

# AROUND THE Circle Newsletter

Circle Of Concern  
Food Pantry



## 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](http://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!

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### Current Needs:

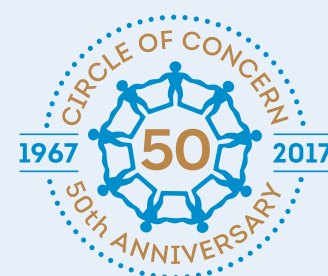
- Snacks - **CRITICAL**
- Canned Mixed Vegetables - **CRITICAL**  
(Please no green beans!)
- Tomato Products - **CRITICAL**
- Cereal
- Peanut Butter
- Jelly
- Razors
- Bar Soap
- Dish Soap
- Body Wash

### OUR MISSION:

Circle Of Concern feeds the hungry and provides assistance to low-income families living in west St. Louis County.

### OUR VISION:

Improving every life in our community by reducing hunger and poverty.



*Feeding Families is  
Just the Beginning*

## 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.

## 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 caring for our clients, and thank you for hearing us when we call!

*Michelle Lepak, Pantry Director*

## 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](http://circleofconcern.org) today!

## 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!

## 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.

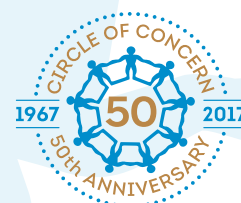
After talking with clients, volunteers and our community friends, we found that our donors would rather share exactly what specific clients and their children are asking for than give toys that might not be what any children are wishing for.

We invite all of our friends who previously donated toys for Toy Day to visit [circleofconcern.org](http://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.



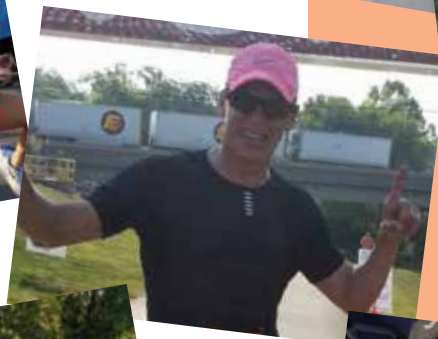


# Running Circles

"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  
Kiwani 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



## 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

## 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*



# Circle Of Concern FOOD PANTRY

*Feeding Families is Just the Beginning*

112 St. Louis Ave.  
Valley Park, MO 63088  
Address Service Requested

Non-Profit Org.  
US Postage  
Paid  
St Louis MO  
Permit 175

**We Call,  
You Answer!**

## Board of Directors:

**Steven Ernst**  
*PRESIDENT*

**Lana Biondo**  
*VICE PRESIDENT*

**Matt Claflin**  
*TREASURER*

**Michael Bauer**  
*SECRETARY*

**Karen Aubuchon**  
**Frank Haase**  
**Sue Hoffman**  
**Maria Keena**  
**Doug Paul**  
**Alva Rozar**  
**Greg Shoemaker**  
**Jason Sinclair**  
**Carol Vandable**  
**Amey Vollmer**

## 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:

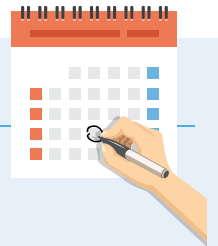
Mon, Tue, Fri..... 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.  
Wednesday..... 9 a.m. - 7 p.m.  
Thursday..... 9 a.m. - noon  
Saturday..... 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.



**"LIKE US"** on Facebook and visit us online at [www.circleofconcern.org](http://www.circleofconcern.org).

## 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



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