



Circle of Concern Food Pantry offers help to families affected by Government shutdown

Organization encourages community support for area food pantries

St. Louis, Mo., January 18, 2019. . . Circle of Concern Food Pantry in Valley Park wants government workers to know the organization is ready to help in their time of need. Due to their furloughed status, many who reside in the food pantry's service area, which includes the 63026 zip code and the footprint of the Parkway, Rockwood, and Valley Park school districts, will be eligible to receive services, including access to fresh food, emergency utility assistance, children's programs, and more. For those living outside of the service area, Circle can offer one-time assistance of food - including dairy, produce & frozen meats - and personal care items; and they will help them to find services in their community.

Cyndi Miller, executive director of Circle of Concern, said, "Our hearts go out to these families who are impacted by circumstances beyond their control. We saw our first furloughed family yesterday, and we were able to provide the mom a full order of food to take back to her family. We want the community to know that Circle is available to help ease the burdens that some are experiencing as a result of the shutdown."

Miller added that volunteers and people in the community have contacted Circle about specific ways they can help furloughed families. Circle suggests that those looking to help make cash donations, which enable Circle to purchase fresh foods and provide assistance with a family's electric bill, etc. "While food donations are always welcomed and helpful, cash donations will be put to use right now, where most needed."

Charitable contributions can be made online at www.circleofconcern.org. Type "furlough" or "federal workers" in the tribute box to designate donations that will benefit client families impacted by the government shutdown.

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Circle Helps Furloughed Workers First and Final Add

Circle of Concern has been serving low-income families in west St. Louis County for more than 50 years. The food pantry feeds approximately 2,000 individuals every month, more than a third of whom are children. The pantry, which last year transitioned to a choice pantry that allows clients to shop for their own goods, provides 7 to 10 day supplies of groceries, including milk, eggs, fresh fruits and vegetables, bakery items, frozen meats, and canned goods. Personal care and paper products are also provided.

To receive help from Circle, clients may have a household income (including wages, social security, government assistance and other resources) up to 185 percent of the federal poverty level, and they must live in the geographic footprint of the three school districts serving west St. Louis County (Parkway, Rockwood or Valley Park). Children who attend a public school in one of these districts through the voluntary transfer, or Voluntary Interdistrict Choice Corp program, also qualify for assistance.

For information on how to receive food pantry and other services from Circle of Concern, visit <http://www.circleofconcern.org> or call 636.861.2623.

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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 1,200 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.

Media Contact:

Cindy Sorgea
csorgeapr@gmail.com
618.920.5883