Almost anytime we at Circle Of Concern give a talk in the community, someone will say, “I didn’t know there are hungry people in West County.” Our response is often an eye-opener, “Yes, there are…and they come to the food pantry to the tune of 2,000 each month.”

In prosperous west St. Louis County, hunger hides. The family down the street that has experienced unemployment, children in any class of our award-winning school districts, the woman checking out books at the public library—each could be struggling to eat and make it day to day.

In the 223 square miles that comprises the bulk of West County—Circle’s service area—services for families needing food are mostly small and scattered. Without the density of poverty found in other parts of St. Louis, small food pantries are scattered in churches or are connected with school “backpack” programs or are small programs within bigger organizations.

During the school year, approximately 15 percent of Rockwood and Parkway students qualify for free or reduced cost meals based on family income. Nearly 45 percent of children in Valley Park receive meals. In the summer, all bets are off. Last year, St. Louis County’s summer feeding program had only a couple of feeding sites in West County’s whole 223 square miles. Without a density of need—and limited mass transit—these programs don’t offer an efficient way to get food in the hands of those who need it.

And then, there is Circle. The largest food pantry in our service area, Circle covers a lot of hungry ground. We feed 1,200 households each year. We work closely with schools, churches and other organizations to identify families in need of food and other assistance. We share Kid Bags with families whose children miss out on school meals during the summer. Relationships with local grocery stores and other retailers bring variety and choice to families who need so much. You—our friends and donors—make sure people who are hungry are fed.
A Client Story

In these Client Stories, you will normally see families that have already benefited from the services Circle offers and are seeing hope and positive change in their circumstances. Sometimes, though, it’s worthwhile to see what brings families to us in the first place. Names are changed to protect privacy.

Rob’s career went off-course during the recent economic downturn, and it has never quite recovered. He’s stayed employed in lower-paying positions. Jobs of the level he used to have are now held by people who used to be a pay grade above him.

Millie and her husband lived a life, saved for modest retirement and thought they’d planned well for a life together. A devastating illness took her husband after consuming most of their savings. Millie was left with almost nothing.

Donald was diagnosed years ago with a mental illness. Sometimes he can hold down a job, often he can’t.

Annette’s situation is far too typical. Escape from an abusive marriage, young children, no support, starting over — she and her children need so much.

You might ask, “So where is the hope in these stories?” The hope lies in the fact that, for nearly 50 years, Circle has been here for people like Rob, Millie, Donald and Annette who, in their toughest moment, needed a place to turn. Thanks to you and our caring community, our neighbors—and maybe even you—have had a reliable, ever-present resource when those worst-of-times happen.

Thinking Outside the Circle

Dewey’s Pizza

The Bronx Bomber. The Edgar Allan Poe. The Green Lantern… These pizza flavors are just a few of the reasons to love Dewey’s Pizza, and here’s another one. This summer, all six local Dewey’s stores held their second annual DewMore Food Drive for Circle. Out of sight, behind the dough-tossing pizza-making professionals, the stores’ employees collected boxes and boxes of food items, all of which will be shared with clients at Circle.

Many thanks to Dewey’s and to your amazing employees!

Cooler Days, Warmer Hearts

The Holidays are already on our minds here at Circle, and you are invited to join us to make Thanksgiving, Christmas, Hanukkah and the rest of the seasonal holidays special for our families. Here’s a timeline to help you plan your support:

- Thanksgiving Baskets - volunteer commitment by 11/6 and all food donations by 11/20. (See food lists and volunteer opportunities in this issue!)
- Holiday Family Adoption - family sponsor commitment by 10/16 and gift drop-off on 12/15.
- Toy Day - commitment for day-of volunteer activities by 12/4 and toy donations to Circle by 12/10.

Watch for more information!
In addition to the regular groceries we provide to our client families each month, Circle Of Concern provides a Thanksgiving Basket to all of our clients and their families for Thanksgiving dinner. Your gifts of food and funds help us offer Thanksgiving dinner to 550 families plus share food with more than 2,000 people each month.

**Thanksgiving Items:**
- Cornbread Mix/Biscuit Mix
- Stuffing
- Cranberry Sauce • Canned Fruit
- Dessert Mix (cake/cobbler mix, canned pumpkin or pie filling)
- Turkey Gravy (Canned)
- Macaroni & Cheese • Rice Mixes
- Canned Vegetables (peas, carrots, mixed veggies)
- Jello Gelatin
- Yams/Canned Sweet Potatoes
- Broth or Cream Soup
- Canned Milk (evaporated or sweetened condensed)
- Large Foil Roasting Pans

Your **Cash Donation** will help purchase turkeys!

**Everyday Needs:**
- Peanut Butter • Jelly and Jam
- Canned Meals (chili, chicken, stew)
- Dinner “Helpers” • Cereal
- Canned Fish, Meat
- Canned Pasta, Pasta Sauce

Drop off food at Circle by Friday, November 18, 3 p.m.
112 St. Louis Avenue in Valley Park
Join Circle Of Concern in reaching out to needy families in our community this holiday season. You or your group can help by hosting a food drive and collecting food, contributing money to purchase fresh produce and turkeys or **volunteering time to the Thanksgiving Basket Program!** If you would like to volunteer for our thanksgiving program, please complete the form below. To learn more, call 636.861.2623 or email Barb at woehle@sbcglobal.net.

### Please circle your shift(s) below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Warehouse Volunteer at Circle (must be able to lift 30+ lbs. and be 16 years or older)</th>
<th>Volunteer Drivers (must have current vehicle insurance, valid driver’s license and must be able to lift 30+ lbs)</th>
<th>On-Site Prep Volunteer-St. John’s 15370 Olive Blvd., Chesterfield, MO 63017 (All children’s groups must be 8th grade or older.) Lunch provided</th>
<th>Distribution Volunteer-St. John’s 15370 Olive Blvd., Chesterfield, MO 63017 (All children’s groups must be 8th grade or older.)</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday (November 14) 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Noon-3 p.m.</td>
<td>Monday (November 14) 9 a.m.-1 p.m.</td>
<td>Thursday (November 17) 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.</td>
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<td>Tuesday (November 15) 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Noon-3 p.m.</td>
<td>Tuesday (November 15) 9 a.m.-1 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday (November 16) 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Noon-3 p.m. 4 p.m.-7 p.m.</td>
<td>Wednesday (November 16) 9 a.m.-1 p.m.</td>
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<td>Thursday (November 17) 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Noon-3 p.m.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

### Sign up to Volunteer TODAY before your preferred volunteer post is gone!

I/We can help between November 14 - 19, 2016 at Circle and/or St. Johns UCC, 15370 Olive Blvd. in Chesterfield

---

**Contact Name**

**Address**

**Group**

**Best Daytime Phone**

**Email**

---

**Complete and return by mail to:**
Circle Of Concern
Attn: Thanksgiving Baskets
112 St. Louis Avenue
Valley Park, MO 63088

**Or fax to 636.861.2296**

Call 636.861.2623, email Barb at woehle@sbcglobal.net or visit circleofconcern.org for more info.
By the time you receive this newsletter, chances are we’re just a week or two from our 3rd Annual Run Circles Around Hunger 5K Run / Walk. If you haven’t already signed up for the event, please consider doing so! Whether you’re a runner, a walker or a spectator, we promise you’ll have a great morning. Runs and Walks are a great way to raise awareness, make new friends and renew enthusiasm for a common cause—in this case, to fight hunger and help our struggling neighbors.

Our 5K will also help to raise the funds needed to sustain our food pantry and other services, like rent and utility assistance, our Back to School event, camp and college scholarships; and employment mentorship.

Sign up for our 5K, and you’ll enjoy a good warm-up and stretch with CrossFit Valley Park, wonderful live tunes by some talented young musicians from School of Rock, and whimsical balloon sculptures by Sammy J’s Balloons…oh, yes…and a good run (or a leisurely stroll) along the Meramec!

For just $25 (or $20 per person for teams of ten or more) you’ll get all that and a t-shirt too! If you prefer to sit this one out, please consider signing on as a “virtual runner.” You’ll get “all of the t-shirt and none of the sweat!” Sign-up is easy, at www.circleofconcern.org or 636.861.2623, x117.

Honoraria:
Jill Albano’s Birthday!
Lucius Barker
Jim & Judy Doehring
Kay Folsom’s Birthday!
Joyce Gamewell
Georgian Geronsin
Tim Golby
Juliet Holden
Leann & Phelps Hurford
Paul & Lou Hutchens
Mariam A. Jeske
Mollie Jones Burtt
Bill Jones, Sr.’s 90th!
Bill & Terry Kendrick
Tony Kessen
Carol Locke
David & Judith Lyon
Ross & Donna Osiek
Emma Jean Phillips
Dolores Rodenberg
Ella Schmidt
Lori Schonebaum
Kathy Stewart
Jane Walsma’s Birthday!
Barb Woehle
Nancy Engelhardt
Kenneth M. Foushee, Jr.
Bill Franklin
Pansy Glandt
Albert Gleason
Molly Gleason
Kenneth Guier
Clarence “Bob” Hackmann
Edward Hardin
Warren Hecht
Heinz Hoyer
John Joyce
Mary Kordsmeier
John Kretschiner
Shannon La Rock
William Luedde
Mildred Manning
John & Virginia Maxwell
Jerry McMahon
Elmer & Mary Ann Meyer
Rebecca Meyers
Forrest Moschmher
Nancy Murray
Chris Nelson
Ruth Ostfeld
Robert R. Pixler, Sr.
Norman Raebner
Bob Rasche
Bob Raville
Mr. Richardson
Lucille H. Roberts
Ray Ronecker, Jr.
Marianne Schenck
Russell Strohmeyer
Earl Lee Stroud, Jr.
Tom Struckhoff
Shirley Sweecklin
Marilyn Walters
Rose Marie Westermann
Carolyn Wolff
Amy Marie Woods

Memorials and Honoraria
May 1 through July 31, 2016

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.

Honoraria:

Memorials:
Don & Elaine Baumbach
Peggy Bess
M/M Zack F. Bettis
Leona Bode
Jim & Judy Borzillo
Paul Boswell
Dixie Bucknell
Kenneth Buermann
Ethel Buntin
Julia M. Burleson
Gary Carpenter
Katherine Daims
Therese A. Davisson
Drusilla DeLisle
Jerry Dudding
John Edwards

A Note from Cyndi

By the time you receive this newsletter, chances are we’re just a week or two from our 3rd Annual Run Circles Around Hunger 5K Run / Walk. If you haven’t already signed up for the event, please consider doing so! Whether you’re a runner, a walker or a spectator, we promise you’ll have a great morning. Runs and Walks are a great way to raise awareness, make new friends and renew enthusiasm for a common cause—in this case, to fight hunger and help our struggling neighbors.

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Run to Register!
Registration is still open for the 3rd annual Run Circles Around Hunger 5K on Saturday, September 17. The Meramec River Trail in Valley Park is a wonderful place to spend a Saturday morning, and you’ll be there with hundreds of friends of Circle who want to support Circle’s programs. Register online at circleofconcern.org by August 26 to guarantee a tee shirt in your size. Thanks for joining us; we’ll see you on the trail!
In Memory,
In Honor

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.

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:
- September
  - Hunger Awareness Month
- September 17
  - 3rd Annual Run Circles Around Hunger 5K
- September 26
  - General Membership Meeting
  - 7:30 p.m.
  - St. Mark Presbyterian
  - (601 Claymont, Ballwin)
- October 16
  - World Food Day

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

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Michelle Lepak, Pantry Director, michelle@circleofconcern.org x107
Niki Vandable, Client Services Director, niki@circleofconcern.org x108

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Carol Vandable
Amy Vollmer

Address Service Requested