Gathered At Table

A new client usually walks into Circle of Concern alone. Anxious, desperate and maybe embarrassed about needing help, new people often feel like they are alone at the bottom of a well of sadness. From that point, though, that client isn’t isolated anymore, thanks to a wellspring of volunteer help with food and programs, along with our staff that lines up resources.

The circle is bigger than that, though. Along with our generous donors in the community, a critical group, of which Circle is a member, is working behind the scenes to serve families impacted by hunger and poverty across the region – the St. Louis Food Pantry Coalition. Working from the point of view that, unfortunately, there are more than enough hungry people in our area to keep us all busy, the dozen members of the Coalition gather monthly to share ideas and opportunities about many topics, including:

- Enlisting volunteers
- Raising funds
- Vetting vendors
- Sharing excess food donations
- Sharing best practices in pantry management

The Coalition was instrumental last year in Circle’s launching of the Client Choice pantry model. A committee of Circle staff and volunteers visited other Choice pantries in the coalition for insight into how others implemented this best practice. With that input, we launched Choice with minimal down-time and immediate success for our clients.

According to Michelle Lepak, Circle’s Pantry Director, the Coalition has offered valuable collaboration. “Sharing information, ideas and resources makes us all more effective in feeding families and promoting stability for those who are struggling. We value this group so much.”

Current Needs:
- Cereal - CRITICAL
- Dinner Helpers (Hamburger Helper, Velveeta Skillets, Taco Kits) - CRITICAL
- Dry Pasta & Sauce
- Ketchup, Mustard, Mayo, etc.
- Canned Pasta
- Beans, Rice, Potato Mixes
- Laundry Soap
- Toilet Paper
Thanks to Our Golf Sponsors!
The 15th Annual Circle of Concern Charity Golf Tournament was a huge success, marked by perfect weather, amazing food, happy golfers and a roster of sponsors who make this one of the more popular events around. Thank you to all who made this tournament possible, especially our chairperson, Debbie Brown!

Presenting Sponsor – Orthopedic Specialists
Hydration Sponsors – Sysco Foods and Paul & Betty Taylor
Par 3 Sponsors – The Dean Team, Ron Ridgway, MW Toxpath Sciences LLC, Cindy Wolk
Friends of Circle – Patricia Marshall and PSI

IRA Advantage
If you have an Individual Retirement Account... From the year you turn 70 ½, you must take a Required Minimum Distribution, or RMD, from your IRA. Fortunately, a Qualified Charitable Distribution, or QCD, can satisfy all or part of the RMD. That QCD to a charity such as Circle can be given without you having to count the distribution as taxable income. Talk to your financial advisor about making a QCD to Circle today!

A Note From Cyndi
The value of a family gathering at a table topped with food is deeply understood. That idea extends far beyond a family home. Whether we’re assembled in a room of fellow “pantry people,” agency leaders or school social workers; or we’re sharing ideas with neighboring business leaders or one of our faith-based partners... wonderful things happen when we gather around a table. Together we better understand the issues that impact low-income households. We explore new ways to do things. We find common ground and joint opportunities.

A few years ago, Circle was invited to partake in an informal coalition of area food pantries. Our pantry director, Michelle Lepak and I were excited to learn more about area resources and best practices, and to simply make friends in the pantry world.

At these meetings we learned that there is more than one way to “pantry.” Every agency has its unique systems... processes that work well and methods that could use some tweaking. We learned about the client choice pantry model, and how even the smallest pantries make that work. We learned about ways that other pantries are “going green,” and that some struggle to fill their shelves. We’ve shared about our case management approach, and we have offered to share with others when a large food donation is more than we can properly store or distribute (spoilage and waste are the enemy).

Together, we’re just better, and as our client families gather around their own tables, they feel the impact of our coalition and cooperation.
Summer School

School’s out for summer, but at Circle of Concern, we’re thinking about the first day back in the classroom!

This August, Twin Oaks Presbyterian Church will once again host the Circle Back To School event. This popular program stocks our clients’ children with what they need to start school in the fall and feel ready to learn. Paper, pencil cases, supplies, calculators—everything they need to kick off the school year will travel home in a backpack featuring Puppy Pals, Minions, Marvel heroes or other patterns and colors.

Back To School takes place the week AFTER Missouri’s Tax Free Weekend (August 2-4). That’s good news for friends who wish to contribute sturdy backpacks, the calculators, thumb drives, paper, notebooks, pens, markers and other supplies needed to outfit our children.

Please visit circleofconcern.org/Programs/Children’s Programs to see a full list of needed school supplies. Donations can be dropped off at Circle by 3 p.m. on Wednesday, August 7 to be distributed on August 10. Thank you!

A Sad Farewell

Circle of Concern bade a sad farewell to a dedicated volunteer recently—Pam Gausling. She was always witty, always dressed to the nines, always ready to give compassionate, effective care to our clients. She—like all our beloved volunteers who have served so well and have left us too soon—will be missed.

Memorials and Honoraria

January 1 - May 31, 2019

IN HONOR OF:
AARP Tax Prep Volunteers
Jill Albano’s Birthday
Marylee Pratt Baygents
Circle Golf Tournament
Circle Tournament Hole Sponsor
Paul Davis’s Birthday
Eddy Delong
Bart Devoti’s 80th Birthday
Roger Dierberg
Sally Edmiston
Pastor Susan Hayes
Jessica Hejna
Glenn Koenen
C.R. Lages
American Family Insurance
Agent Andrea Maitland
Jim Matteuzzi
Shannon McCall
Sally Morton
Ken Oishi & Sara Barnowski
Mark & Katie Price
Edie Quick
Madeline Raile

IN MEMORY OF:
LaVerne R Albach
Joy Allen
Monte Banister
Bill Behring
Walter Beranek
Robert “Bob” Boyer
Gary Briggs
Ken Buermann
Julia M Burleson
Linda Coffey
Arthur Crapsey
James R Davis
Drusilla DeLisle
Janice Dominick
John Edwards
Eleanor M Epperson

Family
Steve Fuse
Gil, Juana and Don
Kathy Goldner
Richard & Rosemary Hagerty
Maureen Hatfield
Herbert Hausman
Warren Hecht
Pattie Herpel
Helen Heyde
Mitchell Jeglijewski
My wife, Mary Jane Koetting
Elia J Kosednac
Jodelle Kovach
Bob Kriss
Joan Leighton
Kristy Page Lipel
Roberta M Litt
William Luedde
Dr KC Marshall
Dominic Mikal
Mary K Moore
Mother Mueller
Don Muse
Dean Nebrig

Chris Nelson
Oliver & Helen Newberry
Carl O’Donnell
Joan Oppliger
Wayne W Pennington
Nancy Poepping
Ray Powers
Alberta “Bert” Purk
Milton L Rand
Christine Royal
Jack Sanders
Marianne Schenck
Wesley C Stemme
Peggy Taylor
Anna Thornburgh
Nancy Walker
Pete Watt
Marie Wiethop
John Norman Yaeger
Gwen Zamberlan
Josh
Mom
Mother
Back To School Needs 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.

Important Dates:
- July 4: Circle closed for Independence Day
- August 7: Deadline to drop off school supplies at Circle for Back To School
- August 26: Circle Board Meeting, 5:30 p.m. at Circle
- August 31 - September 2: Circle closed for Labor Day
- September 13: Harvest Moon Trivia Night at Andre’s West, Fenton

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