

AROUND THE

# Circle Newsletter

Circle of Concern  
Food Pantry



## Spring Social

Facebook has a Memories feature. Everyday, one click reveals what was posted on that day in years past. Recently, one of our staff members saw that, five years before, she had shared a sweet thank you note that we received from a Circle client. It read "Thank you for listening, for lavishing and for responding lovingly."

In a time when the impact and value of social media are hotly debated as both a blessing and a curse, sharing that kind message was a positive thing, fostering a lot of encouraging responses and commitments to contribute to our food pantry. It was also a good thing when we shared an acute need for cereal, along with a link to our wish list on a popular shopping website. Within days of that post appearing, a delivery truck pulled up to our door, filled to the top with cereal boxes ordered by friends who clicked that link and ensured that our families would have cereal on their tables.

The cereal drive was successful beyond our expectations, and it led to other successful social media campaigns. A welcomed log jam of jelly arrived when we put out a call for this peanut butter partner. When the pandemic demanded that we give gift cards to families instead of enlisting our friends to provide gifts, those same friends stepped up and assured warm holidays for our clients. The responses from our social media friends are consistently thoughtful and generous. And looking forward, we share our Amazon Wish List (visit AmazonSmile.com and search for Circle of Concern) with trust that many friends will place orders to assist Circle families.

With hindsight of the many ways our friends have responded to our requests for help, that Facebook memory of our staff member took on special meaning. More than sharing a client's gratitude, her message captures our gratitude for all of you who make our work possible. As she said so well, "Thank you for listening, for lavishing and for responding lovingly."

Follow us on Facebook ( @CircleOfConcern ) and Instagram ( @circle\_of\_concern ) for Circle's latest news, critical needs and interesting features about life at Circle.

## Current Needs:

- Baking Items -  
Cake Mixes, Muffin Mix, etc.
- Cereal
- Dinner Helpers
- Canned Chicken, Beef Stew,  
Chicken and Dumplings
- Beans - Pork & Beans,  
Chickpeas, Black, Great  
Northern (Canned and  
Dried)
- Laundry Soap
- Women's Shampoo
- Tampons
- Women's Incontinence  
Pants, Size S/M
- 4T-5T Pull-ups
- Size 6 Diapers

💬 Thank you for listening,  
for lavishing and for  
responding lovingly. 💬



Circle of Concern  
FOOD PANTRY

Feeding Families is  
Just the Beginning

## IN HONOR OF:

Thank you for remembering friends and family with a contribution to Circle. In their names, you are caring for our neighbors with your gift. *Received from January 1 to February 28, 2021.*

Steve Amsden  
Pat Bender  
M/M Jason Brown  
Circle of Concern  
Staff & Volunteers  
John Garbo  
Jennifer & Brandt  
Gormley  
Mary Beth Graham's  
Birthday!  
My Grandchild  
Kathy Hoots  
Ivy Chapel UCC  
Super Bowl of Caring  
John Kanyuck  
The Rev Dr Martin  
Luther King Jr  
Jamie, Nik, Kaye,  
Jim Lages Birthdays!  
Angie Latham  
Mel & Dorothy Lefkowitz's  
43rd Wedding Anniversary  
Our Many Blessings  
Meramec Bluffs  
Clients of MSMF/  
Sonus Benefits  
Phillip Bradley Murphy  
Guy Patton  
Linda Patton's Birthday!  
Karen Pennington  
Our Police  
Random Acts Serving Hope  
for MLK Day of Service  
Scott Reichter  
Hazel Rozema  
Valentine's Day for  
Brian & Paige  
Valentine's Day for  
Jamie & Nik  
West County Democrats

## OUR MISSION:

Circle of Concern feeds the hungry and provides assistance to low-income families living in west St. Louis County.

## OUR VISION:

Improving every life in our community by reducing hunger and poverty.

## Welcome Aboard!

Welcome to two new members of our board of directors!



**Edie Quick** is a seasoned Circle volunteer. She's sat down with our clients for more than 10 years and has been active on our special event committees. She is retired from a career in psychiatric social work and parent education. In addition to her work at Circle, Edie serves on the board of the St. Louis Area Japanese American Citizens League. Since she works so closely with our clients, Edie is excited to advocate for their needs to the board and bring active volunteer experiences to the board room.

**Brandi Hamm** became familiar with Circle as a donor and a Holiday Adoption sponsor, as well as through her work at Cigna (formerly Express Scripts), which is a valued corporate supporter. Brandi is a healthcare executive with a professional background in pharmacy, business administration, account management and marketing. In addition to Circle, she has volunteered and raised funds for a number of organizations, including Make-a-Wish, the American Cancer Society and the National Multiple Sclerosis Society. She looks forward to bringing that experience and enthusiasm to Circle.



## Under Advisement

Generous gifts often arrive at Circle from donor-advised funds and through foundations funded by corporate employee-giving portals. We appreciate all of you who urge these funds and foundations to provide meaningful support to us, enabling us to help struggling households throughout west St. Louis County! Although those giving vehicles send you a tax receipt acknowledging your contribution to them, we will continue to send you a 'thank you' from us, letting you know that we appreciate you naming Circle as the beneficiary of your contribution to the fund or foundation.

# Thank You!

It's important to note that the Missouri Food Pantry Tax Credit is a wonderful benefit for donors making gifts *directly* to Circle (gifts made through employee giving platforms, foundations, donor advised funds, etc. are ineligible for the Food Pantry Tax Credit Program). If you wish to learn more, please give us a call at 636.861.2623. Juliet or Cyndi will be happy to answer any questions you may have about that program.



I usually donate to Circle and others in the middle of the year ("Christmas in July") as I assume more giving comes in December, but your January/February newsletter indicated you will need replenishments by March this year.

My heart goes out to those in need and to you who serve. God Bless you all.

1/23/21

You clients need our stimulus check more than we do. We're fortunate to be able to donate the whole \$600 to you help with food, so needed now more than ever. Thanks for all you do...

Please accept my gift of \$ 50.00

☒ Enclosed Check ☐ Visa ☐ Discover ☐ Mastercard

Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Exp Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Required: Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Security # (3 digits on back) \_\_\_\_\_

Thank You For Your Gift To

a person I know uses your Food Pantry but won't let me help them directly. Therefore, I'm hoping they help them indirectly.

Gift is: \_\_\_\_\_

Memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

Honor of: \_\_\_\_\_

Reason: THANK YOU FOR ALL YOU DO - YOU HELPED MY SON.

Acknowledgement to: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_



### Did you know....

...that you can receive one year-end acknowledgment letter that summarizes all the cash gifts you send directly to us, instead of a separate letter each time you give in a year?

If you are trying to reduce the paper in your home, please let us know the next time you give that you want a year-end letter. Or email [juliet@circleofconcern.org](mailto:juliet@circleofconcern.org), and we'll set you up with this convenient option.

### IN MEMORY OF:

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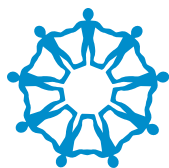
Joe & Eric Albrecht  
Joy Allen  
Bill Behring  
Pat Black  
Ryan Blank  
Margaret Mary "Peg" Bolen  
Allen Chott  
Connie Conrad  
Drusilla DeLisle  
Audrey Dempsey  
Lisa Dixon  
Michael Dunker  
Donald Easter  
George Eggemann  
Mary Ann Fehlig  
Don Fick  
Marian Hackmann  
Jeanne Hardie  
Warren Hecht  
Frank Herrmann  
Loran S Hewitt  
Mae Hudson  
Noreen Ireland  
Murial & Frank Jedlink  
Linda Johnson  
Judith Littleton  
Bill Macy  
Dominic Mikal  
Marlene Muir  
David Munsell  
Richard Nickel  
Wayne Peters  
Melvin Pope  
Marianne Schenck  
Trudy Schoeneshoefer  
Doc Schuckman  
Barbara Smoltz  
Sandy Spavale  
Unemployed Persons  
Raven & Dan Vail  
Richard Van Leuven  
David P Williams

Harvest Moon Trivia Night



Details are coming!  
**Virtual Trivia Night**  
September 17, 2021





# Circle of Concern FOOD PANTRY

112 St. Louis Ave.  
Valley Park, MO 63088  
Address Service Requested

NONPROFIT  
AUTO  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
ST LOUIS, MO  
PERMIT NO. 3252

## Welcome to Spring!

### Board of Directors:

**Michael Bauer**  
*PRESIDENT*

**Dolores Rodenberg**  
*VICE PRESIDENT*

**BJ Hillermann**  
*TREASURER*

**Allison Love**  
*SECRETARY*

Lana Biondo  
Charlotte Bukowski  
Thomas Chibnall  
Frank Haase  
Brandi Hamm  
Virginia Pearson  
Edie Quick  
Cindy Wolk

### We share many donations with our clients:

- Food, Canned and Packaged
- Fresh Garden Produce
- Dry Pet Food, Litter
- New Blankets, Hats, Gloves

### Donations are accepted:

Monday..... 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.  
Tuesday..... 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.  
Thursday..... 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.

### Important Dates:

<b>April 2</b>	Circle Closed for Easter Weekend
<b>April 24</b>	Girl Scouts April Showers Collection
<b>May</b>	Scholarship Application Deadline <i><a href="http://myscholarship.org">myscholarship.org</a></i>
<b>May 21</b>	Submission Deadline for Clients Summer Activities Applications
<b>September 17</b>	<b>WATCH FOR DETAILS</b> Online Trivia Night!

### Remember

Your monetary gift or food donation can qualify for MO Food Pantry Tax Credits.  
Contact [juliet@circleofconcern.org](mailto:juliet@circleofconcern.org) to find out more.



**"LIKE US"** on Facebook and visit us online at [www.circleofconcern.org](http://www.circleofconcern.org).

### STAFF DIRECTORY

	636.861.2623
<b>Cyndi Miller</b> , Executive Director .....	<a href="mailto:cyndi@circleofconcern.org">cyndi@circleofconcern.org</a> ..... ext. <b>117</b>
<b>Juliet Holden</b> , Senior Director .....	<a href="mailto:juliet@circleofconcern.org">juliet@circleofconcern.org</a> ..... ext. <b>106</b>
<b>Michelle Lepak</b> , Pantry Director .....	<a href="mailto:michelle@circleofconcern.org">michelle@circleofconcern.org</a> ..... ext. <b>107</b>
<b>Stephanie Moreland</b> , Volunteer/Special Events Director .....	<a href="mailto:stephanie@circleofconcern.org">stephanie@circleofconcern.org</a> ..... ext. <b>113</b>
<b>Niki Vandable</b> , Client Services Director .....	<a href="mailto:niki@circleofconcern.org">niki@circleofconcern.org</a> ..... ext. <b>108</b>