A Grand Idea

Last fall, friend-of-circle Deborah H. had a talk with her grandchildren. Knowing that they would receive lots of cherished gifts for Christmas, she proposed that her gift to them would be the “adoption” of a child in need in a Circle Of Concern family for the holidays. The catch? Each grandchild would shop for the gifts with Grandma, with Grandpa holding the calculator to stay on budget! Besides the children, Grandma and Grandpa would buy gifts for the grown-ups in the house.

This year, Circle is expanding our Holiday Family Adoption program and inviting more friends, businesses, churches and civic groups to adopt Circle client families than ever before. Last year, 306 families were adopted; this year, we expect that number will be closer to 600! To make this happen, WE NEED YOU!

One way to reach this goal is by inviting parents and grandparents to give their children and grandchildren the joy of giving as a gift for the season. Just visit circleofconcern.org and click on Holiday Family Adoption. You can choose to sponsor a family of one person or many. As a Sponsor, you will receive a wish list from each member of the family, including the adults. An expenditure of approximately $50 per person is common. In December, you will bring the gifts to Community Christian Church on December 12. Families will collect their gifts on December 13.

Please consider teaching the children in your life the joy of giving. It will be the best gift you’ll ever give them!
A Note From the Pantry...

Each month, we post a list of items we need for the pantry shelves. Sometimes we’re running a little low; sometimes the need is critical. Also each month, I am astounded and grateful for how many people walk in our doors with bags and boxes full of the exact items we ask for. Peanut butter, canned chicken, laundry soap and even new window air conditioners – our friends see our need and respond with kindness and generosity. Thank you for careing for our clients, and thank you for hearing us when we call!

Michelle Lepak, Pantry Director

Caramel Apple Crisp

One sweet ingredient makes simple apple crisp sublime. Set aside a little extra caramel to drizzle on top!

½ cup caramel topping
½ teaspoon ground cinnamon
6 large apples, peeled and sliced (try a mix of apple varieties)
2/3 cup all-purpose flour
½ cup packed brown sugar
½ cup cold butter or margarine, cut in small pieces
2/3 cup quick-cooking oats

Optional – Vanilla ice cream or whipped cream
Additional caramel sauce for topping

Heat oven to 374°.

In a large bowl, stir together the ½ cup caramel sauce with the cinnamon until blended. Add apple slices and toss until coated. Spread in an ungreased 8-inch square baking pan.

Maximize Your Gift, Maximize Your Return

Your gifts of food or cash given to Circle Of Concern in 2017 can earn you tax credits in 2018. If you have not used Missouri Food Pantry Tax Credits before, call Juliet at 636.861.2623 x106 and ask how easy it is to get while you give to Circle!

Paddles Up!

The 50th Anniversary Celebration is nearly here, and excitement is building! Along with a pop-happy Balloon Raffle and a rousing Fund-A-Need, the Live Auction is bursting with bid-worthy packages. Join us on November 4 to raise your paddle for:

• Week’s luxury condo stay in sunny Destin, FL
• Romantic Valentine 4-star weekend in Music City – Nashville!
• Private chef-prepared appetizer party for 20
• St. Louis Theatre & Entertainment Packages ~ Exclusive Golf ~ Wine Tasting ~ Branson Get-Away ~ Much More!

Watch for an invitation or register at circleofconcern.org today!

Instead of Toy Day...

For many years, Circle has held two December programs for families – Holiday Adoption and Toy Day.

This year, to better meet the needs and wishes of our families, we are expanding Holiday Adoption to just about all of our clients—twice as many as last year—and not holding Toy Day.

After talking with clients, volunteers and our community friends, we found that our donors would rather share exactly what specific clients and their children are asking for than give toys that might not be what any children are wishing for.

We invite all of our friends who previously donated toys for Toy Day to visit circleofconcern.org to adopt a family and make those special dreams come true.

A Circle History Moment

No tricks at Circle, only treats! Former executive director, Glenn Koenen, referees a group of staff and volunteers on Halloween.
Running Circles

“It’s a beautiful morning…” It was hard not to hum that classic Rascals song as 300 runners and walkers gathered for the 4th annual Run Circles Around Hunger 5K on September 16! With a strong warm-up by CrossFit Valley Park, music by Rod & Charlie, balloons by Sammy J Balloons and the first-ever Top-Your-Own Cereal Bar, our friends had a good morning along the scenic Meramec River. Thanks to all who made the day possible in support of Circle Of Concern!

Special thanks to our Sponsors!
Express Scripts
Lord of Life Church
Cintas
GFI Digital
Missouri Foundation for Health
BWTP
CHE Consulting
Crestwood-Sunset Hills
Kiwanis Foundation
Joseph C. Sansone Co
Living Word Men’s Club
Sam’s Club
SSM St. Clare Medical Center
Sysco
Associated Insurance Brokers
Gravel Shooters & Quality Waterproofing
Morris Shank Wealth Management – Integrated Financial Group
CrossFit Valley Park
Sammy J Balloons

Caramel Apple Crisp, cont.
In the same bowl, mix the flour and brown sugar. Cut in the butter with a pastry blender or with two table knives until the mixture looks like coarse crumbs.

Stir in the oats, then crumble the whole mixture over the apples.

Bake 45-50 minutes or until apples are tender and topping is golden brown.

Optional presentation – top with ice cream or whipped cream and drizzle with additional caramel sauce

August Stats:
Number of people fed = 1,789
Number of bags distributed = 2,951
Number of families = 615
Kid bags shared = 169
Cost = $90,367.75

Financial Assistance
48 families received $8,197.36 in financial assistance

Volunteers
174 volunteers shared 2,155 hours
We share many donations with our clients:
- Food, Canned and Packaged
- Fresh Garden Produce
- Dry Pet Food, Litter
- New School Supplies
- 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:
- October 16: Deadline to sign up as Holiday Adoption sponsor
- November 4: 50th Anniversary Celebration Dinner
  Forest Hills Country Club, Chesterfield
- November 13-18: Volunteer Opportunities for Thanksgiving Baskets
- November 16: Old Newsboys Day
  Buy a Paper – Give Generously!
- November 23-27: Circle Closed for Thanksgiving

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

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