When Someone You Know Needs Help

It’s hard to ask for help. Every day at Circle of Concern, we welcome new clients who tell us that they needed us for food or other services a month ago, two months, six months. They didn’t come then, though, because they were ashamed, because they didn’t want to take what maybe someone else needed more, because they thought that reaching out meant they weren’t helping themselves.

Our first response to concerns like these is that we’re glad they’re here. Our second response is to suggest that we all have moments of hunger or financial need and that reaching out for help sooner rather than later takes strength, not weakness.

If friends or family of yours struggle to put food on the table for any reason – a lost job, illness or medical bills, retirement dollars that don’t stretch far enough – there is help available. They just might need someone to encourage them to seek it. That someone could be you.

Niki Vandable, a clinical social worker and Circle’s Client Services Director, offers a few tips for approaching someone who might be reluctant to reach out to Circle or another organization for help:

• Visit our website at circleofconcern.org first to learn about our programs and qualifications for service so you can give good information;
• If someone shares their worries, actively listening can help more than talking;
• Offer to be with them as they call to make an appointment;
• If you’ve used Circle’s services before – or those of another pantry – share what to expect at the first appointment to ease the strangeness;
• Reminders that many people need help at some point in their lives convey that they are not alone.

Thank you for being part of someone’s solution to a difficult time.
Strategy Statement 2018

As reported earlier this year, the board of directors and staff of Circle launched a major strategic planning effort as we entered our 51st year of sharing with our neighbors here in West County. We will present more about our goals, objectives and activities from the plan in the coming months. To kick it off, though, here’s the language we developed to provide a big picture into who—with your help—we are:

Circle of Concern is a food pantry and social services agency that provides tools for low-income families in the Parkway, Rockwood, and Valley Park school districts to empower them to meet immediate challenges associated with living in poverty and to set long term goals. We help families move from crisis to stability by providing wholesome foods through our pantry services, as well as coaching and case management, financial assistance, scholarships, and more through our various programs and referrals. Our services address the whole client, their families, and their complex needs, and we deliver those services through highly trained, dedicated volunteers who serve with compassion and recognize the dignity and worth of every client who walks through our doors. We sustain our work through a network of generous donors, whose support allows us the flexibility to be responsive to our clients’ needs.

General Stats for May 2018

- Shared food with 1,714 people (587 families)
- 33 families received $5,558.82 in financial assistance
- 166 volunteers shared 1,954 hours

Trivia Reminder

Have you registered for our Say Cheese! Trivia Night on September 8 yet? Look at this month’s insert for more information, or visit circleofconcern.org to reserve a table for you and your cheesiest friends!

Circle Improvements

Several improvements are underway at Circle. A crane installed a new HVAC system in our warehouse that will keep our supply of food for the pantry at proper temperatures and make it easier for our volunteers to work in any weather. Scaffolding is up to tuck point the warehouse.
Flash your trivia chops at Say Cheese! – Circle of Concern’s popular trivia night on Saturday, September 8. Topics will include general trivia, local interest and, yes, CHEESE! Bring seven of your sharpest friends, show off your best table treats and shop the auction, all to benefit Circle!

10-round Trivia | Photo Booth | Silent Auction | Prizes | Games | and more!

Saturday, September 8, 2018

Doors open at 6:00 p.m. and Trivia begins at 7:00 p.m.

Trinity Lutheran Church (14088 Clayton Road, Chesterfield, MO 63017) | $200 per table of 8 ($25 per individual)

Bring your favorite table treats and wine or beer | Soft drinks and light snacks provided

Register online at circleofconcern.org by August 31, 2018 or mail to:
Circle of Concern, Attn: Stephanie, 112 St. Louis Avenue, PO Box 444, Valley Park, MO 63088

Team Captain (Head Cheese): _______________________________
Address: _________________________________________________
Phone: __________________________________________________
Email: __________________________ Phone ___________________

Team Captain: Please provides names of your players, if possible.

Live Auction Teaser!

A special auction offering for Circle friends! One By One Guitars is offering a signed-and-numbered hand-crafted electric guitar. Perfect for the art collector, the musician, the proud grandparent!

Visit circleofconcern.org for pics and details about this one-of-a-kind instrument!

And stay tuned at Say Cheese! You just might hear this guitar in action!
Say Cheese! Trivia Night  
Saturday, September 8, 2018 – Trinity Lutheran in Chesterfield

**Sponsorship Opportunities***

**The Big Cheese-Presenting Sponsor - $5,000 (exclusive opportunity)**
Step up in a big way as our presenting sponsor, and receive prominent recognition as our lead sponsor. Includes a special mention and brief speaking opportunity at Trivia Night (optional!); logo representation on event materials, signage, photo booth guest photos, AV screen, Circle website and in a Circle newsletter; special Facebook mention with a link to your website or Facebook page; **two** reserved tables of 8 (16 Guests will enjoy (10) rounds of trivia, contests, raffles and complimentary soft drinks.**)

**Say Cheese! Photo Booth Sponsor - $3,000**
Sponsor our Photo Booth/Roving Photographer and receive a special Facebook mention with link to your corporate website or Facebook page; logo placement at our photo booth, logo mention with guest photos, A/V Screen and on event signage; special mention during the evening event, one reserved table for 8 (Guests will enjoy (10) rounds of trivia, contests, raffles and complimentary soft drinks.**)

**Looking “Gouda” Hospitality Sponsor - $1,500**
Sponsor our Hospitality and receive a special Facebook mention with link to your corporate website or Facebook page; logo placement on event signage, AV screen, Circle website and in the Around the Circle newsletter; signage at the hospitality bar; opportunity to staff the hospitality bar (make it a corporate team-building event!) special mention during the evening event; one reserved table for 8 (Guests will enjoy (10) rounds of trivia, contests, raffles and complimentary soft drinks.**)

**Don’t Worry, “Brie” Happy Contest Sponsor - $1,000 – ONLY TWO REMAINING!**
Sponsor one of our Contests (Heads or Tails, Lightning Round, etc.) and receive a special listing on A/V Screen and on contest materials; special mention during the contest, logo on event signage; one reserved table for 8 (Guests will enjoy (10) rounds of trivia, contests, raffles and complimentary soft drinks.**)

**Cheese Wheel Round Sponsor - $500**
Special mention and listing on A/V screen during one round of trivia; company name and /or logo on one round sheet (distributed to every table); name on event signage; one reserved table for 8 (Guests will enjoy (10) rounds of trivia, contests, raffles and complimentary soft drinks.**)

*Please ask us how you can take advantage of Missouri Food Pantry Tax Credits! Proceeds help Circle to buy cheese and other foods for Circle's Food Pantry.

**Guests may bring their own snacks and beer or wine. Our venue kindly asks that you not bring hard liquor to the event.**

(over)
Stephanie Enger-Moreland has joined the small staff at Circle as our new Director of Volunteers and Special Events. She’s the first stop with questions about volunteer opportunities, supporting silent auctions and so much more (contact info is on the back of this newsletter)!

To get to know her better, here are three things about Stephanie:

1. She survived a tsunami.
2. She enjoys the mindless craziness of “reality TV”.
3. She and any dog she’s ever met = best friends!

Google It!

We found this review of Circle—and many more—under our Google listing. Kind words and kind hearts make our days here.

“The people here are amazing. They make people feel welcome and inspire people to keep trying... to not give up. They work hard and are so very kind. I can’t say enough about how wonderful the people are who work here. Now that our family is back on our feet...we make sure to donate when we can. If it weren’t for these people, we would have starved. May God bless them all who give so much hope to so many families.”

Great Harvest!

What a colorful time of year at Circle!

Local community gardens, our partner grocery stores and many individual green-thumbed gardeners bring in a wide array of fresh produce to share with our clients. Tomatoes, herbs, zucchini, carrots, peppers – you name it and a friend or two or ten has brought it in. Besides the produce, we welcome note cards that offer simple, low-ingredient-count recipes that show ways to use this bounty.

Thank you for helping us spread the garden love!

Make it to ★ｍａｃｙ’s★ by August 15!

Macy’s at West County Center has chosen Circle as a recipient of the Make Good Cents program. From August 1 to August 15, all shoppers are invited to round up the cost of their purchases to the next dollar – from 1¢ to 99¢. Macy’s will then donate this spare change to Circle.

With the back-to-school season underway, it’s already a great time to save money at Macy’s. Even better, adding a few cents to your purchase will help change the lives of the families we serve with our food pantry and other programs.

We’ll see you at Macy’s!
Back to School Supply Drop-Off
Drop-Offs at Circle by 3 p.m.

September 1, 3
Circle Closed for Labor Day

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

October 12
Notification Needed for Holiday Food Drives

October 26
Deadline for Commitments to be Holiday Adoption Sponsor

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.