

AROUND THE

# Circle Newsletter

Circle of Concern  
Food Pantry



## For the Better

What's one thing you look back on that changed your life for the better? Was it an investment in a dream, a well-earned achievement, or a vote of confidence? For recipients of Circle of Concern scholarships, the answer is all of the above.

Circle is proud to announce the awarding of 25 academic scholarships to young people pursuing education after high school, and an additional 9 scholarships to adult clients who are building their earning potential so they can better support their families.

Earning a Circle scholarship is no easy feat. Besides demonstrating the financial need, students must demonstrate high school achievement, community involvement and a keen eye on how to attain their future dreams. Paperwork, thoughtful essays and a rigorous interview with our scholarship committee are part of the competitive process, but the competition yields such winners!

We grant youth scholarships to first-year college students, with the opportunity to reapply for each of the next three years. By offering multi-year awards, we not only help the individual recipients complete their education; we also produce data that confirms what we believed all along. Our scholarship students are more likely to complete college than the national average, tend to graduate with higher grade point averages and are positioned to enter the workforce or continue on to higher education.

With awards ranging from \$1,000 to \$7,000 for youth and up to \$1,000 for adults, the scholarships open doors to careers as far ranging as engineering, neuroscience, automotive tech, nursing, art and music therapy, animal science, journalism, phlebotomy, graphic design, medical billing, architecture, accounting and so much more. Each recipient defines his or her path; Circle scholarships are catalysts to walk that path.

As you consider the original question—what is something that changed your life for the better—we ask you to also recognize something important. Your support of Circle and our programs is a vital “something” that makes the lives of our scholarship awardees and, indeed, all of our clients, truly better. On their behalf, thank you.

## Current Needs:

- Jelly
- Dinner Helpers
- Ready-To-Eat Soup (not concentrated)
- Baking Items (flour, sugar, mixes, etc.)
- Rice, Beans, Potato Sides
- Canned Chicken
- Beef Stew
- Chicken & Dumplings
- Feminine Hygiene Pads (higher absorbency)
- Pull-ups 2T-3T

“The car is packed...I'm very excited to start my studies!”

~ First year scholarship recipient



Circle of Concern  
FOOD PANTRY

*Feeding Families is  
Just the Beginning*

## A Note from Cyndi

Susan and Jean Froussard were sisters who never married or had children. They loved St. Louis, "and...our American society," says John, the executor of their estate. They supported animal welfare groups, and they also wanted to ensure "that people from all walks of life had access to healthy food." According to John, they lived a simple life, and took pleasure in giving money away. He reports that they would often say, "why not at least try to help, especially when our gifts do not reduce our own well-being."

Jean passed away in December 2018, and Susan passed in April 2020. Circle of Concern recently received a sizeable gift from the sisters' estate, and *we are grateful*. It means so much to us that our mission meant so much to them. Gifts of this size can help us to expand our reach, bolster our programs or even expand or improve our facilities.

Estate gifts (sometimes called bequests, planned or legacy gifts) come in all sizes. You don't have to be among the very wealthy to designate a gift to your favorite cause, *but you do have to plan for this type of support*. A planned strategy can support a cause that's important to you, while also providing financial and tax benefits to you and your family.

If you're interested in making a lasting impact at Circle of Concern, you can learn about some of the ways to do so at <https://www.circleofconcern.org/ways-to-help/planned-estate-giving/>. We also encourage our friends and donors to consult with a financial advisor or tax attorney for guidance and to ensure that your wishes are known.

Enjoy the rest of your summer!

Most gratefully,



Cyndi Miller

## Overheard in the Food Pantry

*"When your guests ask, 'What can I bring to your party,' maybe suggest that they bring a needed food item to donate to Circle. Unless they offer Buffalo Chicken Dip. Then, always take the dip!"*



## Tax Credit Update

For the first time, Missouri surpassed the \$1.75 million state allocation of Food Pantry Tax Credits (for the 2020 tax year). That means that donors across Missouri claimed more than \$1.75 million in food pantry tax credits this spring. Per state statute, it also means that all claims for the credits were apportioned equally among those who submitted a tax credit form and filed a valid claim. The Missouri Department of Revenue reports that all valid claims have been paid at approximately 89.8 percent. For example, if you expected a credit of \$100, you will receive \$89.90.

This unusual situation was due to delayed 2019 tax filings – and unprecedented giving to Missouri pantries, soup kitchens and shelters in 2020. While we are grateful that so many donated so generously, we recognize that this situation creates a concern for our donors, and we apologize for the inconvenience. While there is some chance that delayed 2020 filings could create this situation again next spring, we feel it is unlikely, as organizations like Circle are seeing a more "normal" year in terms of giving.

Because of this allocation, some of our donors have received a notice of taxes due, with a penalty and interest. We have spoken with staff at the Missouri Department of Revenue, who explained that donors can request an abatement of the penalty and interest when they pay the taxes due. They can also submit an amended return to get the remaining 10.1 percent of 2020 credits earned (or simply claim the remaining 10.1 percent on next year's return).

For best guidance in navigating tax credit waters, call the MO Department of Revenue at 573.751.3220 or consult your tax professional.

### 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.



## Trivia Teams Wanted!

Join us Under the Virtual Harvest Moon on September 17

Circle's popular Harvest Moon Trivia Night is finding new life as a virtual event this year, and we want you and your team to sign up now!

From the comfort of your own home, gather with your seven smartest friends – and a supply of your favorite trivia cuisine and cocktails – to play six rounds of challenging trivia and take a chance on special raffle prizes. We'll even help you sign into ZOOM technology, if you'd like!

We know it likely will be a new experience to play online. Some things to know:

- Most of the fun at trivia night is gathering with your friends. You can still do that in the comfort of your own home. And you can even include on your team your best out-of-town trivia ringers;
- Scoring, questions, extra games, your table treats and more still are all part of the fun;
- We can help with technical questions and requirements before the event and during the night;
- Your registration still supports Circle's food pantry and other programs.

Please sign up today. Just visit [circleofconcern.org](http://circleofconcern.org) to register today.

## Spread Some Holiday Joy

Our Holiday Joy appeal is underway, ensuring that Circle's clients will enjoy the best of the entire holiday season, from Thanksgiving through Christmas. To underwrite the November feast for one or more families – or to adopt families of one, four, eight or more! – please visit [circleofconcern.org](http://circleofconcern.org) homepage and click on the Holiday Joy link.

You'll warm hearts, fill bellies and make dreams come true!



## Harvest Moon Trivia Raffle Prizes



What's a trivia night without primo raffle prizes?! When you register at [circleofconcern.org/Events](http://circleofconcern.org/Events) for our September 17 **Harvest Moon Virtual Trivia Night**, plan to buy tickets – 3 for \$25 – for a chance at one of these three great packages:

- Apple Air Pods Pro with case charging station, plus a \$100 gift card to Bloomin' Brands family of restaurants (Bonefish Grill, Outback Steakhouse, Flemings, Carrabbas). Value \$350.
- TWO packages that include a Fitbit Versa series 3 Smartwatch with GPS. Track pace and distance PLUS all that your phone can do! Each package includes a \$100 gift card to Bloomin' Brands restaurants.

## Garden Progress

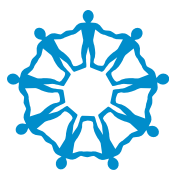
Larry Quick with a morning's harvest from the Circle garden, ready to distribute to our clients! Many thanks to the whole garden crew!



Run Circles Around Hunger with Living Word UMC's 5K Run/Walk on October 9, benefiting Circle.

Visit [livingwordumc.org/circle5K/](http://livingwordumc.org/circle5K/) to register today!





# 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

**Programs,  
Planned Giving &  
Playing for Fun!**

## Board of Directors:

**Michael Bauer**  
*PRESIDENT*

**Dolores Rodenberg**  
*VICE PRESIDENT*

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*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.

**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).

## Important Dates:



**September 6** Circle Closed in Observance of Labor Day

**September 17** Harvest Moon Virtual Trivia Night!  
[circleofconcern.org](http://circleofconcern.org)

**September 27** Virtual Board Meeting  
Contact [cyndi@circleofconcern.org](mailto:cyndi@circleofconcern.org)  
for information

**October 9** Run Circles Around Hunger 5K  
Hosted by Living Word UMC  
<https://livingwordumc.org>

## STAFF DIRECTORY

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