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**Media Contact:**

Cindy Sorgea  
PR Consultant  
618.920.5883

**Circle of Concern Announces Call for Scholarship Applications**  
*Organization has awarded more than \$1 million*

**Valley Park, February 27, 2018** . . . High school seniors from low-income families living in the Rockwood, Parkway, and Valley Park school districts have the opportunity to earn money for higher education through Circle of Concern Food Pantry's annual scholarship program. Applications can be downloaded online at [www.circleofconcern.org](http://www.circleofconcern.org) and must be completed and received by 3 p.m. April 23, 2018.

Circle has awarded more than \$1 million in scholarships during the course of its 50 years in service. It expects to award approximately \$90,000 this year through its various scholarship programs. Candidates applying for scholarships must demonstrate significant financial need and merit based on academic achievement and/or character. Scholarships can be used at professional trade schools, community colleges or four-year institutions.

New to the program this year is Circle's partnership with [www.myscholarshipcentral.org](http://www.myscholarshipcentral.org), an online portal that helps students navigate the scholarship process. The website allows students to fill out a general application that then suggests multiple scholarships, therefore maximizing students' opportunities to receive more private student aid.

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## Circle Of Concern Scholarships First and Final Add

In an effort to help students minimize their college debt, Circle is also encouraging students to seek out accredited, nonprofit schools and working with them to explore all funding sources prior to committing to a school.

Cyndi Miller, executive director of Circle of Concern, said, "Beyond helping awardees financially, we feel a strong responsibility to help them enter into higher education programs with confidence that they will have made the best informed decisions for their individuals needs. More than anything, we want them to complete their programs without amassing insurmountable student loan debt that will impede their financial stability."

For more information about Circle Of Concern's scholarship programs and services, 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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