Investing in the Future

One plans to be an engineer, another will work in graphic art. These college students, and others aiming for futures in teaching, medicine and many other careers, have all been awardees of Circle of Concern’s highly competitive Scholarship program. One of Circle’s oldest and most beloved, the Scholarship program has awarded, conservatively, over $1 million in 50 years to hundreds of young people pursuing college dreams.

In-depth applications and interviews have been constants for nearly half a century, but we continually consider new ways to improve Scholarships. A few years ago, we opened up the program to include small scholarships for adult clients who need retraining, certifications or GED-prep to improve their ability to support their families. This year, we’re exploring new models for awards, including an idea called “Do No Harm.” Working closely with students to incorporate many college and tuition options in their collegiate plans, for example, may reduce the amount of student loan debt that students will carry when school is done.

The 2018 Scholarship applications are due by April 23 and can be accessed online at circleofconcern.org. Whether tried-and-true process or new innovation, Circle’s Scholarship program is a valuable investment in the future of our young people.

An investment in knowledge pays the best interest.

Benjamin Franklin

Current Needs:
- Jelly – CRITICAL
- Canned Chicken
- Tomato Products
- Peanut Butter
- Canned Pasta
- Bar Soap
- Body Wash
- Ibuprofen – CRITICAL
- Size 5 or 6 Diapers
- Razors

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.
**A Client Story**

Sarah* hadn’t put up a Christmas tree since her divorce four years ago. Knowing she had no toys to put under it for her daughter just made the whole idea too sad to bear. Coming to Circle changed that.

Sarah shared that, since coming to us for the first time in November, things are getting better. The food she has received freed up money to fill her gas tank. She has been able to take home fresh apples and oranges for the first time in four years (canned fruit is cheaper). And, thanks to our Holiday Adoption program, Sarah put up a Christmas tree, under which she placed gifts, including the special Lego set her daughter hoped Santa would bring.

“Talking to you,” said Sarah to our intake volunteer, “makes me feel like things are going the right way for the first time in a long time.” Many thanks to all our donors and Adoption sponsors who help Sarah and others feel so positive about the future!

*Name changed for privacy

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**Crossing Paths**

It’s always a fun day when a big truck pulls up to Circle from a local food drive! Our good friends at The Crossing church in Fenton rolled up to Circle in a 26-footer recently loaded to the top with cases and cases of canned food and more, ready to share with our neighbors. Many thanks to the members, pastors and volunteers of The Crossing!

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**Jelly Roll Bunco!**

Registration is now open for the 4th annual Circle **Bunco Fun-Raiser Nite**! On **Friday, April 20**, we roll the dice at a new location – Good Shepherd Lutheran Church (327 Woods Mill Road in Manchester). It’s classic Bunco, along with a silent auction, prizes and fun! Proceeds will help buy jelly and other items for Circle’s food pantry.

Tickets are only $20 to play, and serious hors d’oeuvres, sweet desserts and complimentary soda and water are included. Register online at circleofconcern.org no later than **April 13** or until we sell out. See you there!

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**My Christmas Miracle**

The following poem accompanied a generous gift to Circle, designated to “hopefully help someone else in need as my way of repaying the generosity.” It made us smile!

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**Pantry**

- Number of people fed: **1,745**
- Number of families fed: **584**
- Number of bags distributed: **2,831**
- Value of bags: **$81,490.34**

**Financial Assistance**

- 22 families received **$3,123.00** in financial assistance

**Volunteers**

- 174 volunteers shared **2,000 hours**
Memorials and In Honor Of

When you send a gift to Circle in memory or honor of someone you care for, you honor us in the process. It means that you feel the work we do sharing food and other services is worthy of your loved one. Thank you for your gift.

In Honor Of:

- 5K Run, CrossFit Valley Park
- Dr & Mrs Rob Akred
- Nancy Akred, for Christmas
- Carol Aston
- Tricia S. Barrow, for Christmas
- Sophia Belcher
- Suzy Besnia
- Lara Biondo
- The Boland Family
- Bobbi Brimer
- Barbara Brown
- Paul Buneta’s Birthday
- Alan, Karen & Olivia Burchardt
- Katie & Matt Caddy’s Wedding
- Emily Susan Christensen
- John, Karen & Ed Corich
- Coordes’ Marriage
- Peggy & David “Cordie”
- Elisa & Ed Corich
- Susan Courtney
- Elizabeth & Jim Crabtree
- Joan Duffy
- Mary Lou Elson
- Joanne Iverson
- Mary Lou Estes

Memorials:

- Sally McDonough’s Birthday
- Dr R Mera
- Scotty Meyer
- The Miller Family
- Jo Ellen Miller’s Birthday
- Sally Morton
- Louis Mueller, for his 90th Birthday!
- Musikgo Faye Family
- Scott Nash & Joel deGuzman
- Mr & Mrs Ed Neuman, for Hanukkah
- Mr & Mrs Richard Nicholas
- Ray Ofstedal
- Mr & Mrs Ross Osiek, for Christmas
- Mr & Mrs Todd Osiek, for Christmas
- Reta Palazzolo’s 100th Birthday
- Mr & Mrs Matt Pennington
- Karen & Wayne Pennington
- Emma Jean & Ellis Phillips
- Madeline Raile, for Christmas
- Lois & Bob Renner
- Jane Richard
- Morin Hanson MD & Cheri Richard NP
- Alva & Cliff Rozar, for their 50th Anniversary
- Eloise Rozycki
- Barbara & Richard Ruiz
- Sherry & Tim Ruiz
- Debbie Russo
- Rachel Schnatterly
- Andrew Schweizer
- Pat Shannon
- Bobbie Siesennop
- Nick Silence
- Judy Simms-Brown
- of Eaton’s Bussmann
- Greg Sonderman
- Toliver Family
- Valley Park Meals On Wheels
- Sarah Veres’ Birthday
- Linda Waugh
- Alec West’s 12th Birthday
- Beth Wienki
- Julie Wienki
- Marilyn Winterberger
- Cathy York
- LaVern Zenthofer

Mercedes
- Linda Meyer
- Mom and Dad
- Mueller Mother
- Nancy Murray
- Don Muse
- Chris Nelson
- Norma Nest
- Helen & Oliver Newberry
- Terry O’Byrne
- Oner Onerigil
- Anne Owens
- Sam Palazzolo
- Flip Paloza
- Zoll Parson
- Donald Piekarski
- Mason Pisoni
- James A Reiker
- Rick Remming
- Mary Robies
- Alan Roe
- Ray Ronecker, Jr
- Carol Rotter & Ann Ogawa
- Christine Royal, Volunteer
- Reuben Salazar
- Marianne Schenk
- Teresa Schmitting
- Bonnie Schwab
- Norma & Harold Segal
- Deann Tulbertson Sontell
- William T Shzahan
- Jeff Smelar
- Bob Sivan
- Bob Slyman
- Joseph Smolz
- Jack Spalding
- Patricia Speir
- Carol M Spencer
- Helen & Dick Sponsel
- Phillip Stallone
- Mary Lou Steins
- Nancy Stephenson
- Joan Stevens
- Stan Stewart
- Helen & Harold “Bud” Stewart
- June Stone
- Russell Strohmeyer
- Keira Strong... for a random act of kindness
- Earl Stroud, Jr
- Robert Stuart
- Greg Sullivan
- Peggy Taylor
- Maxine & Fannon Thompson
- Peter Thompson
- Jack Tisone
- Jennifer Troy
- William J Unger
- Wilma & Bill Van Gendemen
- Patricia Warner
- Jean West
- Bobbi Widdis
- Mary B Jerry Withers
- Carolyn Wolff
- Lenora Zia
February 26
General Membership Meeting
6pm, St. Mark Presbyterian Church
601 Claymont, Ballwin - Board Mtg Follows

March 30, 31
Circle Closed for Easter Weekend

April 5
Dream House Boutique Event
to Benefit Circle

April 20
4th Annual Bunco Fun-Raiser
Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

April 28
Girl Scouts’ April Showers Collection

May 12
Letter Carrier’s Food Drive

May 21
14th Annual Charity Golf Tournament
Aberdeen Golf Club, Eureka

September TBA
Trivia Night and Auction

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.