Current Needs:
We have many critical needs right now!
- Canned Chicken
- Jelly
- Condiments
- Cereal
- Peanut Butter
- Canned Pasta
- Tomato Products
- Pasta Sauce
- Bar Soap
- Body Wash
- Tampons

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.

Circle of Concern is very proud of our origin story. Founded in 1967, a group of West County houses of worship worked together to help families struggling with poverty in what was a very rural area. Since those beginnings, Circle has continued to partner with churches, synagogues, mosques and temples across our area with our programs and with food drives, donations and volunteers.

All the world’s major faiths issue a call to care for others in need. At the recent Interfaith Fair hosted by Trinity Lutheran Church, Circle was invited to share about how we work to offer that care in our food pantry and other programs. Families - Christian, Hindu, Jewish, Muslim and more – shared a delicious, varied meal, played a lively game of interfaith trivia and met as friends to acknowledge that there is more that connects us than divides us. Many thanks to all who attended and brought canned goods and personal care items for Circle!

Change for the better is at the heart of what our clients are seeking, starting with basic needs we all have, like food. Families of all faiths, all cultural backgrounds, walk into our lobby looking for assistance when life is tough, and they find it at Circle. Food that nourishes, crisis financial assistance, school supplies, scholarships for their children and more are all shared. This range of programs feeds the soul and can change the trajectory for a family that was struggling - from despair to hope.

Inside this newsletter, Cyndi Miller shares with you a narrative of the many ways our partners in faith act to assist the families we serve. Food drives, thrift stores, cash donations, service projects, unique ministries, volunteer placements, use of facilities – these are just a few ways that our partners answer the call to care. If you’d like to explore ways to engage your own house of worship more with Circle’s programs, contact Cyndi (cyndi@circleofconcern.org) or Juliet (juliet@circleofconcern.org).

We can’t thank our faith partners enough, but we’ll try…thank you!
A Note From Cyndi

In recent weeks, we’ve met with various groups from area churches that continue to thoughtfully “dig in” to the big issues that impact Circle families – poverty, homelessness, unemployment, low wages and more. It is so encouraging to share what we know, to exchange ideas and to hear their heartfelt desires to make meaningful change for the families we serve.

Circle families have long benefited from the generosity and good will of our faith-based supporters. We’ve received food and funds, fresh garden vegetables, personal care items, diapers, box fans and more. Others have benefited from dollars directed toward scholarships.

We hold client events and volunteer trainings at Twin Oaks Presbyterian Church and Community Christian Church. St. Mark Presbyterian Church is in its 14th year of planning a golf event to benefit Circle. Woodlawn Presbyterian Church has purchased thousands of dollars’ worth of food for Circle – made possible through an enviable “extreme couponing” effort.

We have worked closely with MAZON | A Jewish Response to Hunger program, sponsored locally by the Federation of Reform Temples and Empower Missouri.

One long-time partner, Manchester United Methodist Church, is challenging congregants to ensure that low income families in our area have guaranteed access to personal care items like shampoo, toilet paper, feminine hygiene products, and more. These sometimes pricey items can’t be bought with SNAP benefits (often referred to as “Food Stamps.”) “For the dignity of our neighbors, we want to make this happen,” said the pastor leading the charge on this effort. Manchester UMC also shares the work of their bicycle ministry, Christmas tree lot, flood relief efforts and more.

Among the many resources we call upon to help our clients, we count on the help of local mosques and the Islamic Foundation, as well as the food from the Hindu Temple of St. Louis.

Another faith-based partner is bolstering its efforts with a speakers’ series to help its parishioners to better understand the challenges our clients face. I recently had the honor of being a part of a Lenten Series at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Valley Park. Poor access to low-income housing in St. Louis County became a recurring theme. The parish’s Peace and Justice Commission will be examining this issue and more as members continue the conversation about how best to serve and make lasting change. This work is in addition to the financial and other help offered through St. Vincent De Paul at Sacred Heart and other local parishes.

This spring I will have the honor of sharing our stories at St. Martin’s Episcopal Church – a long-time supporter of our scholarship program. King of Kings Lutheran, Trinity Lutheran and Kirkwood United Methodist churches are among many that conduct large food drives each month to stock our shelves. The Bishop’s Storehouse of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints shares abundant staples with us.

As you can imagine, the danger of highlighting our cherished faith partners is that, in this letter, we know it is nowhere near a comprehensive account of all the support we receive from our community. It is, instead, a grateful reflection on how West St. Louis County houses of worship continue to play a major role in the work we do here at Circle. We – and the families we serve – are truly blessed!

New Tax Territory

Navigating the new tax terrain can be challenging for us all. The new increase in the standard deduction will change the way many people file their taxes. It will also impact donations to chosen charities, as, in most cases, contributions can only be deducted if itemized.

For some individuals however, there’s another option in the new tax code. Individuals who are at least 70 ½ years old and are taking the required minimum distribution (RMD) from their IRA can still get a tax break even without itemizing. By giving your RMD – normally 100 percent taxable – to the charity of your choice directly from your IRA, you can put those funds to use without taxation.

The earlier in the 2018 tax year that you determine how this impacts your situation, the better it is for both you and the charities you support. Once you personally receive the funds from your RMD, the advantage of being able to assure the pretax gifting option is negated.

We encourage you to get a better understanding of how this tax law change may or may not impact your tax situation and if a direct gift from your IRA to a charity is beneficial. Please consult an expert such as your IRA custodian, financial advisor or tax professional to see how this change might impact you and your charitable giving goals.
Proudly Sponsors

Circle of Concern’s
14th Annual Charity
Golf Tournament

Monday, May 21, 2018
Aberdeen Golf Club

Name: _______________________________________
Address/Zip: ___________________________________
____________________________________________

Phone (required): ________________________________
Email (required): _________________________________

____ Golfer - $125*     ____ Foursome - $500*
____ Sponsorship _______________________________
(level and amount- see descriptions)

Team Captain: __________________________________
Email Address: _________________________________
Player 2: ______________________________________
Email Address: _________________________________
Player 3: ______________________________________
Email Address: _________________________________
Player 4: ______________________________________
Email Address: _________________________________

____ I’m unable to participate.

Please accept my donation $____________________

____ I have enclosed a check, payable to: St. Mark
Presbyterian Church (Please mail form and payment to: 601
Claymont Dr. Ballwin, MO 63011)

____ I wish to pay with my credit card. (Please mail form to
Circle of Concern, P.O. Box 444, Valley Park, MO 63088)

Account number: ________________________________
Expiration Date: ______________  Security #: __________

*For tax concerns, the value of goods and services received
is $56.00 per golfer (cart, greens fees and meals.) Payments
made directly to Circle of Concern may be eligible for Missouri
Food Pantry Tax Credits.

Circle of Concern
112 St. Louis Avenue
Valley Park, MO 63088
Phone: 636.861.2623
Fax: 636.861.2296
Email: circle@circleofconcern.org
Presented by:
St. Mark Presbyterian Church

Circle Of Concern Charity Golf Tournament
Monday May 21, 2018

8 a.m. – Check-in and light breakfast
9:30 a.m. – Shotgun start

Buffet and awards begin immediately following tournament.

Golfers will play a four-person scramble format with captain’s choice best ball. Varied flights and prizes.

Live auction and wine pull raffle
$125 per golfer / $500 per foursome

The Scottish Golf Experience

Aberdeen Golf Club is an 18 hole, par 72, links style golf course. Our unique layout features undulating zoysia and native grass terrain, sod wall bunkering, two lakes, and bentgrass greens against a picturesque backdrop of the Meramec River bluffs.

The course is set up as a true shot-makers paradise.

CONTESTS
• Longest Drive
• Closet to the Pin
• $10,000 Hole-in-One
• Putting Competition

Go Orange Sponsors: $3,000
The premier sponsorship is aptly named “Go Orange” because orange is the designated color representing hunger awareness. Donors at this level will have their signage displayed throughout the clubhouse and the opportunity to hang a company banner in the dining room. Registration for one foursome is also included at this level.

Hydration Sponsors: $1,250
Donors at this level will have the logo and promotional message on each tournament beverage cart and signage located near drink coolers at tee boxes.

Par Three Sponsors: $500
Donors will have signs with their logo and promotional message featured near the tee boxes on all four “closets to the pin” par 3 holes.

Putting Sponsors: $300
Donors will have signs with their logo and promotional message featured near the practice green used in the putting competition.

Hole Sponsors: $150
Donors will have signs with their logo and promotional message featured at a tee box at one of the holes on the course.
If You See a Bag on Your Door...

Spring is the season for some key collections that help us care for the families we serve. If you see a bag hanging on your door, thank you in advance for filling it with personal care items or nonperishable food!

April 28
Girl Scouts
APRIL SHOWERS
On April 14, area scouts will leave a bag on your door, returning one week later to pick up personal care and grooming items that mean the world to our clients. Soap, shampoo, dental care, contact solution, feminine/incontinence care and other items are critical for the health and comfort of every family that comes to Circle. One of our most anticipated drives of the year!

May 12
Letter Carrier’s Food Drive
STAMP OUT HUNGER
Another of our most anticipated drives of the year! This massive effort restocks the shelves that look a little bare by mid-May and enables us to share food into the summer. Our local letter carriers will distribute bags to your home the week of May 6, picking up your generous donations of unexpired canned and boxed (unbreakable) foods. Last year, you donated more than 60,000 items in this drive; thank you helping us to top that in 2018!

General Stats for February 2018

Shared food with 1,652 people (564 families)
32 families received $5,747.59 in financial assistance
169 volunteers gave 1,859 hours of service

Countdown to Bunco

Seats are selling fast for the 4th annual JELLY ROLL Bunco Fun-Raiser on April 20! Secure your spot by registering at circleofconcern.org. The cost is only $20 for this popular girls-night-out event. Plan to join us for fun, prizes, hors d’oeuvres and silent auction bargains!

Tax Credit Questions?

We learned that a few of our donors’ tax credit forms were returned. If this happens to you, we can help. Please contact Juliet - juliet@circleofconcern.org or Cyndi - cyndi@circleofconcern.org or call 636.861.2623, x106.

A former client sent us a donation and this note. We are so grateful – for his generosity and for his success!

Circle of Concern’s 14th Annual Charity Golf Tournament

Our slate of golfers is filling up! Gather your players and register via the enclosed golf flier today for the 14th annual Circle of Concern Charity Golf Tournament, presented by Orthopedic Specialists and hosted by St. Mark Presbyterian Church. The links await at beautiful Aberdeen!
April 20
4th Annual Bunco Fun-Raiser
Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

April 23
Youth Scholarships Application
Deadline - 3 p.m.

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

May 26-28
Circle Closed for Memorial Weekend

September 8
Say Cheese! Trivia Night
Trinity Lutheran Church in Chesterfield

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.

Thank a Volunteer Today!

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

STAFF DIRECTORY
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Niki Vandable, Client Services Director ..........niki@circleofconcern.org ..................ext. 108

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