$15 for the Future

September is the start of Circle of Concern’s busiest time of year. Holiday programs are gearing up with their committees. Our Say Chees! Trivia Night is this month on September 8. Logistical changes are underway for a monumental change in how we share groceries with families (stay tuned for more information!). Through it all, there is one unifying thread – all this hustle and all this bustle is for the families we serve.

Nearly 600 families visit us each month. They bring nearly 600 different stories with them. One story reminded us that no resource is taken for granted...

Cecelia* came in recently for her monthly visit. Her household includes herself and her two nephews. The boys’ parents lost custody due to addiction and abuse, but they continue to disrupt the boys’ lives - midnight visits to try to take the boys, threats and more. Through the chaos, Cecelia tries to keep life as normal for them as possible.

With one nephew attending local community college, and the other on scholarship at a college in the Bootheel, both are moving forward. While at Circle, Cecelia proudly talked about the boys, but her brow was furrowed. When asked, she shared her worry.

“I need to get (my nephew) to college, but I have zero money for gas. He needs to get there, and I can’t take him.” Circle’s intake volunteer stepped away and returned a few minutes later with a $15 gift card from a local gas station. When she saw it, Cecelia cried. “I know $15 doesn’t sound like much of anything,” she said, “but to me, this $15 means my nephew goes to college.”

Some problems need big solutions, and Circle’s programs can help.

Current Needs:
- Dinner Helpers – CRITICAL
- Canned Pasta
- Pasta Sauce
- Canned Carrots, Peas, Mixed Vegetables – CRITICAL
- Cereal
- Deodorant – CRITICAL
- Low Dose Aspirin
- Size 5 or 6 Diapers

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.

Feeding Families is Just the Beginning
**Leadership by Committee**

Committees get a bad rap. Negative quotes about them abound, including Milton Berle’s “A committee is a group that keeps minutes and loses hours” and Alec Issigonis’ “A camel is a horse designed by committee.”

To that idea, we just say “Nay!”

Here at Circle, we often say that the magic of what we do is our volunteers. Within this group of heroes are special groups of angels – our program and event committees. These groups ensure that we continually reach our goals and serve our clients.

Our Back To School committee is the reason school supplies shared by you and others in our committee last month were carried to school in the new backpacks of our clients’ happy children. The Holiday Adoption committee in 2017 nearly doubled the number of our families whose holiday gift dreams came true. The Thanksgiving Baskets program provides a full traditional feast to our families, through the planning, the packing and the hospitality of a caring committee. We are looking at new ways to share groceries with our clients through the hard work, research and open hearts of our Pantry Choice committee. Our Special Events committees—Trivia, Bunco, Golf and last year’s extraordinary 50th Anniversary—bring ideas and resources to these critical fundraisers.

These are just a few of the dedicated teams of volunteers who focus on specific projects and programs. On behalf of all who make the lives of our families better on our specialized teams, thank you!

---

**Take Credit!**

Missouri Food Pantry Tax Credits are available for donations made in 2018. If you give money or food to Circle but have not used this popular program to reduce your MO income tax bill, try it this year!

Little-known fact – spouses filing jointly can earn up to $5,000 in credits when they give up to $10,000.

Contact Juliet at 636.861.2623 x106 for info.

---

**A Note from Cyndi**

~ **Client Choice ~**

You may have heard...exciting change is coming to Circle of Concern! In an effort to better serve our client families, Circle will soon move from a traditional pantry model toward the best-practice, industry-standard, Client Choice Pantry Model. This new way of serving our clients will:

• address medical, dietary and cultural needs;
• reduce waste;
• give our clients a sense of dignity and control.

Quite simply, client choice means that our clients will choose their own groceries from Circle’s shelves. This new way of “pantrying” will require some adjustments in the pantry to allow room for shoppers and carts. So we’ve been reconfiguring and making improvements to the building; maximizing our storage and work spaces and choosing durable, easy-to-clean materials. While we were at it, we added some fresh paint and a new AC unit in the warehouse; and new flooring and cabinets in our conference room. Our pot-holed parking lot is getting a face-lift too.

Much of this work was paid for by an anonymous donor, to whom we are ever so grateful. We’re grateful, too, to our wonderful volunteers who have overwhelmingly embraced the changes that have occurred and those yet to come.

When I imagine how “choice” will look in our pantry, I think of the many single moms we serve...whose children’s tastes and preferences are as varied as our own. I think of the elderly gentleman living with diabetes; he’s been trying to make healthy choices. I think of the many families who quietly ask that we not include any pork products in their grocery bags. Soon, all who cross through our doors will have the dignity of choosing their own groceries.

Warmest Regards,

Cyndi
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 nearly 2,000 people each month.

**Thanksgiving Items:**

Your **Cash Donation** helps us purchase turkeys!

- 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

**Everyday Needs:**

- Peanut Butter • Jelly and Jam
- Canned Meals (chili, chicken, stew)
- Dinner “Helpers” • Cereal
- Canned Fish, Chicken
- Canned Pasta, Pasta Sauce

*Drop off food at Circle by Friday, November 16, 3 p.m.*
112 St. Louis Avenue in Valley Park
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.

Please CIRCLE your shift(s) below:

VOLUNTEER DRIVERS (must have current vehicle insurance, valid driver’s license and must be able to lift 30+ lbs)

All Driver Shifts are 9a.m.-1p.m.

Monday (November 5)
Tuesday (November 6)
Wednesday (November 7)
Thursday (November 8)
Friday (November 9)
---
Monday (November 12)
Tuesday (November 13)
Wednesday (November 14)
Thursday (November 15)
Friday (November 16)

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

Monday (November 12)
9 a.m.-1 p.m.
Noon-3 p.m.
Tuesday (November 13)
9 a.m.-1 p.m.
Noon-3 p.m.
Wednesday (November 14)
9 a.m.-1 p.m.
Noon-3 p.m.
4 p.m.-7 p.m.
Thursday (November 15)
9 a.m.-1 p.m.
Noon-3 p.m.
Friday (November 16)
9 a.m.-1 p.m.
Noon-3 p.m.

ON-SITE PREP Volunteer-
St. John’s UCC 15370 Olive Blvd.
in Chesterfield

(All children's groups must be 8th grade or older.)
Lunch Provided

Thursday (November 15)
10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

DISTRIBUTION Volunteer-
St. John’s UCC 15370 Olive Blvd.
(All children’s groups must be 8th grade or older.)

Saturday, November 17
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 shift is filled!

I/We can help between November 5 - 17, 2018 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.
We are entering Circle’s most dynamic season as the holidays approach. If your seasonal activity includes sharing your time, talent and treasure with Circle, here are three things to help you prepare:

1. Thanksgiving food and volunteer needs are listed in the insert of this newsletter. Sign up soon to reserve your favorite shift!

2. Year-end targeted food drives that collect Pantry Pairs (PB&J, pasta & sauce, flour & sugar, etc.) fill our pantry shelves to kick off the New Year!

3. Visit circleofconcern.org and click on What We Do / Holiday to sign up to be a Holiday Adoption sponsor. First Sponsor/Client match-ups will be done on October 27.

Friends from The Crossing church in Fenton added to their generous food and school supply donations to Circle by sharing a day of service assembling, painting and planting. Thank you!

Lord of Life Lutheran Church, Chesterfield

A cherished and valuable tradition, Lord of Life’s Mountain of Food lived up to the name this year! Many thanks to the congregation and community who shared so much!

Scholar Central

We are proud to share the names of this year’s youth scholarship recipients! Each of these students entered a vigorously competitive process to apply, including in-depth interviews. We are excited to see each of these students thrive in college and beyond.

Jazzlyn Adler
Elaine Bisso
Suzanna Blalock
Gabrielle Blosser
Adriona Carey
Kaitlin Clermont
Hannah Coleman
Sierra Downings
Adrian Fedorko
Katelyn Gettis
Lucy Grimshaw
Jorden Grossett
Denise Jones
Chad Kaether
Kaylee Kombrink
Hwan Lee
Alysia Lockhart
Sierra Plummer
Emily Sampson
Jordan Sampson
Alejandra Sanchez
Cole Schubbe
Isabelle Snyder
John Stewart
Kassidy Webb
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.

Important Dates:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Information</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| September 8| Say Cheese! Trivia Night  
Trinity Lutheran Church in Chesterfield |
| September 24| Board Meeting at Circle |
| October 12 | Notification Needed for Holiday  
(pre-Thanksgiving) Food Drives |
| October 26 | Deadline for Commitments to be  
Holiday Adoption Sponsor |
| November 20| Genesis Jazz Benefit Concert  
with Layafette High School Jazz Band |
| November 22-24| Circle closed for Thanksgiving |
| December 17| Board Meeting at Circle |