

AROUND THE

Circle Newsletter

Circle of Concern
Food Pantry



BUDDY System

Martin* struggled to find a job with a future. He joined Circle of Concern's Mentorship program, hoping for help finding job prospects and places to apply. Help is exactly what he got.

Through his mentor, Martin discovered BUD, or Building Union Diversity, a union construction pre-apprenticeship program that prepares qualified individuals for union jobs in the building trades. A six-week training course, support and the chance to certify as a union builder offered a path to a solid secure future for Martin and his family.

Circle's Mentorship program launched with a simple idea – enlist community volunteers to pair with Circle clients to help them get good jobs. Together, the pair might write a resume, fill out online job applications and practice interviews. While that's at the core of mentorship, the relationships formed have become much more fruitful than that. Today, mentors serve as career and connection coaches for clients who are climbing more than one hill to achieve stability and success.

One client – Katie* – just completed her Master's degree in the healthcare field but has been hampered in finding a job by her commitment to care for her chronically ill mother. Before she could take a job at a local hospital, Katie needed a specific training. With no money for the training, Katie's mentor connected her with the St. Louis Agency on Training & Employment, or SLATE, which offered her a scholarship to pay for it. Further, her mentor found resources to get Katie certified as a part-time caregiver for her mother, which supplemented her income.

Sometimes, getting hired is just one challenge. Bob* is 65 and was having trouble finding a job. He lives in a small home he inherited from family, but delinquent property taxes put him underwater. Selling the house wouldn't bring enough money to pay the taxes and pay rent somewhere else. His mentor stepped up. She connected him to a local nonprofit agency that

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Current Needs:

- Snacks (with portion packs)
- Pasta Sauce & Canned Pasta
- Dinner "Helpers"
- Baking Mixes & Ingredients
- Ramen & Ready-To-Heat Soups
- Dry Beans
- Canned Fruit
- Canned Tomato Products
- Diapers (Size 4 & 5) & Baby Wipes & Pull-Ups
- Women's Incontinence Briefs & Pads
- Female Hygiene Products
- Adult & Child Body Wash

Our mentors connect clients with many resources. Learn more about two mentioned here:

- **Building Union Diversity (BUD) – A program of the Missouri Works Initiative. 314.312.3038**
- **St. Louis Agency on Training & Employment (SLATE) – 314.589.8000**



Circle of Concern
FOOD PANTRY

*Feeding Families is
Just the Beginning*

A Note from Cyndi

It's hard to imagine, in this country where so many of us have all that we need, that any young woman would miss school or work due to a lack of period products. And yet, we know this happens.

We have long tried to stock these critical health care products on our shelves, available to client families. They're expensive, and we know that they sometimes take a back seat to equally important expenses like rent, utilities, food, gasoline – *and diapers*.

We strive to ensure a selection of diapers on our shelves, too, as no child should have to wear a soiled diaper longer than necessary. There is ample data to show that a lack of diapers hurts parents and children alike. Mothers suffer anxiety and depression, and children may experience neglect, health concerns or worse.

For these reasons, our new partnership with the St. Louis Area Diaper Bank is cause for celebration. Circle will purchase a supply of both diapers and period products quarterly – at wholesale prices – from the Diaper Bank. This partnership won't satisfy our inventory needs fully, *but it will help greatly!*

To those of you who make these products a priority when you shop for Circle, we sincerely thank you. Your kindness brings dignity, comfort and so much more.

Gratefully,

Cyndi

Cyndi Miller



BUDdy System, *cont. from page 1*

hired him right away. She also found an appraiser who gave him information he needed to contest the property valuation and reduce the tax debt. Between the job and the tax relief, Bob thanks his mentor for changing his life for the better.

And Martin? He completed his initial training at BUD and has already found full-time employment. He will continue to build his construction skills and credits his mentor for opening the path to a new life for his family.

To learn more about Circle's Mentorship program and maybe becoming a mentor, yourself, contact jenny@circleofconcern.org.

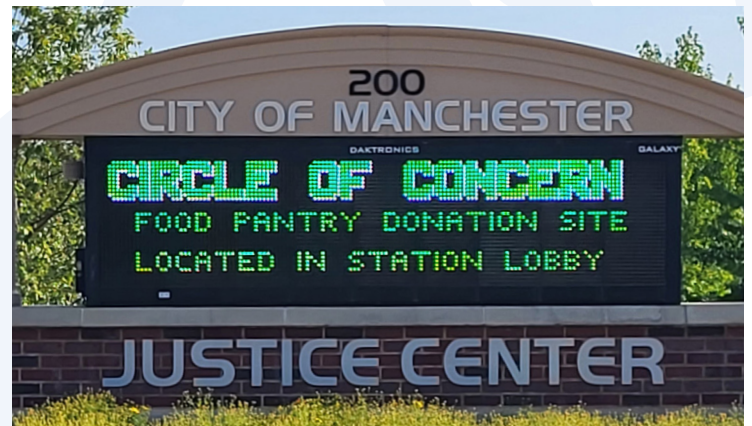
**Names and some details have been changed to protect privacy.*

Food Pantry Tax Credit **UPDATE**

The Missouri Food Pantry Tax Credit is a win-win for you and Circle clients! Your donation of money or food to Circle can bring you up to 50 percent of your gift back in tax credits that reduce your state income tax bill.

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!

Community Spotlight on: City of Manchester



We love all the local municipalities that make our mission work for our neighbors. This month, we shine the light on Manchester!

- Food donations for Circle are collected 24/7/365 in the lobby of the Manchester Justice Center.
- Manchester Electronic & Metal Recycling events collect food and cash for Circle and are *open to everyone*. **The next Electronic & Metal event is September 16 at Schroeder Park.**
- Shredding events *for Manchester residents* also collect food and cash for Circle. **The next Shredding event for Manchester residents is October 7.**
- Over the years, Manchester shred and recycle events have collected more than 3,000 food items for Circle, plus nearly \$2,500.
- Manchester police officers welcome our clients' children to "Shop With A Cop" every Christmas to find gifts for their families.

Many thanks to our friends in Manchester! Watch for our next Community Spotlight.

Snapshots from the Garden!



(clockwise from top left) Nancy & George Lynn, Chris Gater, Denise Livingston



(l-r) Tedd Harrell & Dean Vaciz



Sugar and Spice and All Things Nice

One of our most popular pantry shelves is the one stocked with baking ingredients, especially as autumn leaves and falling temperatures creep into our days.

We are inviting all our friendly bakers to help stock that shelf with all the items our clients need to make holiday treats and memories as the holidays approach. We are looking for sugar, flour, oil, shortening, vanilla extract, baking spices, chocolate chips and all our other favorite baking flavors.

If you, like us, want to encourage cozy, delicious baking, please consider helping us stock up on all things nice for the kitchen!



Holiday Adoption Warms the Season

Will you help warm the holiday season for Circle families?

Through the popular Holiday Adoption program, your contributions provide a \$50 gift card to our clients – children and adults. For many of our clients, including seniors, veterans and single parents, these gift cards will purchase the only gifts they receive all year.

Your donation toward the purchase of these gift cards makes Holiday Adoption possible. Will you help make the holidays a delight again this year for approximately 2,000 people? Giving is easy. Just point your phone's camera at the QR code and click on the link that pops up. Or visit circleofconcern.org for easy giving options.

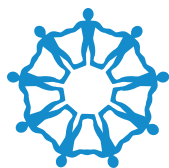


On behalf of our client families, thank you!

Important Dates:



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|----------------------|---|
| September 16 | City of Manchester Electronics/ Metal Recycling Event
Open to all at Schroeder Park, Benefiting Circle
Manchester.gov for details |
| September 25 | Board Meeting at Circle
Contact Cyndi@circleofconcern.org for more info |
| 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 |
| November 17 | Holiday Adoption Appeal Deadline
Visit circleofconcern.org ! |



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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A Little Help
From Our BUDS

Board of Directors:

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Brian Boeglin
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Thomas Chibnall
Aaron Froehlich
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.

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

harvest
moon

Trivia Registration is OPEN!



Gather your most know-it-all friends to play Circle's popular Harvest Moon Trivia on Friday, October 20! For just \$30 per person (\$300 for your table of 10) you get eight rounds of challenging trivia and open bar, plus features 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 or visit circleofconcern.org to register today!

