Veteran Volunteer A Volunteer Spotlight

Dennis R. began his volunteer career at Circle of Concern in 2011, but his commitment to service predates Circle’s launch in 1967. For him, 1966 was the year he enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps, motivated to guard the people of South Vietnam from the encroachment of communism from the north.

While in-country near the border of North Vietnam, Dennis experienced the hell of war first-hand many times. “It was bad over there,” he says, and he has the stories to prove it. He witnessed explosions and gunfire, destruction and deaths of comrades-in-arms. On one fateful day, he and others in his unit were laying low when shrapnel from the firefight wounded his leg, an injury he still feels today, along with Parkinson’s disease that resulted from exposure to Agent Orange and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). Dennis relies on support and comradeship he’s gotten from the Veteran’s Administration and the group, Disabled American Veterans.

For some, what Dennis has experienced would narrow life’s options. For him, though, there’s more he wants to do. Since retiring several years ago, for example, Dennis has taken up such social experiences as swing and line dancing lessons. As he says, “With Parkinson’s, you have to keep moving, and even if I dance one song and sit out two because I get unsteady on my feet, it’s fun and keeps me going.”

At Circle, Dennis is a steady intake volunteer, meeting with our clients one-on-one to address their needs and offer help. He’s known to take his time to listen to their troubles, as he, himself, has known trouble. He’s also demonstrated that there’s hope.

We are proud that this man of service chose Circle to extend his more than 50 years of service to his community and his country. Please join us in celebrating Dennis!
IN HONOR OF:
Honoring those you care about with a gift to Circle honors us. Thank you for trusting us with your kindness.

Received from October 1 to November 30, 2019

Steve Amsden
The Atkisson Family
Bob Becker’s 65th Birthday!
Robert Becker’s Birthday
M/M Dave Behrens
The Botulinski Family
Paula Cavic
Sheila Cohen for Hanukkah
Joanne Cuddeback
Birthday
M Ray Evans
Family Christmas
Family Thanksgiving
Christina Kaman & Stan Zubal’s Wedding
Bill & Nancy Klusman
Glenn & Peggy Koenen
Tim Lages’s Birthday
Gail LeMay
John & Carolyn Marshall’s Thanksgiving
Jo Ellen Miller’s Birthday
Stephanie Moreland
New Outlook Pioneers
Emma Jean Phillips’s Birthday
Betty Quicksall, A Nice Lady
Carl Quicksall, A Nice Man
Jim & Kathy Ruggeri
Sacred Heart
Wally Schmieder
Fran Schuster’s Birthday
Pat Sodemann’s 90th Birthday
St Mark Presbyterian
“Give Thanks” Meal
Peter James Stratte Jr’s Birthday
Telephone Pioneers
Thanksgiving
Tammy Tissi
Tracy’s Karate Studio’s 50th Anniversary
Veterans
Vickie M Vien’s Birthday

Circle has the best volunteers! This month, we’d like to recognize our warehouse and food drive crews who pick up food from major food drives and who manage our warehouse inventory throughout the year. The end of the year is a very busy season for them, and we can’t thank them enough for their work to keep the shelves stocked.

Our holiday programs only happen with the kindness of our community. Many thanks to the myriad of volunteers and holiday adoption sponsors who join us to ensure our clients have a bountiful Thanksgiving and gifts for the season. Thanks to St. John’s United Church of Christ in Chesterfield for partnering so warmly with us for Thanksgiving Baskets and to Community Christian Church in Ballwin for hosting this year’s massive Holiday Adoption program. And effusive thanks to the many schools, churches, businesses, neighborhoods and individuals who held a food drive; you are the reason we have food for our families and we are so grateful!

A record 596 families adopted meant holiday joy for nearly 2,000 people!

A first-ever drive-through Thanksgiving Basket distribution fast-tracked the feast for nearly 500 Circle families!

**A Slow-Rolling Food Drive**

**Elks Lodge #9**

Holding a food drive to fill Circle’s pantry shelves takes a lot of work. Holding six monthly food drives is a labor of love for families in our community! Under the watchful eye of members Lucy and Mark Gabauer and their devoted committee, the Elks Lodge #9 has been busy collecting a large pile of much-needed food items every month since July, items ranging from cereal to ramen to pasta and more. Thank you for the steady service to our families!
Credit Lives On!
The popular Missouri Food Pantry Tax Credit has been extended until 2026, despite recent fears that it would end at the close of 2019.

Features of the program remain the same. Monetary gifts, including stocks and required disbursements from IRA accounts, or food donations to Circle qualify donors for the 50 percent tax credit. A person filing Single can receive up to $2,500 in credit if giving up to $5,000; a couple filing jointly can receive up to $5,000 in credits if giving up to $10,000. To claim the credits, a simple form is verified and signed by Circle of Concern, which you then file with your Missouri tax return no later than April 15.

For many friends of Circle, the tax credit means they can give more to help stock the food pantry shelves. To learn more about this program and how it helps you and our clients, please contact juliet@circleofconcern.org or cyndi@circleofconcern.org.

Our friends at Sysco know food, and they lent a hand to get pallets of boxes and cans ready to share!

Baking Bags
For the first time ever, we could offer a Baking Bag, containing flour, sugar and more baking ingredients, to every family at our Thanksgiving Basket event. Thank you to the churches, groups and individuals who cooked up such a warm surprise for our clients!

A driven Carmax crew moved canned goods and more through the warehouse, ready to stock the pantry shelves.

IN MEMORY OF:
Thank you for remembering your loved ones with a gift to Circle. We strive daily to honor their memory with service.

Received from October 1 to November 30, 2019

Wyona Hartwig Ainley
Ethal Albert
Joy Allen
Art Beckman
Walter Beranek
Sara Berger
Nora & Charles Bircher
Paul Boswell
Jerry Caesar
Grover Crisp
Ralph Dean Jr
Drusilla DeLisle
Benjamin & Stephen Ferris
Donald Follmer
The Rev Howard Gleason
Dorothy Ann Gulley
Chris Hanson
Warren Hecht
Mary Jane Hirstein
Wayne Humes
Alana Ingersoll
Tony Kampeter
Rick King
Elias J Kosednar
Lorene Lane
Randi Leach
Carol Ann Margreiter
Anne Marshall
Mrs Tarrie Marshall
Rhonda McClure
Dominic Mikal
Chris Nelson
Donald Piekarski
Alberta “Bert” Purk
Vernon J Purk
Myrna Reinhart
Sylvia Scheer
Marianne Schenck
Nancy & Al Schikore
Dwight Sieg
Richard & Helen Sponsel
Wesley C Stemme
Marguerite Stricker
Steve Swiney
Gavin Turk
Harry & Jean West
Linda Wienski
Jerry & Marj Withers
Dr Richard Yang
Violet Claire “Dot” Zumwalt
New Year, Ongoing Service

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:
- January 1: Circle closed for New Year’s Day
- January 20: Circle closed for Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
- April 10-11: Circle closed for Easter holiday
- May 9: ‘Stamp Out Hunger’ Letter Carrier’s Food Drive Collection Event
- May 18: 16th Annual Circle Charity Golf Tournament at Aberdeen Golf Club

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

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS
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- Amy Vollmer, Vice President
- Dolores Rodenberg, Treasurer
- Allison Love, Secretary