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**Media Contact:**

Cindy Sorgea  
PR Consultant  
618.920.5883



**Circle Of Concern Food Pantry Changes Financial Guidelines to Better Help Struggling Families in West St. Louis County**

**Valley Park, Mo., August 22, 2016** . . . [Circle Of Concern](#) (Circle), a food pantry and social services agency serving west St. Louis County residents, has changed its financial guidelines in an effort to reach more low-income families struggling to make ends meet. Circle's Board of Directors recently approved the measure to increase the financial limit for household income eligibility from 150 percent of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL) to 185 percent of the FPL.

Cyndi Miller, executive director of Circle, said, "We were finding that families who qualified for WIC or similar programs actually fell outside our own limits, therefore creating a gap in eligibility. The change in our guidelines was done in an effort to avoid this situation and to make sure that all families with children who qualify for free or reduced food can gain access to Circle's food pantry."

The increase in household income eligibility directly benefits any family residing in Parkway, Rockwood and Valley Park School Districts that is eligible for WIC or the free and reduced school lunch program. Those families are now eligible to access Circle's food pantry and other services, including emergency rent and utility assistance; holiday programs; back-to-school supplies; summer camp programs; scholarships, and job mentoring programs.

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“We offer a wide array of assistance programs beyond our food pantry to help families get back on their feet. Our goal is provide resources that empower individuals to become self sufficient, but first we must make sure they have access to healthy, nourishing food.”

For information about Circle Of Concern Food Pantry and eligibility, visit <http://www.circleofconcern.org> or call 636.861.2623.

**About Circle Of Concern**

Circle Of Concern is a non-profit food pantry and social services agency serving low-income families in west St. Louis County. The organization helps feed approximately 1200 households annually and offers financial support, scholarships, job mentoring, children's programs and holiday events to allow its clients to use their limited resources to regain their financial footing.

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