

AROUND THE

Circle Newsletter

Circle of Concern
Food Pantry



Fall Into Winter The Holidays at Circle

There's a hum in the air at Circle of Concern right now. Clients with summer season jobs are getting less work, so we're welcoming more families into the food pantry. Gardens are giving up their final abundant harvests—including our own garden here—so the beautiful surplus fruits and vegetables our donors bring us are washed and offered to grateful clients. Scholarship awards are going out to young people starting a new year of life-changing education. The spirit of giving is growing stronger...and the holidays are coming.

November begins sweetly as garden greens share space in grocery bags with surplus Halloween candy that our friends drop off. Through the month, we'll provide each client family with a gift card for a turkey and the makings of a traditional Thanksgiving feast; thanks to our donors and local churches who are filling boxes with seasonal ingredients.

By the end of November, we will kick off our popular Holiday Adoption program. Each member of each client family receives some holiday joy, which is often the only gift some clients will receive. From children to seniors, single parents and veterans – no one is left behind during the giving season.

Circle clients receive a \$50 retail gift card for each member of the family, and they are quick to share how the support enhances the holiday. Toys for children, warm clothes, surprise presents under the tree – our families appreciate the flexibility of the gift cards. The most poignant reason they appreciate them is that they feel the cards give them the means and the dignity to shop for—to provide for—their loved ones and feel the joy of giving, too.

Current Needs:

- Kid-Friendly Cereal, Flavored Instant Oatmeal
- Canned Chicken
- Condiments/Sauces - Mayo, Salad Dressing, Salsa, Ketchup
- Snacks (with portion packs)
- Pasta Sauce & Canned Pasta
- Dinner "Helpers"
- Baking Mixes & Ingredients (Sugar, Oil, Shortening, Salt, other)
- Canned Fruit
- Diapers (Size 4 & 5) & Baby Wipes & Pull-Ups
- Women's Incontinence Briefs & Pads
- Female Hygiene Products
- Adult & Child Body Wash

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Circle of Concern
FOOD PANTRY

Feeding Families is
Just the Beginning

continued on page 2

A Note from Cyndi

The remarkable story I share today is one of service, friendship, trust and legacy.

Carolyn Elsik was a bookkeeper for Shell Oil, and George Burr made his career with AT&T. They met in a Texas dance club. They were single and in their 40s; and after a courtship, they married sometime later. They enjoyed a full life together with boating and biking and wonderful friends.

AT&T took them to Manchester, MO, where George continued on his career path and Carolyn enjoyed early retirement. Together the couple joined Christ, Prince of Peace Church. It was there, in the church bulletin, that Carolyn saw a "help wanted" ad for Circle of Concern. So in 1995, Carolyn began her 15-year volunteer tenure at Circle of Concern. Serving beside Circle's then executive director, Glenn Koenen, Carolyn was a bookkeeper, and for a time, board member.

She recruited George to serve too. Upon retirement from AT&T, he signed on as a volunteer driver. Together they volunteered for several years, working at special events and helping wherever there was a need, all the while, watching, as Glenn, Circle's first paid staff member, led Circle to new heights. His passionate advocacy for low-income families, and his careful stewardship of Circle's resources made an impression on the Burrs.

In 2010, George was diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease, and the couple retired from Circle. Carolyn had a parting wish. She asked Glenn to take care of George should anything happen to her.

It wasn't long after that Glenn also retired from Circle – after 17 years as Executive Director. Unexpectedly, Carolyn passed in 2015, and Glenn kept his promise to care for George. He became George's legal guardian, watching over and advocating for him until he passed in August 2020. The courts appointed Glenn to represent George's estate.

Legacy giving—the giving of assets through your estate planning—can ensure that your treasures support loved ones, as well as the kind of causes that mean the most to you.

Circle of Concern was one of three beneficiaries named in George's will. This was not at all surprising to Glenn. The Burrs were faithful donors – always among the first to respond to Circle's appeals for support.

We are grateful to George, Carolyn and Glenn...and the role that each has played in Circle's past, present and now future. Legacy giving—the giving of assets through your estate planning—can ensure that your treasures support loved ones, as well as the kind of causes that mean the most to you – even in your passing.

You can learn more about planned giving by logging on to our planned giving page – circleofconcern.org/ways-to-help/planned-estate-giving – or by giving me a call at 636.861.2623, x117.

Wishing you peace,

Cyndi

Cyndi Miller

Fall Into Winter, *cont. from page 1*

Please know – when you support Holiday Adoption with a cash donation, you're giving valuable gifts of pride and dignity to our clients. And they are grateful to you.

Will you please support the Holiday Adoption program this year? It's easy to do – just visit our homepage at circleofconcern.org and click on the link, mail a check with "Holiday Adoption" on the memo line; or simply hold your camera phone up to this QR code and click on the link that appears. You can adopt as many people as you'd like.

Thank you for your support of Holiday Adoption and Circle's programs throughout the year.



Happy Estate Planning Week - October 16-22!

Supporting Circle and other causes helps today AND tomorrow. With some planning and information about ways to give from your wealth, rather than your income, you can maximize your impact on organizations that are important to you. Stock gifts, IRA Qualified Charitable Distributions, bequests, Donor-Advised Funds – each of these can be valuable tools to make a difference.



Visit circleofconcern.org/ways-to-help/planned-estate-giving to learn about various vehicles to give. And reach out to cyndi@circleofconcern.org to say “Hello” the week of October 16, and we’ll explore growing your legacy!

Win-Win-Win with Tax Credits

Missouri Food Pantry Tax Credits reduce your state income tax bill and are easy to claim! When you donate cash or food directly to Circle, you can get up to 50 percent of your gift back in the form of tax credits, and we’ll provide you with the form you need to claim them!

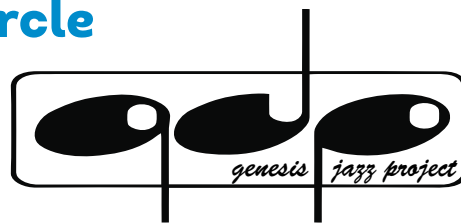


Before you make an end-of-year gift, consider contacting juliet@circleofconcern.org for guidelines and more information about this easy-to-access tax credit program. You win, Circle wins and families-in-need in our community win!

“You make a hard life easier. Thank you for being here for my family.”
~ Anonymous Client Note

Jazzing for Circle

What would you say to a smooth slide into the holiday season?



On Tuesday, November 21, please plan to join us for the 8th annual Genesis Jazz Project concert to benefit Circle! Some of St. Louis’s very best jazz musicians, along with Lafayette High School’s budding jazz cats, will play you into Thanksgiving with jazz classics and new works, in the comfort of the Lafayette auditorium (17050 Clayton Road in Wildwood).

The concert starts at 7 p.m., and admission is \$10 or five (or more) cans of food for Circle.

It’s a pitch-perfect way to start the holiday weekend on a high note!

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.

Important Dates:



October 7

City of Manchester Shredding Event for Manchester Residents

Schroeder Park with Food & Cash Collection for Circle
Manchester.gov for details

October 16-23

National Estate Planning Week

Contact 636.861.2623 x117 for info

October 20

Harvest Moon Trivia

Andre’s West in Fenton

Register today at circleofconcern.org!

November 17

Holiday Adoption Appeal Deadline

Visit circleofconcern.org!

November 21

Genesis Jazz Project, featuring Lafayette High School Jazz Band Benefiting Circle of Concern

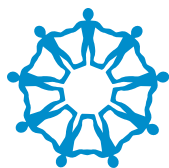
7pm at Lafayette High School (17070 Clayton Road)
\$10 admission or Food Donation

**November 22 at Noon
November 25**

Circle Closed for Thanksgiving Holiday
Reopens Monday, November 27

November 24

Manchester UMC Tree Lot Opens, Benefiting Circle
14380 Manchester Road



Circle of Concern FOOD PANTRY

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

NONPROFIT
AUTO
U.S. POSTAGE
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ST LOUIS, MO
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Falling Into WINTER

Board of Directors:

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Mayank Chaudhary
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Bridget Guffey
Brandi Hamm
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:

Mon, Tues, Fri 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Wed 9 a.m. - 6:30 p.m.
Thurs 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.
Sat 9 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

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



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

STAFF DIRECTORY

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Becky Pool , Pantry Coordinator	becky@circleofconcern.org	ext. 120

harvest moon Register for Trivia Today!



Circle's Harvest Moon Trivia is almost here, and tables are selling quickly. Register now with your know-it-all friends to play on Friday, October 20 at Andre's West in Fenton! The cost for a table of 10 is just \$300 (\$30 per person) and includes challenging rounds of trivia, contests, Spirits Raffle, silent auction and an Open Bar. New this year - a Mystery Round to bump up your score, a scaled-up silent auction and Bar & Bid valet service for our top sponsors!

Please join us back at Andre's West in Fenton, and register by pointing your phone's camera to the QR code at right or visit circleofconcern.org to register today!

