A Lifetime of Care

The late president, George H. W. Bush, was instrumental in establishing Points of Light, an organization that encourages and empowers the spirit of service through volunteerism. This organization sponsors the President’s Volunteer Service Awards, through which certified nonprofit groups can recognize their volunteer stars.

Circle has used these award pins for many years to thank our cherished volunteers. In 2018, we launched a new level of recognition—the Lifetime Achievement Award—that acknowledges the selfless service of those volunteers in 2018 who have brought their best to our clients for at least 4,000 hours since they began working with Circle. The following recipients received a Lifetime pin and the grateful thanks of Circle’s clients, staff and board of directors:

- Dianne Bishop
- Barbara Brown
- Sally Edmiston
- Pam Gausling
- Pat Heitmeier
- Ted Heitmeier
- Sue Hoffman
- Betty Quicksall
- Carl Quicksall
- Alva Rozar
- Pat Shannon
- Bobbie Siesennop
- Carol Vandable

Identifying recipients of this award wasn’t easy...but it was worth it! We looked through records of two different volunteer databases, as well as any paper records that have survived moves, time and flood waters. The volunteers we identified made the entire staff team respond with, “Oh, of course! He/she does so much!”

There is a risk in declaring awards like these – did we miss anyone? If you or someone you know volunteered many, many hours into 2018, please let us know. We want to recognize, you, too!

Thank you to our Lifetime 13 and to all our volunteers that make the efforts of Circle possible.

Current Needs:
- Pasta Sauce – CRITICAL
- Jelly
- Cereal
- Canned Pasta
- Canned Chicken
- Feminine Hygiene Products – CRITICAL
- Size 5 & 6 Diapers
- Baby Wipes – CRITICAL
- Bar Soap

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
A Pure Heart

Beautiful Alaina asked Taylor, her caregiver at her after-school program, what she did when she wasn’t with the children. Taylor told her about her autumn internship at Circle and how Circle serves the community. The next day, Alaina brought in sandwich bags full of coins and asked Taylor to deliver them to us. This sweet girl said she wanted to donate her allowance to Circle, since she knows what it’s like when families have struggles.

Alaina, thank you for making a more loving world!

Tea Time

A tip of the teacup to the ladies of Delta Tau! Their annual “virtual tea party” raised $2,020 for Circle of Concern. The charming appeal – a colorful letter, a teabag and a perfect cookie – arrived in the mail, inviting recipients to enjoy a nice “cuppa” as they wrote a check in support of Circle’s programs.

Thank you, ladies, for embodying the term “tea service!”

Sponsors Needed!

Now reserving sponsorship commitments for the

15th Annual Circle of Concern Golf Tournament

Available sponsorships include:
Go Orange Sponsors (includes a foursome)
Hydration Sponsors (popular beverage cart opportunity)
Contest Sponsors (Closest to the Pin and Putting)
Hole Sponsors (every golfer will see your name!)

Contact Cyndi Miller at 636.861.2623 x117 for more information or visit circleofconcern.org/Events.

Many thanks to the Kiwanis Club of Meramec Valley for the donation of smoke detectors and all-important 9-volt batteries for distribution to our clients!
A Note from Cyndi

The government shut-down has so many of us deeply concerned. How long will it last? What will happen to our furloughed families? How many households are impacted in our area, and how can they possibly survive without an income?

Perhaps by the time you read this, the shut-down will be over and things will be getting back to normal. As I sit here today, though, it is continuing with no end in sight, and there are many unanswered questions about what will unfold but of this I am sure: Circle will be here. Circle will be part of the conversation and a part of the solution for those wondering, “How will I put food on the table?”

Just as we have been here in recent years to help those impacted by back-to-back “500-year floods,” we’ll be present through this, the longest government shut-down in American history. Many in our service area* will qualify for ongoing support with food, coaching, counseling, emergency financial assistance and other programs. Those outside of our service area may visit for one-time food assistance and a referral to other resources that serve their communities.

If you need help, we invite you to give us a call. If you want to give help, please give us a call, or make a donation today at www.circleofconcern.org and type “Shut-Down” where it asks for Tribute Name.

We’ll get through this difficult time together.

*Circle’s service area includes the 63026 zip code and the footprint of the Parkway, Rockwood and Valley Park school districts.

We are proud to recognize those whom you have remembered and honored with a gift to Circle. We are also proud that you trust Circle to steward your gifts for the benefit of the families we serve. Thank you.

IN MEMORY OF:

Please note that these are Memorial/Honor gifts received from December 1 to December 31, 2018

Joy Allen
Ray & Becky Baker
Don & Elaine Baumbach
Walter Beranek
Gordon Chubbuck
Katherine & Ray Dains
Eugene C Dames
Shirley Debastiani
Drusilla Delisle
Helen Earls
John Edwards
Gene Fleher
Donald Follmer
Danny Franck
Gus Gustafson
Jason Hall & Deborah Hall-Levall
Warren Hecht
John & Virginia Maxwell
Daryl Metzener
Dominic Mikal
Marcella Mueth
Olivia & Helen Newberry
Oner Onergil
Flip Pallozola
Linda Payette
Wayne Pennington
Tom Polansky
Royas & Mary Ann Rosen
Len Sanker
Marianne Schenck
Earl Stroud Jr
Jennifer Terry
Jean West
Rose Marie Westermann
Gwen Zamberlan

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We Love our friends and donors! Thank you!

Volunteers Have Heard from Circle Clients!

Conversations between clients and volunteers can be so meaningful...

1. “Things have been so hard I wasn’t sure if I wanted to even be around anymore. Talking to Circle reminded me how life can get better.”

2. “I used to avoid opening my bills because I knew I couldn’t pay them. Circle feels like a safe place to open them and figure out how to pay them.”

3. “I just got the call – my new job starts on Monday!”

Farewell, Neighbor

Circle is mourning the loss of our long-time neighbor and friend, Richard Menley, Sr. For decades, he was a stone’s throw from our food pantry and was a cheerleader for the work we do. Rest well, Neighbor, and peace to all who will miss you.
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.