

September 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. Some are especially sparse on our shelves this month.

Pasta Sauce - **CRITICAL**  
Dinner "Helpers" - **CRITICAL**  
Mac & Cheese  
Canned Pasta  
Dry Potatoes/Beans/Rice  
Bar Soap - **CRITICAL**  
Disposable Razors

## 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.

## To Be Hungry in St. Louis County

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."

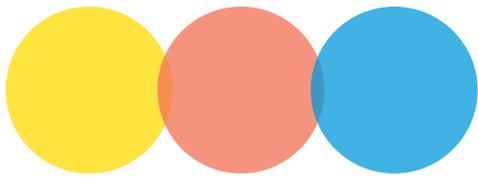
In prosperous west St. Louis County, hunger hides. The family down the street that has experienced unemployment, children in any class of our award-winning school districts, the woman checking out books at the public library—each could be struggling to eat and make it day to day.

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.

Feeding Families is Just the Beginning



## 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!



### JULY SERVICES



#### FOOD PANTRY

Number of people fed = 1,812  
Number of bags distributed = 2,979  
Number of families = 603  
Cost (@\$53.57) = \$85,750.52  
Kids bags distributed = 303



#### FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

36 families received  
\$4,945 in financial services



#### VOLUNTEERS

183 volunteers shared  
1,898 hours

# THANKS FOR GIVING

## Holiday Food Drive 2016

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*



**Circle Of Concern  
Food Pantry**

*Feeding Families is Just the Beginning*

# THANKSGIVING VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

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](mailto:woehle@sbcglobal.net).

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

**Warehouse Volunteer at Circle (must be able to lift 30+ lbs. and be 16 years or older)**

Monday (November 14)  
9 a.m.-1 p.m.  
Noon-3 p.m.

Tuesday (November 15)  
9 a.m.-1 p.m.  
Noon-3 p.m.

Wednesday (November 16)  
9 a.m.-1 p.m.  
Noon-3 p.m.  
4 p.m.-7 p.m.

Thursday (November 17)  
9 a.m.-1 p.m.  
Noon-3 p.m.

Friday (November 18)  
9 a.m.-1 p.m.  
Noon-3 p.m.

**Volunteer Drivers (must have current vehicle insurance, valid driver's license and must be able to lift 30+ lbs)**

Monday (November 14)  
9 a.m.-1 p.m.

Tuesday (November 15)  
9 a.m.-1 p.m.

Wednesday (November 16)  
9 a.m.-1 p.m.

Thursday (November 17)  
9 a.m.-1 p.m.

Friday (November 18)  
9 a.m.-1 p.m.

**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

Thursday (November 17)  
10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

**Distribution Volunteer-St. John's 15370 Olive Blvd., Chesterfield, MO 63017**  
*(All children's groups must be 8th grade or older.)*

**Saturday, November 19**

8:30 a.m.-12 noon Food distribution

12 noon-2 p.m. Load boxes for return to Circle

***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

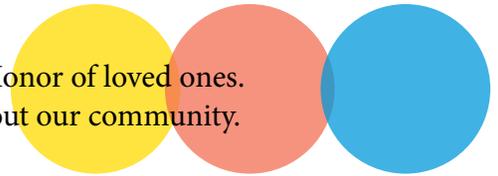
*Or fax to 636.861.2296*

Call 636.861.2623, email Barb at [woehle@sbcglobal.net](mailto:woehle@sbcglobal.net) or visit [circleofconcern.org](http://circleofconcern.org) for more info.

# 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:

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 Burt  
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

## 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 Dains  
Therese A. Davisson  
Drusilla DeLisle  
Jerry Dudding  
John Edwards

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 Moschner  
Nancy Murray  
Chris Nelson  
Ruth Ostfeld  
Robert R. Pixler, Sr.  
Norman Raeber  
Bob Rasche  
Bob Raville  
Mr. Richardson  
Lucille H. Roberts  
Ray Ronecker, Jr.  
Marianne Schenck  
Russell Strohmeier  
Earl Lee Stroud, Jr.  
Tom Struckhoff  
Shirley Sweeklin  
Marilyn Walters  
Rose Marie Westermann  
Carolyn Wolff  
Amy Marie Woods

## Run to Register!

Registration is still open for the 3<sup>rd</sup> 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](http://circleofconcern.org) by August 26 to guarantee a tee shirt in your size. Thanks for joining us; we'll see you on the trail!



## A Note from Cyndi

By the time you receive this newsletter, chances are we're just a week or two from our 3<sup>rd</sup> 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](http://www.circleofconcern.org) or 636.861.2623, x117.



# Circle Of Concern Food Pantry

Feeding Families is Just the Beginning

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

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**In Memory,  
In Honor**

## BOARD of DIRECTORS

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Sue Hoffman  
Greg Shoemaker  
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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](http://circleofconcern.org)



## IMPORTANT DATES

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

## STAFF DIRECTORY

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Niki Vandable, Client Services Director, <a href="mailto:niki@circleofconcern.org">niki@circleofconcern.org</a>	x108