

June 2016

Celebrating 49 years  
of service to the  
St. Louis community



AROUND

THE

# CIRCLE

The Circle Of Concern Food Pantry Newsletter

## CURRENT NEEDS:

- Canned Meat
- Pasta Sauce,  
Canned Pasta
- Jelly
- Dry Dinners
- Pickles
- Family-Size Ketchup
- Picnic Condiment  
Packs
- Jugs of Vinegar

## 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.

## Playing the Dealt Hand

**W**ho is the strongest person you know? Does that person have physical strength? Strength of character? Of faith? Here at Circle, we often see people who summon great strength every day to navigate the world. And some others draw on incredible strength just to play the hand they've been dealt.

Our Scholarship program recently chose 15 young people to receive first- or second-year college funding. It's easy to see that, while their goals are lofty, their futures are full of promise. It's just as telling, though, to look to their pasts to see the strength that brought them this far.

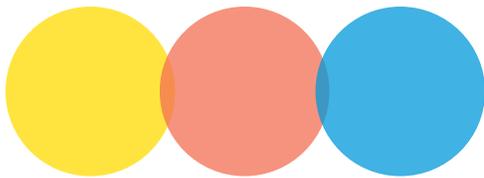
Jacob\* was born in a comfortable world in Iraq. His parents were educated professionals, their families well-connected. With the start of war in 2003, however, everything that was comfortable changed to chaos. Beyond the fear of bombs and barbed wire, conflicts between Sunni and Shia Muslims resulted in the kidnapping of

his uncle and the attempted kidnapping of Jacob. The family knew they needed to leave their home. A few years in Yemen and then the move to America meant that Jacob and his family started over with nothing, which brought them to St. Louis and Circle. Jacob aspires to gain work that will help him and his family to feel stable and strong again.

Taylor\* is independent. Not only is she strong and free in spirit, but she is, officially, independent—an emancipated youth. After living with physical abuse for much of her childhood, Taylor decided for herself that she would not reach her goals and soar in life while tethered to trouble. She pursued emancipation, which means she is providing for herself as she completes high school and prepares to go to college. Her grades are exemplary and, with her long list of extracurricular activities, she has earned a spot at a prestigious engineering school in the South, with the funding to allow her to go. And Taylor did it all with her own inner strength and hard work.

*continued on page 3*

Feeding Families is Just the Beginning



## Date Line

The Food and Drug Administration only requires baby food and formula to have expiration dates. Other food manufacturers aren't required to put dates on their products. Many of them do, however, and this is what the various kinds of dates mean:



**Best Before Date** – This notation indicates, according to the manufacturer, the last day by which a product's flavor or quality is best and the optimal time of its shelf life for quality. This is also sometimes called a "Best If Used By" date.

**Use By Date** – This suggests the last day that the manufacturer vouches for the product's quality.

**Sell By Date** – The Sell By Date on a product is the item's expiration date, the end of its shelf life at the store.

Here at Circle, we never include expired food in the groceries we bag for our clients. If we received donations that are in good shape and less than a year expired, we invite our clients to take them to supplement the groceries we bag for clients. Groceries more than a year old are discarded.



Visit [circleofconcern.org](http://circleofconcern.org) today to register for the **2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Bunco Fun-Raiser** on July 15! No skill needed, just an interest in having fun, eating delicious snacks, bidding on the silent auction items and rolling dice for Circle. The cost is only \$20 per person, so bring some friends! Space is limited, so register now.



## Thinking Outside the Circle



### Metro West Firefighters

Ballwin's Bravest—**Metro West firefighters**—held a family movie night on a recent Saturday night to benefit Circle Of Concern. While Circle will put the food collected to good use, the real beneficiaries were the many young children and their families who got to experience a real fire station in action while watching Disney's *Planes - Fire & Rescue*. Thanks to Metro West and all who attended for a great night at the firehouse!



...which means **Circle** is preparing for **Back To School!**

On August 6, the children of our clients will gather to choose age-appropriate backpacks and school supplies to kick off the 2016-2017 school year ready to learn. Will you help us gather school supplies of all kinds to make sure we have enough for more than 700 children? Please stock up on supplies and watch for more information!



## APRIL SERVICES



### FOOD PANTRY

Number of people fed = 1,854  
Number of bags distributed = 3,032  
Number of families = 626  
Cost (@\$53.57) = \$81,212.12



### FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

39 families received  
\$8,055.10 in financial services



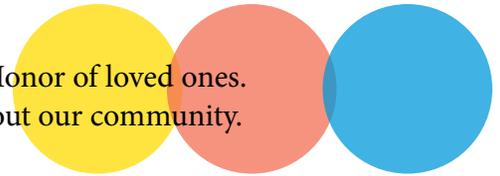
### VOLUNTEERS

187 volunteers shared  
1,884.48 hours

# Memorials and Honoraria

January 1 through April 30, 2016

Thank you for the many gifts we've received in recent months in Memory or Honor of loved ones. Throughout the year, we celebrate the lives and legacies of others who care about our community.



## Honoraria:

Richard & Charles,  
AARP Tax Preparers  
Botulinski Family  
Rebecca Compton  
Phil Davis  
Ken Duenke  
Sally Edmiston  
Juliet Holden  
Boyd & Barbara Jones  
Nancy & Ken Kranzberg  
Ray & Martha Lindner  
Mother's Day  
Linda Patton  
Wayne & Karen Pennington  
Jacob Philpot  
Mr. & Mrs. Michael Pierle  
Joel Sjerven  
Gary Weintraub  
Barb Woehle

## Memorials:

Dennis Basler  
Mrs. Jean Behan  
Kenneth Berkbigler  
Kathryn L. Bettis  
Rachel Bick  
Mr. & Mrs. J. L. Brown  
Charlie Brune  
Charles Burkhardt  
Julia M. Burleson  
Pat Byars  
Melburn & Gladys Caesar  
Charles L. Decker  
Imogene Decker  
DeeDee  
Drusilla DeLisle  
Sumitra Devi  
Stacie Dubruiel  
Marion Gannon  
Diane Garcia  
Albert Gleason  
Molly Gleason  
Warren Glickert

Kenneth Guier  
Hal Harris  
Warren Hecht  
Annette Hogancamp  
Billie Hudson  
Norma Jane Humble  
Gus LaMarca  
George Lambert  
Carol Luckas  
Virginia "Binny" Luechtefeld  
Marilyn McDonald  
Kathleen McDonald's Father  
Jerry McMahan  
Daryl Metzener  
Connie Mielcuszny  
Dave & Mary Miller's Mother  
Jon & Carla Mitts  
Mother  
Chris Nelson  
Eugene Obermeier  
Kathy O'Halloran

Joan Oppliger  
Leonard Queathem  
Don Reilly  
Ray Ronecker, Jr.  
Marianne Schenck  
Bernice Schrand  
Rich Schweiger  
Wilma M. Sestric  
Prem Kumar Sinha  
Marie E. Smith  
Georgia Spencer  
Marie Standley  
Russell Strohmeier  
Tressie Sydner  
Bob Temm  
Russell Theiss  
Arlene Van Klaveren  
Rose Marie Westermann  
Brian & Kathleen Wiethop  
Michael Wipfler  
Jerry Withers

## Playing the Dealt Hand

*continued from page 1*

Jacob and Taylor are just two young people who, with their Circle scholarships, will translate their difficult pasts into positive futures, playing their hands their way.

*\*Names changed for privacy*

## A Note from Cyndi

As a Circle supporter, you have likely heard the story: nearly 50 years ago, a group of west St. Louis County churches came together to combine their resources and coordinate efforts to better serve families in need. That "coming together" was the launch of Circle. We are grounded in collaboration.

*"Alone we can do so little.*

*Together we can do so much."*

*~Helen Keller*

## Golf! Grow! Give!



LPGA

Attend a golf clinic hosted by LPGA instructors on Sunday, June 12, to benefit Circle! All ages and skill levels are welcome at the Family Golf & Learning Center from 12 noon to 2:30 p.m. Cost is only \$25 for top-flite instruction. Register at [info@stlouisgolfflessions.com](mailto:info@stlouisgolfflessions.com) today!

Our relationship with area faith-based organizations continues, and we've gained a multitude of partnerships with schools, businesses and fraternal organizations. Each offers charitable dollars, food donations and volunteer hours. Our collaboration with the two regional food banks, Operation Food Search and St. Louis Area Foodbank—as well as a host of area grocers—ensures that Circle has a steady supply of foods to share with our neighbors in need.

We are truly grateful for our partnerships; they enable us to serve over 600 families monthly, with wholesome foods, coaching and community referrals, financial assistance, budgeting, holiday programs, summer camp opportunities, scholarships and job mentorship programs. So, whether we are joining with others to help a homeless couple with shelter, food and a way back home, or we're helping thousands annually with ongoing support, we *cannot* do it alone.



# 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

## Date Data

### BOARD of DIRECTORS

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**PRESIDENT**

Doug Paul  
**VICE PRESIDENT**

Calvin Holderby  
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Matt Clafin  
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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](http://circleofconcern.org)



### IMPORTANT DATES

- June 27 **General Membership Meeting**  
7:30 p.m., St. Mark Presbyterian  
(601 Claymont, Ballwin)
- July 2-4 **Closed for Independence Day**
- July 15 **Bunco Fun-Raiser Night**
- August 2 **Last Drop-Off Date  
for School Supplies**
- August 6 **Back-To-School Distribution**

### STAFF DIRECTORY

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Niki Vandable, Client Services Director, <a href="mailto:niki@circleofconcern.org">niki@circleofconcern.org</a>	x108