

AROUND THE Circle Newsletter

Circle of Concern
Food Pantry



In Appreciation of Service

Nancy Bauer, Circle of Concern's new Director of Volunteers and Special Events, remembers a woman who came through our curbside food pantry line one day this winter. "Our client had just gotten a new job but was struggling in a vicious cycle. A full day at work, couldn't get her children into after-school care. Was trying to manage all the pieces of life." At that moment, Nancy says, our volunteers have a special job to do. "Volunteers do so much more than deliver groceries at that moment. They see clients that have so much on their plates, and we can help make that plate a little less crowded."

Nancy remembers the long, deep breath that woman took in response to the suggestion that she "just sit here and relax while we get your groceries." And Nancy recognizes that our clients can relax with us because of the kind, compassionate volunteers who work here.

On any given day, we have skilled and committed individuals come through our doors and put their experience to work for our clients. We have teachers and engineers in our ranks, along with writers and accountants, sales people and business owners, and nearly every other profession under the sun. They use those specific skills in the pantry, the accounting office, in client intake or on special projects. They come to us from managing their own busy lives and pour out their energy for the sake of their neighbors.

Nancy is looking forward to welcoming a full contingent of volunteers back into the building when we resume our normal food distribution in our Client Choice pantry. As she plans recruitment and training for new and returning volunteers, she is always mindful of ensuring volunteers feel well utilized and appreciated.

One of Nancy's first tasks when she walked into Circle on her first day was to plan an event for April's Volunteer Appreciation week. While those special days are always fun for all, Nancy says, she is quick to add, "It's not enough to celebrate our volunteer stars for just one day. We try to express our appreciation all year long!"

Current Needs:

- Snacks – **CRITICAL**
- Pasta Sauce
- Dinner Helpers – **CRITICAL**
- Jelly – **CRITICAL**
- Women's L/XL pull up incontinence briefs
- Baby Wipes
- Size 6 Poise Pads

To explore volunteer opportunities at Circle of Concern now and in the coming months, contact Nancy@circleofconcern.org to begin the conversation!



Circle of Concern
FOOD PANTRY

*Feeding Families is
Just the Beginning*

A Note from Cyndi

As our staff bustles about preparing for our annual April Volunteer Appreciation gathering, not only am I feeling so happy that we can gather again safely, I am also reminded of just how fortunate we are to have the caring and commitment of our volunteers.

They are truly special people. Their backgrounds, skills and interests are diverse, but they are united in their "showing up" and "doing what's best" for our client families. Most are retirees, now more able to pick and choose the causes and pastimes that suit them. Others are still in the workforce, either at home or outside the home, and yet making time to serve their community.

From stocking shelves in our warehouse, to processing donations, filling grocery carts, counseling a family in crisis—or serving in a board capacity—every volunteer role is critical to our work. I hope that today, as we serve up cupcakes and sliders, our volunteers feel the love. We truly ❤️ you!

Most gratefully,

Cyndi

Cyndi Miller

Because of you...

... Circle has been able to give our clients many more types of fresh fruit and vegetable each month. Beyond our monthly potatoes, carrots, apples and oranges, we can now feature seasonal items like berries, asparagus, squashes, greens and more.

Thank you for generously making more wholesome foods accessible at Circle!



New Staff Members

Please join us in welcoming new staff to Circle!

Nancy Bauer is our new Director of Volunteers & Special Events, cheerfully finding the perfect roles and schedules for our volunteer stars or pulling off fun, lucrative special events. On her own time, she's outdoors hiking with family and dog, Coco, or she's reading all the best books!



In her role as Director of Programs, Jenny Lawrence puts her social work credentials to work for our clients, ensuring our services follow all best practices for respectful, effective care. Outside of Circle, she and girlie-dog, Rory, are checking new area parks off her list of undiscovered green spaces!

Doc,
I didnt get to attend our fieldtrip but I do have alot to thank you for. When my mom couldnt afford enough food you supported us. And feed us. Its great to know therer people there for you when you cant expect it or dont know them. I appreciate having food put on my table for those few monthr that we struggled.

thank you,
a happy teenage girl.

P.S. keep doing what youre doing!

Aberdeen, Here We Come!



Our foursomes are full and the golfers are ready to play in the 16th Annual Circle of Concern golf tournament. With Presenting Sponsor Orthopedic Specialists and our hosts from St. Mark Presbyterian Church, the only thing we're waiting for is a sunny day on the course!

If you'd like to support the tournament, there are still opportunities to sponsor. Contact Nancy@circleofconcern.org to find out how!



Important Trivia News!

The registration is open for Circle's popular Harvest Moon Trivia Night on Friday, September 23! Visit circleofconcern.org to lead the pack in signing up you and your seven cleverest friends for a night of fun!



When It Rains, It Pours

The numbers are staggering! Check out April Showers 2022!

402 Girl Scouts and 331 adults representing **54 Girl Scout Troops** in District 12, Neighborhood 3 of the Girl Scouts of Eastern MO contributed a total of **1,645 service hours** to collect from the local community and donate a grand total of **35,544 toiletry items** to support Circle of Concern families!

We have no words, except for a heartfelt Thank You!



Recently our Board of Directors and Staff participated in a Strategic Planning Retreat at The Timbers, led by The Rome Group. What a beautiful setting, and what great discussions we had! We appreciate the commitment, expertise and cohesiveness of this group!



Seen in the Pantry

Two representatives of a local business arrived in company apparel to drop off a BIG load of donated food from their team at the office. After unloading it all, they stepped out of our warehouse and turned to each other with a jump in the air and a high five!

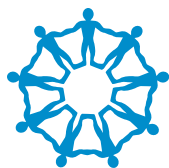
We jump for joy at your generosity, too. Thank you!

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.



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

**Circle Volunteers
Rock!**

Board of Directors:

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Mayank Chaudhary
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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 to find out more.



"LIKE US" on Facebook and visit us online at www.circleofconcern.org.

Important Dates:



May 14	"Stamp Out Hunger" Letter Carrier's Food Drive
May 23	Circle of Concern Golf Tournament at Aberdeen
May 30	Circle closed for Memorial Day
June 6	Board Meeting at Circle, 5:30pm
June 17	Benefit Dinner at El Toluco
July 4	Circle closed for Independence Day
July 25	Board Meeting at Circle, 5:30pm
September 23	Harvest Moon Trivia is Back! Andre's West in Fenton

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Nancy Bauer , Volunteer/Special Events Director	nancy@circleofconcern.org ext. 113
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