

AROUND THE

Circle Newsletter

Circle of Concern
Food Pantry



A Pantry Year Passes

As another year circles 'round, all of us at Circle of Concern look at shelves full of food, pleased to be able to feed our neighbors with groceries the community has provided. In the few quiet moments we get during this busy time, we look back at the last few months, and also take a glimpse forward to the year to come...

Food drives and warehouse drop-offs from many individuals, businesses, schools, groups, troops and others during November and December offered assurances that we'd have food to take us into the New Year. Nearly 700 families received the makings of a Thanksgiving feast and, at this writing, the Holiday Program is providing gift cards to our clients to choose gifts of the season. Our volunteer stars are closing out a year of warm and effective client service.

Winter-into-spring, we'll be planning programs and projects. We'll get applications ready for scholarship candidates, and our garden volunteers will get plants and seeds into the ground, promising beautiful produce for our clients to enjoy.

Summer is special for our clients' children. The Campership program will help children go to camp or other enrichment activities. Summer Kid Food will bridge the hunger gap for kids who go without the free meals they receive at when in school. Our Back to School program will kick off the school year with relief for families that struggle.

Summer will turn into autumn quietly at Circle, in part because food is sparse on our warehouse shelves until donations pick up for Thanksgiving. It's a time to welcome more new clients whose warm-weather work falls away, and they need our services.

And then, by the time the holidays roll around again, as our shelves fill again and our holiday programs bring such warmth to our clients, we will take stock again. In that quiet moment a year from now, we'll thank you for helping us impact families, children and our community for another year.

Current Needs:

Personal care and household products are needed this month

- Adult & Child Body Wash
- Razors, Shaving Cream & Gel
- Vitamins
- OTC Cold & Flu Medication
- Lotion
- Cotton Swabs
- Women's Incontinence Briefs and Pads
- Pull-Ups (all sizes)
- Bleach
- All-Purpose Cleaners
- Fabric Softener

“...all of us at Circle of Concern look at shelves full of food, pleased to be able to feed our neighbors with groceries the community has provided.”



Circle of Concern
FOOD PANTRY

*Feeding Families is
Just the Beginning*

A Note from Cyndi

When Virginia, our Director of Nutrition and Operations, returned to the lobby to speak with one of our newer clients, she found him with his head in his hands, deep in thought. "Are you okay," she asked? "Yes," he said, "I'm trying to figure out what cash I have and how we're going to get through this month. We need food, and gas, and ..." as his voice trailed off.

Recently, Circle promised one-time rent support for the man's family, so Virginia slipped away to check on the status of the request. She returned to the lobby with an update – and a \$50 gas card. The client's voice cracked as his load lightened just a bit. "May I give you a hug?" he asked.

The gas card Virginia shared was made possible through a recent bequest. While much of the contribution will fund future initiatives, a portion was targeted to help struggling families *right now*. We shared gas cards with each household this last month, and our clients were overjoyed.

We are able to help struggling families each day in small and not-so-small ways *because we have donors like you who give gifts of every size.*

I'm grateful, our team is grateful – please know that our clients are grateful too for these contributions. You bring hope and change—and tangible aid—to our neighbors in need, and we can't thank you enough for doing so.

I wish you peace and hope in the New Year!

Cyndi

Cyndi Miller



It's Not Too Late To Help!

As families visit Circle before the end of the year, they can still take part in our Holiday Program...and you can still support this gift card program that assures a warm holiday for families, seniors, veterans and all who might otherwise go without at this time.



It's easy to give. Just visit circleofconcern.org and click the Holiday Adoption link or point your phone's camera at this QR code and click on the link that pops up. Thank you!

DEAR Circle of concern and to All that donate to the organization, they are Gods stewardships to those less fortunate. To the Anonymous donor with the phillips 66 gas cards. I am truly thankful. As I pumped my gas my thoughts drifted to thanking this steward for their gifts. With all that is going on in the world these days I can't help but be forever grateful for such Compassionate, giving People of God. Great gifts come from the persons Heart with A outstretched Hand and asking nothing in Return. Pse me I would truly like to thank this person, or if there is the person at circle that knows the person who donated I would love for them to know that I am forever grateful for the gift of gas in my car. My cup overflows and I wish this person and all at circle Blessings 10 fold. I thank you All for the continued support of your organization and work. sincerely,

Dear Circle of Concern,
I so appreciate the gift of the gas card. It couldn't have come at a better time. I was hit with a huge Health Care Bill that I made arrangements to make payment on. So this certainly will help me out.
Since money is so tight. (Even with government insurance, there was a huge balance).
"God Bless you & all the work that you do."
It makes a difference in so many lives & matters.
THANKS,

Dear Circle Friends,
Thanksgiving will never be over! I'm so very thankful to each & every one of you! For all you do, "behind the scenes," out front, giving more than food & supplies — you give of your Selves!! It means the world to me. I am so very very Thankful! You listen, laugh, share, care, & have even sometimes cried with me. I pray to God for each one of you. Don't ever Quit!!

Tax Credits

When you make an end-of-year gift to Circle, you can qualify for the Missouri



Food Pantry Tax Credits to reduce your state income tax bill. Whether you give via cash, check, credit card, bank draft, appreciated stock or Qualified Charitable Distribution from your IRA, your generosity will both assist local families in need and access this popular 50 percent tax credit program. (While gifts given through a DAF, or donor-advised fund, do not qualify for the tax credits, establishing a DAF does offer you other tax benefits.)

Before you make a donation, consider contacting juliet@circleofconcern.org for guidelines and more information about this easy-to-access tax credit program. And ask how you can proactively get your signed, verified form in plenty of time to file with your tax return by April 15. You win, Circle wins and needy families in our community win!

Inclement Weather Notice

Circle's inclement weather policy is usually tied to whether the four school



districts in our service area—Parkway, Rockwood, Valley Park or Kirkwood—are closing. If snowy or icy weather is forecast and you have plans to be at Circle, the best way to see if we are open is to call Circle at 636.861.2623 and press "8" or check our Facebook page. We will also update our website and alert local TV stations. Stay safe out there!

Join Us for Dink It! Social Pickleball Scramble for Families in Need!

We'll gather on Saturday, February 3 from 6 to 9:30 p.m. at the Missouri Pickleball Club (747 Gravois Bluffs in Fenton). Besides rounds of social pickleball, you'll enjoy camaraderie, snacks, chances to win top raffle prizes and a cash bar.



The cost is only \$50 per player, \$25 to learn to play or \$20 to just watch and enjoy the fun. All proceeds benefit Circle of Concern's food pantry and wraparound programs.

Point your camera phone at this QR code and click here to register today!



Sponsorships are still available for this popular event! Visit circleofconcern.org/Events today to underwrite **Dink It!** and we'll spread the word of your support for pickleball, Circle and the families we serve!

2023 is ticking down...

...will you make an end-of-year gift to Circle? Your investment in our work ensures we will be able to provide food and critical wrap-around programs to our neighbors throughout the year.



We are so thankful to our church partners who packed our Thanksgiving boxes for more than 650 families this year!

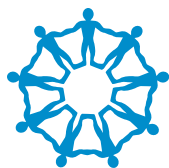
**Fellowship of Wildwood • Living Word
Parkway UCC • St. John UCC-Manchester
Trinity Lutheran • Bethel UMC**

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.



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 Clients Speak

Board of Directors:

Dolores Rodenberg
PRESIDENT

Allison Love
VICE PRESIDENT

Cindy Wolk
SECRETARY

Mark Barbee
TREASURER

Brian Boeglin
Mayank Chaudhary
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.

Important Dates:



December 20	Holiday Adoption final day
December 22-25	Circle Closed for Christmas
December 26-29	Circle open 9 a.m. to 12 noon
January 1, 2024	Circle Closed for New Years Day
January 29	Board Meeting at Circle at 5:30 p.m. Contact cyndi@circleofconcern.org for info
February 3	Dink It! Pickleball Event Learn more at circleofconcern.org

STAFF DIRECTORY

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