



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Circle Of Concern Wants to Send 100 Kids to Camp this Summer, and YOU Can Help!

VALLEY PARK, May 15, 2017 . . . Oftentimes, children suffer from the decisions and life circumstances of their parents. For the children of <u>Circle Of Concern</u> clients, the cost of summer camp is often too high for their parents who are struggling to pay for basic needs like groceries and utility bills. Circle hopes to change that scenario by raising enough money to send 100 children from low-income families to camp this summer through its campership program.

Circle Of Concern estimates it will need approximately \$11,000 in summer camp assistance to send 100 kids to camp. The organization will pay up to \$120 per kid for day- or sleep-away camps, ball teams, swimming or music lessons, and many other types of summer enrichment programs.

Cyndi Miller, executive director of Circle Of Concern Food Pantry, said, "Our ultimate goal is to bring all the fun activities of summer within reach to those who otherwise might miss out. The programs aren't "just camp" or fun and games; these enriching activities provide many benefits including leadership and relationship skills, healthy habits, stress reduction, time management and self-confidence, to name a few. Camps provide children a chance to expand what and who they know, and improve their socialization skills. This ultimately improves how they understand the world and how they can fit in to it."

Miller adds that camp activities also provide low-income parents the practical support of safe, supervised activities for their children – often while the parents are at work. Additionally, low-income kids miss out on many opportunities, simply because their families don't have the discretionary funds to pay for extracurricular activities.

Campership donations will directly benefit children of Circle's clients. Donations to Circle Of Concern's campership program can be mailed to 112 St. Louis Avenue, Valley Park, MO 63088, Attn: Campership Program. Donations submitted online at www.circleofconcern.org should be marked "Camperships" in the "tribute" section". All donations are tax deductible.

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.