Who 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
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.

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!

Visit circleofconcern.org today to register for the 2nd 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.

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
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. 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.

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.

“A lone we can do so little.
Together we can do so much.”
~Helen Keller

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.

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 McMahon
Daryl Metzener
Connie Mielszuny
Dave & Mary Miller’s Mother
Jon & Carla Mitts
Mother
Chris Nelson
Eugene Obermeier
Kathy O’Halloran
Joan Opplinger
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 Strohmeyer
Tressie Sydnor
Bob Temm
Russell Theiss
Arlene Van Klaveren
Rose Marie Westermann
Brian & Kathleen Wiethop
Michael Wipfler
Jerry Withers

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.

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.

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 McMahon
Daryl Metzener
Connie Mielszuny
Dave & Mary Miller’s Mother
Jon & Carla Mitts
Mother
Chris Nelson
Eugene Obermeier
Kathy O’Halloran
Joan Opplinger
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 Strohmeyer
Tressie Sydnor
Bob Temm
Russell Theiss
Arlene Van Klaveren
Rose Marie Westermann
Brian & Kathleen Wiethop
Michael Wipfler
Jerry Withers

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.

“A lone we can do so little.
Together we can do so much.”
~Helen Keller

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.

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

Golf! Grow! Give!

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@stlouisgolflessons.com today!
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

STAFF DIRECTORY

Cyndi Miller, Executive Director, cyndi@circleofconcern.org  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

636.861.2623