

Fresh food and financial assistance help neighbors in need

January 26, 2017



It all began in 1967 when a handful of West County church congregations came together to help their neighbors in need. It was then that **Circle Of Concern Food Pantry** was born to help address the area's growing poverty and hunger problems. Today, Circle's mission and values remain the same: to feed the hungry and provide assistance to low income families in West County.

For many of Circle's clients, food is the most immediate need. Approximately 2,000 individuals each month, a third of whom are children, rely on free, nutritious food from Circle's pantry. But feeding families is just the beginning. Circle also provides resources such as financial aid, scholarships, job mentoring, and back-to-school and holiday programs; all in an effort to empower individuals to become self-sufficient.

Circle's outreach efforts are made possible by the more than 350 active volunteers who provide direct client service, stock the food pantry and

warehouse and provide technology and administrative support. Their dedication has enabled Circle to continue it's amazing work for the past 50 years. Circle Of Concern serves low-income households in the Parkway, Rockwood and Valley Park School Districts, including single-parent families, seniors, veterans and those struggling with unemployment, homelessness and/or disabilities. For information on making donations of cash, event sponsorships, fresh and nonperishable food items and personal care items, or to volunteer, visit www.circleofconcern.org or call (636) 861-2623.

