

November 2016

Celebrating 49 years
of service to the
St. Louis community



AROUND THE

CIRCLE

The Circle Of Concern Food Pantry Newsletter

CURRENT NEEDS:

All items are important and helpful. In recent months, we've been especially low on canned meals and meats, such as:

Rice/Dry Beans/
Dry Potatoes – **CRITICAL**
Canned Chicken, Chili,
Stew – **CRITICAL**
Snack Items - **CRITICAL**
Tomato Products - **CRITICAL**
Canned Pasta - **CRITICAL**
Canned Fruit
Dinner Helpers
Dry Pasta
Canned Veggies
Dry Soup
Baby Wipes
Laundry Detergent
Feminine Hygiene - tampons

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.

Credit Score!

Our friends—that means YOU!—give so generously to Circle Of Concern this time of year. It's also a time when you get something back.

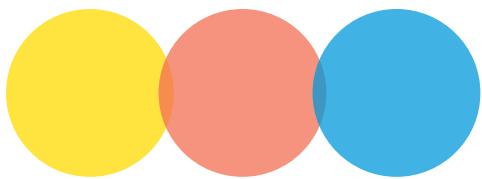
When you give a financial gift or food to Circle, you qualify for Missouri Food Pantry Tax Credits (FPTC). Better than a deduction, these credits reduce the amount you pay for your state income taxes. With a simple form verified by Circle, you can earn up to \$2,500 in tax credits on gifts totaling up to \$5,000. Couples filing jointly can earn up to \$5,000 in credits on gifts up to \$10,000.

To make this an easy process for our friends, we will prepare a verified FPTC form to everyone making cash gifts in 2016 totaling \$100 or more. When you receive the verified form by the first week of February 2017, simply give it to your tax preparer to submit with your state income tax return by April 15, 2017.

To learn more about these valuable Missouri tax credits, call Juliet at 636.861.2623 x106.

To make a year-end gift, visit circleofconcern.org and click the Donate button. Your support tangibly improves the lives of the families who come to Circle for food ... and hope. On their behalf, thank you.

Feeding Families is Just the Beginning



A Client Story

Beth* has two little girls, and her husband is struggling with a chronic illness that limits his ability to hold a job. Beth works part-time at a local gym and makes a little extra money by babysitting.

You would never know Beth's struggles to look at her. She takes care of her family. She works. She worries. She makes do – when her car needed repairs, she took extra babysitting jobs to pay for it – she does the best she can. Even with her best, though, there wasn't enough money for groceries.

Circle helps. The food pantry put groceries in the kitchen. When the electric was about to be turned off, we matched what Beth could pay to keep it running. The Back To School program got the girls ready for school, and she's looking forward to Thanksgiving Baskets and Toy Day.

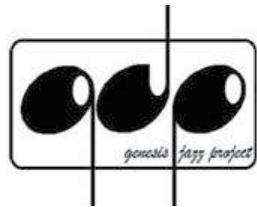
Through her worries and for Circle's help, Beth is grateful. As she told our intake volunteer, "I have my family, I have my health, we all have Circle. It'll all be OK."

We Need Legos!



The in-demand toy at our Toy Day celebration is always LEGOs. Will you please donate some big and little sets to make some dreams come true? Toy donations for Toy Day can be dropped off at Circle until Friday, December 9. Thank you!

Thinking Outside the Circle



Genesis Jazz Project

The lights fell and the music rose, thrilling the room with old standards and new arrangements. A night of cool jazz was just the way to kick off the busy Thanksgiving weekend...and it was all for Circle. And we're ready for an encore!

For the second year, the Genesis Jazz Project—a group of the St. Louis area's finest jazz musicians—is holding a concert to benefit Circle. The only cost to attend is a few clams...or cans of tuna or jars of peanut butter!



Tuesday, November 22
7:30 p.m.
Midwest Music Conservatory
(15977 Clayton Road,
just west of Clarkson)

Admission is nonperishable food items or a suggested \$10 donation to benefit Circle. Please join us for world-class entertainment; your presence will be music to our ears!



After Black Friday, Small Business Saturday and Cyber Monday, please visit circleofconcern.org to give generously!



SEPTEMBER SERVICES



FOOD PANTRY

Number of people fed = 1,829
Number of bags distributed = 2,993
Number of families = 614
Cost (@\$53.57) = \$86,153.51



FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

49 families received
\$8,582.21 in financial services



VOLUNTEERS

184 volunteers shared
1,975 hours

Reading is FUN-damental

Kick off your holiday shopping with books on November 20!



Barnes & Noble in Fenton (721 Gravois Road) is once again supporting Circle with their popular Bookfair on Sunday, November 20. Stop by the store and select books, music and even a seasonal coffee or dessert from the Café. A portion of your entire sale will be given to Circle in support of our lobby library and client programs.

- Step 1: Stop at our complimentary gift wrap table to get our Bookfair number.
- Step 2: Shop throughout the store.
- Step 3: Give your bookseller our Bookfair number.
- Step 4: Help children read, learn and grow at Circle!

**Barnes & Noble
Bookfair**

Complimentary gift wrapping is available. You can even buy a book to share with a Circle family!

**Circle's Bookfair number is also valid at the Chesterfield and West County Mall stores on that day.*

Much Appreciated!



Did you know that you can donate stock to Circle? With gains in the market,

many stocks have appreciated. Now may be the right time for you to donate shares directly to Circle and not pay capital gains taxes.

By making a gift of appreciated stock, you may take the full value as a charitable tax deduction, meaning both you and Circle benefit.

As always, consult your tax advisor when making a decision to donate stock, and call Cyndi at 636.861.2623 x117 for more information.

A Note from Cyndi

"I share my story, because I believe it can help others." These are the words of a former Circle client, a woman who, when her husband left her unexpectedly five years ago, thought her world was coming to an end. What he offered in support to this stay-at-home mother of two wasn't even enough to pay their mortgage. It took two years to reach a settlement. She fought through depression, foreclosure and a bankruptcy; enrolling in school and slowly but steadily building a new life for herself and her children. During the hardest months, Circle of Concern helped her to put food on the table. Today, she is a mammography technician, "...a women's health advocate," who shares her story – and how Circle helped – with others; because she wants to be a resource, and a light to those who may find themselves in similar circumstances. We are grateful to her for sharing her story. We are grateful to YOU, too. Through your faithful and generous support, you make inspiring stories like this one a reality.

Cyndi

Pizza Party

Busy prepping for the Thanksgiving feast? Order pizza. Got up early to shop on Black Friday? Eat pizza for lunch. Tired from hanging lights on your house? Pick up pizza. While everyone else's mind is on turkey, think PIZZA!



Circle is the lucky recipient of this year's Spreading MODness campaign at MOD Pizza in Ellisville. In celebration of the innovative food chain's birthday, this MOD store location (15809 Fountain Plaza Drive, next to Lucky's Market at Clayton and Clarkson) will give Circle one dollar for every MOD or MEGA pizza sold between Tuesday, November 22 and Sunday, November 27. MOD will even match all sales on one of those days.

Plan to spread the MODness through pizza over Thanksgiving weekend, and you'll be helping to feed Circle families throughout the year!



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

We Beggo Some LEGO!

BOARD of DIRECTORS

Steven Ernst
PRESIDENT

Doug Paul
VICE PRESIDENT

Calvin Holderby
SECRETARY

Matt Claflin
TREASURER

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



IMPORTANT DATES

November 17	Old Newsboys Day – Give generously!
November 19	Circle open to Donors during Thanksgiving Baskets
November 22	Genesis Jazz Project Benefit Concert
November 22-27	MOD Pizza – Ellisville promotion to benefit Circle
November 23 (noon) – November 27	Circle Closed for Thanksgiving
December 10	Circle open to Donors during Toy Day

STAFF DIRECTORY

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