

AROUND THE

Circle Newsletter

Circle of Concern
Food Pantry



An Open Door

For more than two years, Circle of Concern has braved Covid-19 safety measures, isolation, food supply challenges and the elements, themselves, to continue to provide critical services to our clients. Our volunteers have worn parkas, rain ponchos, sunscreen and smiles to carry groceries curbside to hundreds of cars each month. Others have reached out to every single new client by phone to ensure they know about all of our programs, such as Financial Assistance and other resources available. We have used ZOOM and digital messages to “see” our clients, scholarship recipients, donors, community partners.

At this writing, we are hard at work, making plans to reopen our building soon. We are very conscious that many of our clients—those who began receiving food and other services since the start of the pandemic—will experience our one-on-one intake and case management process for the first time when they come inside to choose their groceries. More than just receiving food, they will talk face to face with trained volunteers about their financial situations and explore the range of help they need.

Part of our goal in reopening—beyond returning to client choice and comprehensive client case management—is to help our clients feel comfortable in this “new” setting. To that end, we are planning extensive training for our current and returning volunteers to reacquaint serving clients smoothly with our best practices and computer system. We are reorganizing our spaces. The St. Louis Area Foodbank has even awarded Circle a grant to improve the process for our clients when they come back inside for in-pantry shopping, including new furnishings—shelving, vegetable totes and more—that will help our space look more familiar, like a small grocery store. We are working hard to ensure every client that will enter our building will feel safe, welcomed and respected.

Our door will soon be open again. And we couldn't be more excited to bring the smiles inside!

Current Needs:

- Jelly
- Pasta Sauce
- Dinner Helpers
- Snacks – **CRITICAL**
- Baking Items – **CRITICAL**
- Dawn Dish Soap
- Body Wash
- Kid's Body Wash (not baby)
- Laundry Soap
- Pull-Ups (3T-4T, 4T-5T)
- Women's XL Incontinence Briefs
- Sanitary Napkins (Size 4 and 5)



Circle of Concern
FOOD PANTRY

*Feeding Families is
Just the Beginning*

A Note from *Cyndi*

As we navigate our way through a pandemic and now witness food and gas prices rising to levels before unseen, I'm reminded of how circumstances beyond our control can dramatically change things for a family.

Today, one of our volunteer Client Resource Managers shared the story of a client who tearfully inquired about rent assistance. Her car needed a major repair, and she had to choose between paying her mobile home pad rent, or the repair on her vehicle. Soon, she found herself three months in arrears. "I need my car to get to work," she explained. "I had to get it fixed; now I'm so behind I can't get caught up."

I'm grateful Circle has the means to provide emergency rent and utility assistance to struggling families, to assist clients who must make difficult choices to maintain a job, a vehicle, safe housing. Keeping low-income families safely housed has become ever more important, as smaller affordable housing units are bought up, rehabbed and rented at new rates that are anything but "affordable" to those we serve. Add to that the long-lasting impact of an eviction on one's ability to secure a lease or loan. Our financial assistance program is critical. Friends like you make this program and others possible. We thank you for your support and your commitment to the work we do.

Gratefully,



Cyndi Miller

OUR MISSION:

Circle of Concern feeds the hungry and provides assistance to low-income families living in our community.

OUR VISION:

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



The annual Stamp Out Hunger food drive by local letter carriers is the last, largest food drive before summer. Stamp Out Hunger ensures we have food for our clients through the long summer.

Many thanks to the postal professionals at the Ballwin and Valley Park post offices for conducting this valuable food drive. We also are grateful to the army of volunteers who worked at the post office and at Circle to get the collected food into our warehouse. Finally, we thank you, our community friends, who filled the food drive bags on your doorstep to help feed our neighbors. We are so grateful.

This year, some friends made financial gifts to Stamp Out Hunger with a convenient QR code. It's not too late to support this important food drive. Just turn on your phone's camera and point at this QR code; a link to the donation form will pop up on your phone. Tap the link, and you can then make a gift to support the food pantry and other programs.



Scan me

New Staff Member

Please join us in welcoming new staff to Circle!

To call Beth Niezing a new staff member feels...funny. Beth has been a part of our volunteer team for nearly 20 years – as a pantry star in our old building, as a respected board member, as the i-dotter and t-crosser who ensures all donations are properly acknowledged and accounted for.

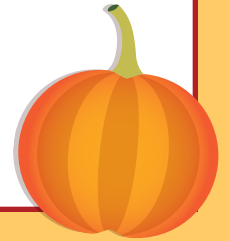
Beth has now come on board as our new Administrator of Donor Relations & Finance. In addition to growing projects on which she has previously worked, she will join Cyndi and Juliet in efforts to better serve our clients and donors. When not sharing her significant business and IT experience with us, she is impressing us all with her stories of raising two lively children and the joys of maintaining a historic house!



REGISTER TODAY!

Registration is open for Circle's popular Harvest Moon Trivia Night! Lead the pack in signing up you and your nine cleverest friends for a night of fun!

What: Harvest Moon Trivia Night
When: Friday, September 23, 2022
Where: Andre's West in Fenton
Time: 6 p.m. check-in, 7 p.m. start
Cost: \$300 per table of 10, \$30 per person
Register: circleofconcern.org



Overheard in the Pantry

Two college students answered our call for snack foods to include in our clients' grocery bags. They told our volunteers that the food was purchased at Maryville University with the dollars left in their dormitory food service accounts at the end of the year. "What better way to spend these funds than in service of people who will appreciate the food!"

Gas Cards

Many thanks to our thoughtful donor who made a very generous \$3,500 donation to purchase \$25 gas cards for clients who need them. As gas prices hover at nearly \$5 per gallon, we are asking for your help to purchase cards for as many clients as possible. Please write "Gas Cards" on your check's memo line or on the Tribute Name line of our online donation form at circleofconcern.org. You will help our clients get to work, to medical appointments, to Circle!

To: All at "Circle of Concern" THANK YOU!
I am Grateful for always being shown love, kindness & respect. I always felt safe when coming here!!!
I am Grateful for your precious & kind hearts!!!
I am Blessed By you!!! THANK YOU!



A Good Day on the Course

Many thanks to all who made our very successful 16th Annual Circle Charity Golf Tournament possible, beginning with our tournament host, St. Mark Presbyterian Church, and tournament chair, Bob Stewart. We are also grateful for our sponsors, players, volunteers, auction contributors, vendors, committee members – because of you, the entire event flowed smoothly under blue skies. The money raised directly supports our purchases of wholesome foods for the food pantry and our other programs that help move our clients from uncertainty to stability.

You make our work possible!



Long time St. Mark golf tournament supporter, Wayne Brent (2nd from l), with David Oswald, Roger Stoll, Timothy Brown.



Circle volunteer, Glen Knopf (l), with St. Mark golf committee chair, Bob Stewart, sharing a laugh at Aberdeen Golf Club.



Former Circle board presidents, Mike Bauer (in red) and Steve Ernst (2nd from r) with teammates Bill McCormick and Terry Gooding.



Board member Edie Quick (l) with her Birdie teammates Mary Miller, Joyce Harrell, Danna Roope.



Justin Adams, Tony Cavaletti, Matt Conrardy and Brett Belcher taking a break on the back 9.



Jonathan Reeder and his fantastic foursomes on the course.

Special Thanks to Our Sponsors!



Circle volunteer, Rod Garvin, with Leslie Garvin on the green.



Shirley & Teresa celebrating the generous support of our players and sponsors!

Presenting Sponsor



Orthopedic Specialists

Paul & Betty Taylor
Chris & Debbie Brown
Scott & Nina Collier
ELCO Chevrolet Cadillac
Britt & Sharon Holt
Living Word UMC Men's Group
Meramec Valley Bank
Midwest ToxPath Sciences LLC
Ogletree Deakins PC
Ron Ridgway
Arthur & Dolores Rodenberg
Bob & Diana Stewart
Grey Eagle Distributors
St. Mark Presbyterian Koinania Group
Custom Type
Environmental Landscaping Co., Inc.
Family Golf & Learning Center
Bob & Debbie Lieneman
Peoples National Bank
Sonrai Solutions
Sysco
Union Machinery
Welsch Heating & Cooling
Tom & Patricia Stiffler
ASI
Brandi Hamm

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



Circle board president, Dolores Rodenberg, and board member, Mark Barbee on the course.



Circle volunteers Jerry Ortinau and Greg John waiting to tee off!



Geistler Family Footcare's Dr. Perry Geistler (l) with teammates Dan Cordia, Tom Cordia and Scott Boedy.

In Honor and Memory

(January 1 - May 31, 2022)

Thank you for recognizing your loved ones and meaningful events with gifts to Circle of Concern. You honor the work we do with your generosity.

HONOR

Jill Albano's Birthday
Bob Boyd
Chaminade Gratitude Party
Circle of Concern Staff
Jeanne Clauson
Pierce Croner's 5th Birthday
Easter
F3 St Louis
Amy Ferris
William C Fogarty
Robert & Carol Grotha
Tedd & Joyce Harrell
Harwood Hills Social Club
Colleen "Coke" Hennessy
Suze & Tony Hladky -
special care of Patricia
Britt Holt - Happy Birthday!
David Joeckenhoefer
Lent
Mail Carriers at Ballwin Post Office
Mary Maxeiner
Tony Messenger
Scotty Meyer
Jo Jo Nguyen's Birthday
Karina Patel
Linda Patton's Birthday
Ruth Peace
Steve Petersen
Emma Jean Phillip's - Mother's Day
Kris Reiner & Paul Shafer's Wedding
Heather Sliney's Birthday
Team DKM
Jane Walsma's Birthday
Alicia Wilson
Barb Woehle's Birthday

MEMORY

All the People Who Lost
Their Lives By Guns
Dorothy Althoff
Joann Bader
Ray & Bobbie Baniak
Randall Barron
Virginia Bartnett
Art & Betty Beckman
Betty Beckman
Erwin Bleitner
John & Jane Burle
John & Connie Conrad
Beth & Kory Costello
Conrad Damsgaard
James Davis
Paul Davis
Al & Dru DeLisle
Bob Diamond
Jan Downey
Richard Dreyer
Joan Duffey
Louise DuMontier
Ruth Dyer
Mary Ann Enlow
Judith Eschmann
Ben & Steve Ferris
Judy Flacke
Dennis M Flanagan
Tom Flanagan
Joan Flowers
Lillian Flowers
James Floyd
Patrick Forrest
Jean Freese
Vernon Griesbauer
William Gritton
Tillie Gruen
Joy Harrell
Irene Hecker
Bill Heftel
Hugh Hollister
Mae Hudson
Ed Jasensky
Mary Louise Junk
Jerry Kehlenbrink
Mathew Charles Keller
Jan Koizumi

Elias J Kosednar
Margaret Kunst
Richard Lamzik
Jarrod Larson
Mary Claire Link (Spehr)
Patrick Livingston
Mike Lopez
Emil Mariani
Richard Matsutani;
Brother of Edie Quick
William "Bill" McNamara
Dominic Mikal
Frank Miller
Diane E Minnick
Steven Morrison
Patricia Mueller's Mother
Marlene Muir
Don Muse
Joel Nivens
John & Joyce O'Hare
Alberta 'Bert' Patton
Zack Pepper
Olga Pesek
Donald Piekarski
John Pils
Jerome "Jerry" Range
Rozella Rankins
Dennis Reichert
Donald Reitmeyer
Blake Ricketts
Loren Rutledge
Lloyd Charles Shalla
Matthew Todd Sinise
Clarita Sommer
Carol & John Spencer
Donna Springs
Janet Steinmeyer
Don Stock
John P Tierney Jr
Natalie Timm, For Her Birthday
Rick Turlin
Mary Joy Uebelein
Pam Weise
Larry Wexelman
Marie Wiethop
Ed Williamson
Laura Wind

*As long as you
speak my name,
I shall live
forever.*

-African proverb

Recipe: Baked Summer Squash Bites

Ingredients:

4 medium zucchini or yellow squash, sliced into ½-thick rounds
2 tablespoons olive or cooking oil
1 ½ teaspoons dried Italian seasoning
2 cloves garlic, minced
½ cup grated parmesan cheese
Salt and pepper to taste

Directions:

Preheat oven to 350 degrees, and grease or spray a large baking sheet (or line with greased foil to save on clean-up!)

In a large bowl, stir together oil, seasoning, garlic, salt and pepper. Add the squash rounds and toss to coat. Lay out on baking sheet.

Top with parmesan.

Bake until just soft, about 7 to 9 minutes.

Remove pan from oven and adjust oven rack closer to broiler.

Preheat broiler.

Place pan back in oven and broil until squash is tender, about 2 to 3 minutes. (Watch so it doesn't burn!)

Serve warm.



Radishes, turnips, greens and more from Circle's garden are making their way into our clients' grocery bags, with much more to come!



One-on-one counseling for clients is one of our valuable programs. We've informed our clients of this opportunity via emails and phone calls and flyers, and responses have been good. Just a few days on an old-school sandwich board during curbside pantry service, though, brought nearly 20 more clients to the program! Many thanks to the Chiron Community Giving Foundation for generous funding for this program and to Saint Louis Counseling for partnering with us for our clients!

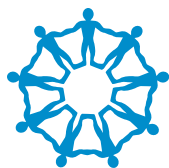
Take Credit

The Missouri Food Pantry Tax Credit program rewards you for monetary gifts and food donations to Circle. The easy-to-use 50 percent credit is a win-win for you and for the families you help to feed. Contact juliet@circleofconcern.org for more information.

Go Up to the Mountain!

Many thanks to the Vacation Bible School kiddos at Lord of Life Lutheran Church in Chesterfield! Their annual Mountain of Food food drive for Circle started as pictured. After a week of collection at the church and a nearby grocery store, we picked up TWO vanloads of foods for our client families. We appreciate you!





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

Summer at Circle!

Board of Directors:

Dolores Rodenberg
PRESIDENT

Allison Love
VICE PRESIDENT

Cindy Wolk
SECRETARY

Bernie Hillermann
TREASURER

Mark Barbee
Mayank Chaudhary
Thomas Chibnall
Aaron Froehlich
Brandi Hamm
Virginia Pearson
Edie Quick

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:

July 4	Circle closed for Independence Day
July 25	Board Meeting at Circle, 5:30pm
September 5	Circle closed for Labor Day
September 23	Harvest Moon Trivia is Back! Andre's West in Fenton
October 8	SAVE THE DATE Living Word UMC 5K



~ 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.

STAFF DIRECTORY

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Nancy Bauer , Volunteer/Special Events Director	nancy@circleofconcern.org	ext. 113
Jenny Lawrence , Program Director	jenny@circleofconcern.org	ext. 108
Beth Niezing , Donor Relations Administrator	beth@circleofconcern.org	ext. 112