Classes might be on a hiatus for the summer, but at Circle Of Concern, we’re thinking about the first day of school!

This August, Twin Oaks Presbyterian Church will once again host the Circle Back To School event. This popular program stocks up our clients’ children with what they need to start school in the fall. Back packs, supplies, calculators – children entering kindergarten through college will be able to choose everything they need to be prepared to learn.

By “shopping” with their parents or guardians, the children have a stake in preparing for school. Event volunteers have reported seeing very small children thrilled to find the perfect Minions or Guardians of the Galaxy back pack, while teen scholars are stunned to get a new scientific calculator of their very own.

This year, Back To School takes place the week AFTER Missouri’s Tax Free Weekend (August 4–6). That’s good news for friends who wish to contribute sturdy backpacks, the calculators, thumb drives, paper, notebooks, pens, markers and other supplies needed to outfit our children.

We invite you to visit circleofconcern.org/Programs/Children’s Programs to see a full list of needed school supplies. Donations can be dropped off at Circle by Wednesday, August 9 to be distributed on August 12.
Teddy was sleeping in a local laundromat. A police officer made him leave but suggested Teddy come to us for help. He arrived with his old bicycle and little else. We shared some food and worked hard to find a shelter with room for him. We finally found a bed for him in downtown St. Louis but unfortunately, three days after arriving, the city closed the shelter.

Teddy came back out to the County, retrieved his bicycle from our warehouse and got a job at a local fast food restaurant. He recently came in for an appointment and proudly showed off his uniform. He’s now living in a storage unit—not an ideal solution but a step up from the laundromat—and is saving for a “real” place to live. Teddy is proud of having the strength and support to begin to make a home for himself.

Kudos From the Course!

Many thanks to our friends and sponsors who made the 13th Annual Circle Of Concern Golf Tournament possible. We also appreciate our generous auction donors:

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Help stock the food pantry shelves while listening to some of the best local working musicians in St. Louis. The Nathan Rauscher Quintet will perform old standards, some new songs by Nathan, and an evening of music to feed the soul.

When: Saturday, July 8, 7 p.m.
Where: Parkway United Church of Christ (2841 N. Ballas Road, Town & Country)
Cost: Suggested $15 donation, food donations welcome
Oh, The Places They’ll Go!

The Dr. Suess book of this name, the last one he wrote, cheerfully encourages young people to march cheerfully forward with perseverance and take adversity in stride. That’s exactly how the recipients of Circle’s college scholarships view their next big adventures! Here’s a look at where the 2017 youth scholarship awardees are going to start the next phase of their hopeful lives!

1st Year Awards
Jazzlyn Adler
Marquette H.S.
Lipscomb University in Nashville, TN

Mariam Ali
Rockwood Summit H.S.
University of Missouri-St. Louis

Elaine Bisso
Parkway West H.S.
Missouri South State University-Joplin

Suzanna Blalock
Lafayette H.S.
Sewanee University of the South, TN

Adriona Carey
Parkway Central-Fern Ridge H.S.

Kaitlin Clermont
Parkway South H.S.

Suzanna Blalock
Lafayette H.S.

Uthman Oyebamiji
Parkway West H.S.
University of Missouri-Columbia

Sierra Downings
University of Kansas, Lawrence, KS

Sarah Gibbs
Lindenwood University, St. Charles

Joshua Hartman
State Technical College of Missouri, Linn

Kaylee Kombrink
Milwaukee Institute of Art, WI

Jordan Sampson
Fontbonne University, St. Louis

Kassidy Webb
University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa, AL

2nd Year Awards
Dahlia Abdulsattar
University of Missouri-Kansas City

Devaney Banks
Benedictine College, Atchison, KS

Gabrielle Blosser
University of Southern Indiana, Evansville

Sierra Downings
University of Kansas, Lawrence, KS

Sarah Gibbs
Lindenwood University, St. Charles

Joshua Hartman
State Technical College of Missouri, Linn

Kaylee Kombrink
Milwaukee Institute of Art, WI

Jordan Sampson
Fontbonne University, St. Louis

3rd Year Awards
Christopher Buehrig
Missouri State University, Springfield

Jorden Grossett
Missouri Science & Technology, Rolla

Cole Schubbe
University of Missouri-Columbia

Note From Cyndi

Late last week, one of our volunteer caseworkers shared a story—the kind of story that moves, encourages and reaffirms. She told of a former Circle client, a young woman—a refugee who had suffered unimaginable loss and hardship. With Circle’s help and her own hard work and perseverance, this young woman has not only thrived, but prospered. Since coming to the United States, she’s married, had a child and become a U.S. citizen. Through her work as a home healthcare worker, she’s built a reputation of one who can be depended on. One who can be trusted. So, her client list is long. She’s no longer a Circle client. She’s a home owner, a suburban mom, a neighbor with an extended circle of friends who care deeply for her.

Each individual or family that walks through Circle’s doors has a unique story; a story whose plot can change dramatically with the help of a trained, caring crew of volunteers and staff members. The stories of success are many and we look forward to sharing them with you throughout our 50th Anniversary year!

“This Is Hunger”

All are invited to visit a one-of-a-kind traveling exhibit – This Is Hunger, presented by MAZON and other community partners. This dynamic, interactive experience challenges many beliefs about hunger in America … and will inspire you to action! The exhibit will be parked at the United Hebrew Congregation (13788 Conway Road) July 5-7. The cost is FREE but visit http://bit.ly/thisishungerUH to reserve your spot today.
Circle Of Concern
FOOD PANTRY
Feeding Families is Just the Beginning

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

Oh, The Places They’ll Go!

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, Fri....................9 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Wednesday....................9 a.m. - 7 p.m.
Thursday.......................9 a.m. - noon
Saturday.......................9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Important Dates:

July 1-4 Circle Closed for Independence Day Weekend
July 5-7 “This Is Hunger” Exhibit, Chesterfield
July 8 Nathan Rauscher Benefit Concert, Town & Country
August 9 Donation Drop-Off for Back To School Circle Of Concern
August 19 Super-Circle Food Drive Walmart - 201 Highlands Blvd., Manchester
September 2-4 Circle Closed for Labor Day Weekend
September 16 4th Annual Run Circles Around Hunger 5K Arnold’s Grove Trailhead Park, Valley Park
September 24 Family Movie Night at the Firehouse, Ballwin
November 4 50th Anniversary Celebration Dinner Forest Hills Country Club, Chesterfield

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

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