media Recognition
- ☐ **Bronze Sponsor** **\$ 250**
 - Listing on Race Shirts and Print Ads
 - Social Media Recognition

Call Cyndi at 636.861.2623 x117 or email
Cyndi@circleofconcern.org to sponsor

Sponsorship

Sponsor online at circleofconcern.org or

CHECK YOUR SPONSORSHIP LEVEL BELOW

Name: _____

Company Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Sponsor Level:

- ☐ **Platinum Sponsor** **\$2,500**
- ☐ **Gold Sponsor** **\$1,000**
- ☐ **Silver Sponsor** **\$ 500**
- ☐ **Bronze Sponsor** **\$ 250**

VISA Mastercard Discover Check

Amount Due: _____

Card # _____

Exp Date _____ Security # _____

Signature _____

Email your logo to Cyndi@circleofconcern.org.

Circle Of Concern * Attn: Cyndi
112 St. Louis Avenue * Valley Park, MO 63088
circleofconcern.org



Thanks to Trivia Sponsors

No Trivial Event!

This spring's **Say Cheese! Trivia Night** was a huge success, raising more than \$12,000 to buy cheese and other fresh food for Circle's clients. Along with our welcomed trivia-smart guests and our dedicated volunteers, please join us in thanking our sponsors who helped make this successful event possible.

Don't Worry,

Brie Happy Sponsor - MO Foundation For Health
Round Sponsors - SSM Health St. Clare Hospital in Fenton

Craig Aubuchon, M.D.
Megan & Matt Claflin
Big Cheese Sponsors - Meramec Bluffs
KMOX NewsRadio 1120
Maria Keena

Thanks to Food Donors

A key source of food for our families is the local grocery and restaurant community. We appreciate the abundance and variety they share with our clients. Please join us in thanking them by stopping by and letting them know they are valued partners in keeping our community fed:

Aldi	Sam's Club
Big Lots	Save-A-Lot
Costco	Schnucks
Dierberg's Market	Shop 'n Save
Fresh Thyme	Straub's
Lucky's Market	Subway
Panera Bread	Target
Papa Murphy's	Walmart



Client Story – Eleanor

Like every good baseball player who works the way from a farm team to the big leagues, "Eleanor" is dedicated to working her way toward her goal of self-sufficiency.

When she joined Circle's mentorship program, Eleanor knew she wasn't ready to stand on her own. She also knew, though, that she could get there with a little help and ongoing encouragement. She's been working with her mentor to develop computer skills and to organize and prioritize her time and tasks.

Her mentor is brimming with good things to report about Eleanor's newfound confidence and her initiative to seek solutions on her own. She is honing her skills as a member of a team, volunteering and using research skills to find job opportunities.

We can all learn from Eleanor's experience and her enthusiasm. Setting modest, short term goals and keeping the bigger picture in sight but not letting it overwhelm the small successes is a good process for everyone. Cheers to Eleanor as she continues to develop her potential and use her skills to build confidence in herself. She is truly on her way to being a champ in the majors!

**Name changed*



Circle is now accepting school supplies that will be shared with the children of our client families in early August. We need backpacks, crayons, markers, paper, notebooks, scientific calculators and much more to equip nearly 700 children from kindergarten to college. Supplies should be dropped at Circle by Wednesday, August 3 at 3 p.m.

By feeling prepared for school on the first day of classes, these children can start a new school year confident and ready to learn. For more information and a full list of supplies needed, click on the Back To School link of the circleofconcern.org homepage. Thank you!

A Note from Cyndi

It's hard to imagine, but *already* it is July, and we are planning one of our favorite annual events—Back to School—this year scheduled for August 6th at Twin Oaks Presbyterian Church. We will serve hundreds of youngsters, from kindergarten through high school. Each will leave with a backpack chock-full of supplies required by his or her school.

Last year, I had the privilege of escorting families around to the various stations to choose backpacks, pencil boxes, folders, calculators and more. The delight of the children as they made their choices was contagious.

Every child deserves to experience *the fun* of back to school preparations. Because of YOU, and your gifts of time and treasure, we can bring that joy to kids who so often suffer the realities of their family's circumstances. Thank you for making "Back to School" the special event that it should be.

Book Appeal



Books Needed! Circle is looking for new and *gently-used* adult and children's books to stock our small lobby library*. If you have books to share, we ask that you bring them to our lobby during the following hours:

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday – 9:00 am – 3:00 pm
Wednesday – 9:00 am – 7:00 pm
Saturday – 9:00 am – 1:00 pm

*Due to our limited storage space, Circle can accept no more than six boxes of gently used books at a time. If you have a larger donation, please call The Greater St. Louis Book Fair. *Thank you for supporting literacy!*



Circle Of Concern Food Pantry

Feeding Families is Just the Beginning

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

Presort Standard
US Postage
Paid
St Louis Mo
Permit 175

Scholarship Winners!

BOARD of DIRECTORS

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Matt Claflin
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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

July 15	Bunco Night
August 2	Last Drop-Off Date for School Supplies
August 3	Back-To-School Distribution
August 13	Jelly Jamboree with the Chesterfield Football Assn.
September 3, 5	Closed for Labor Day
September 17	3rd Annual Run Circles Around Hunger 5K

STAFF DIRECTORY

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