

October 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. Right now, these are our most critical needs:

Canned Meat:

- Canned Chicken
- Chili
- Beef Stew
- Chicken & Noodles

Tomato Products:

- Sauce
- Diced and Whole
- Stewed

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.

Fall Flurry

It's in the air at Circle. No, not pumpkin spice everything, but that indefinable sensation that alerts every fiber of your being that autumn has arrived!

For us, that means teams of volunteers are hard at work on our three holiday programs. Each helps normalize the season for families that might otherwise not feel all the joys of feast and festivities. We can use your help!

THANKSGIVING BASKETS

The Saturday before Turkey Day, 500 families will receive a turkey and the makings for an all-American feast, along with a small gift card to purchase the ingredients for special family or cultural dishes.

How You Can Help:

Food – We need canned turkey gravy, chicken/turkey broth, Canned Milk (Both Kinds), Cornbread Mix, Foil Roasting Pans
Funds – Donations will buy turkeys and gift cards

Friends – We have a few spots to help in the warehouse and do food drive pick-ups

Contact: michelle@circleofconcern.org

HOLIDAY FAMILY ADOPTION

Circle families are “adopted” by friends in the community who help make their wishes come true.

How You Can Help:

We need adopters/sponsors! By yourself or with others from your family, church, business or others, adopt a family and purchase gifts for each member. We recommend a limit of \$50 per person in the household.

Contact: niki@circleofconcern.org

TOY DAY

Circle clients come together to “shop” for their children amidst a sea of toys, books, gifts and more. All gifts are new and grouped from newborn to teen.

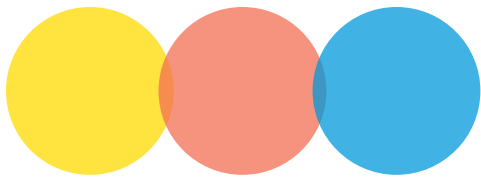
How You Can Help:

Fill Santa's workshop with donations of new toys, dolls, crafts, bikes, books, teen favorites, hats/scarves, gift cards and more.

Contact: circleofconcern.org, click “Toy Day”

Thank you for making all the holidays so special for Circle families!

Feeding Families is Just the Beginning



A Client Story

Seeing clients walk out of Circle with grocery bags is an everyday occurrence. When we recently saw Karen* walk *in* with a bag in her hand and a spring in her step, however, we knew it was a special day. "I'm donating bars of soap and some extra canned goods to Circle," she explained.

With excitement in her voice, she said that after a couple of years of on-again, off-again employment, she landed a job that pays enough to buy food for herself and her granddaughter, as well as cover her bills and start to get ahead. "I feel like I can really take care of my family now. I can't wait to see what's coming!"

Karen shared how grateful she has been to Circle for the food she's received and a little bit of financial assistance to keep the lights on one month, but now she's grateful to be able to give back. "I know what it's like to need the basics, and now I'm in a position to share what I have. What a wonderful feeling!"

Circle Snapshot

Before a wonderful donation of birthday tutus is shared with some of our younger clients, staff and volunteers took a playful moment to model them!



(l-r) Michelle, Barb, Niki, Carol, Pam
are TUTU cool!

Thinking Outside the Circle



Delta Tau Fantasy Tea

For many years, the members of Delta Tau hosted an Elegant Tea Luncheon and Auction to benefit Circle. This year, that Tea entered the realm of fantasy!

Although the sorority was unable to host the Tea this year, they decided to still forge ahead with a Fantasy Tea. An invitation was sent to everyone who had attended the event in the past, but instead of an R.S.V.P., the invitation contained a donation envelope and – here comes the fantasy! – a packet of homemade cookies and a specialty tea bag. Guests were invited to relax at home with a "cuppa and a cookie" while they write a check to support Circle.

At press time, the Fantasy Tea had raised \$2,500, which will buy food to share with our clients. To all our friends at Delta Tau and to all the guests of the Fantasy Tea, we raise a pinky to you and say, "Pip Pip and Cheerio!"



It's In Your Head

People dealing with mental illness can be found in any group or population, including here at Circle. Some of our clients struggle with a variety of conditions, just as they—and our other clients—struggle with the effects of poverty. While our first focus is on basic needs like food and emergency assistance, we help our clients with mental illness access the best possible care for their condition. At Circle, we respect all who suffer from illness, no matter what kind it is.



AUGUST SERVICES



FOOD PANTRY

Number of people fed = 1,989
Number of bags distributed = 3,282
Number of families = 670
Cost (@\$53.57) = \$94,472.37
Kids bags distributed = 169



FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

606 families received
\$10,898 in financial services



VOLUNTEERS

189 volunteers shared
2,343 hours

A Note from Cyndi

What a terrific summer we had at Circle Of Concern! In addition to the monthly groceries we shared with our clients, our pantry distributed over 800 bags of kid-friendly foods to help families with children get through the summer months. We sent 100 children and youths to summer camps throughout St. Louis County and beyond. *And oh, the heartfelt thank yous we got in return!* We served over 500 kids at our Back to School event. And, we finalized payment on scholarships for kids—and some adults—totaling nearly \$60,000; ensuring that some especially resilient and ambitious youngsters would have the opportunity to pursue their dreams. As we move into the fall and winter months, we look forward to the programs and special events that bring nourishment, normalcy and optimism to area youngsters. Your gifts make this possible. Thank you!

Cyndi

You Deserve the Credit!

Missouri Food Pantry Tax Credits are available. If you give money or food



to Circle but have not used this popular program to reduce your MO income tax bill, try it this year! Little-known fact – spouses filing jointly can earn up to \$5,000 in credits. **Contact Juliet at 636.861.2623 x106 for info.**

Run/Walk for Hunger Awareness a Big Success!

Storm clouds cleared in time for perfect weather for the 3rd annual Run Circles Around Hunger 5K! More than 300 people signed up to run or walk along the scenic Meramec River, raising more than \$10,000 to help stock Circle's food pantry. Thanks to all who participated and ran circles around hunger!



Warm-Up by CrossFit in Valley Park



Cathy Martinelli tops the 50-59 Females group



Hungry for the Win!
Kyle Johnson (l) was tops in the 19-29 Males group, pictured with James Stone, Overall first place winner of the event with a time of 19 minutes 14 seconds!



Gabrielle Clinkscale takes 2nd in the 12 & Under Females group



Still smiling!





Circle Of Concern Food Pantry

Feeding Families is Just the Beginning

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Valley Park, MO 63088
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**Fall Is In
the Air**

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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.



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and visit us online at
circleofconcern.org



IMPORTANT DATES

October 16	World Food Day
October 16	Holiday Family Adoption Adopter/Sponsor Commitment
November 6	Thanksgiving Baskets Volunteer/Food Drive Commitments
November 19	Thanksgiving Baskets (Closed for regular business)
November 23 (noon) - November 26	Closed for Thanksgiving

STAFF DIRECTORY

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