Stars in Their Eyes

Circle of Concern’s scholarship program has bolstered the academic goals of area young people since at least the second year of our existence. Well over $1 million (the actual figure is lost to time and at least one flooded-out building) has helped send hundreds of studious, motivated high school seniors to college, launching them into the careers of their choice.

In 2014, the scholarship program grew. For the first time, Circle awarded small scholarships to adult clients…and the results have been stellar. What started out as a vehicle for clients to obtain additional certification, or take an extra class has evolved into so much more.

★ We assisted one client in completing his Accounting degree and taking the CPA exam. He is now employed in his field and is no longer a client at Circle.

★ Two clients completed their coursework and licensing for Registered Nursing, with help from Circle, and neither needs our services anymore. On a day many of us will never forget, one of these clients came into our office the afternoon she passed her final exam, tears in her eyes. We each got a hug as she thanked everyone here for helping to make her dream a reality.

★ Scholarship awardees want to work. One recipient is pursuing a business degree with a full-time course load at a local university…while working a full-time job…and caring for three children, one of whom is in treatment for cancer.

★ A client is in his final semester and will graduate this spring with a bachelors degree in Mechanical Engineering. His wife is two semesters away from her Civil Engineering degree. Their second baby is due in June and wife plans to resume her classes in August. They both keep their eyes on the prize – successful careers, a blooming family and a life that no longer needs the help of a place like Circle.

Continued on page 3
Volunteer Appreciation

April is a month to celebrate our magical volunteers! Morning treats, an ice cream picnic and an invasive photographer marked the month and made us all smile! Thank you to each and every volunteer who has ever made the lives of our clients easier with their service and who makes our work possible today!

Please share a story of your volunteer service at Circle. Send your tale to circle@circleofconcern.org, and we might use it in an upcoming newsletter or presentation!

Pre-K Books

Circle kids read during the summer! We can use any new or gently used Pre-K and early-reader books you can share. Drop off at Circle during donation hours on the back of this newsletter!

Don’t Forget the Credit!

The Missouri Food Pantry Tax Credit program is scheduled to sunset on December 31, 2019. Gifts of food or money to Circle qualify for a 50 percent tax credit on MO income tax. Contact juliet@circleofconcern.org for information about rules and limits for this valuable program.

Save the Date!

Harvest Moon
Trivia Night
September 13, 2019
Andre’s West, Fenton

Like us on Facebook
Stars in Their Eyes, cont.

To say these scholars are worthy of this assistance is to understate how motivated they are to become self-sustained. To say we are proud of their progress and their plans is to understate the intense satisfaction we feel in watching adults change their stars for the better.

In 2018, our budget allowed us to award 14 adult scholarships. In the first quarter of this year, we’ve already furthered the academic goals of nine clients … and made a significant dent in the 2019 Scholarship budget. This program literally changes lives and helps clients to achieve confidence and financial independence. We – and the clients they help – appreciate your support of Circle’s scholarships. Thank you.

Carol Vandable
Member, Board of Directors
and Scholarship Committee

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Back To School Already?!

It’s that time of year. School is closing for the summer… and we are hard at work on Circle’s Back To School program!

In early August, we’ll share grade-specific school supplies with hundreds of children of Circle clients. We can only do it with your help!

Each time you go to a grocery or discount store this summer, will you please pick up a few notebooks (or pens, crayons, markers, lunch bags) or other items that will help our kids feel prepared to study when school starts again?

Visit circleofconcern.org/Programs to find a list of items that stock our children with the tools to learn!

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A Client Story

The note below arrived at Circle recently. Thank YOU for making it possible to serve our clients so well!

April 2019

I just wanted to tell you guys what a great job you are doing. I call & say it, but I don’t know if they tell everyone – so here it is again. I’m writing. You guys are making such a difference for me and helping me so much and I am grateful & thankful. I see all the work you do. It is so clean so organized so good – thank you for giving us good stuff. Thank you for being nice 900 times I had to call and reschedule because I still can’t even work or transportation. But when I get there, it makes my day. I look forward to this not just because of the food but because you all are kind and treated me with dignity and it makes me feel hopeful! Happy Spring!

Have a Good Day!
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:

May 20     15th Annual Circle Golf Tournament
            Presented by Orthopedic Specialists
            at Aberdeen Golf Club

May 25, 27 Circle closed for Memorial Day Weekend

July 4     Circle closed for Independence Day

August 7   Deadline to drop off school supplies
            at Circle for Back To School

September 13 Harvest Moon Trivia Night
            at Andre’s West, Fenton

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

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