

AROUND THE

# Circle Newsletter

Circle of Concern  
Food Pantry



## Made in the Shade

American money man, Warren Buffet, once said, "Someone's sitting in the shade today because someone planted a tree a long time ago." January seems like a good time to take that long view at what's ahead.

As this new year begins, planning certainly is at the heart of activity here at Circle. Taking the time to lay out the year's activities now means the food pantry will be better equipped in 2024 to service the roughly 650 families that walk through our door. It means our garden will be planted in time to produce more than 1,500 pounds of fresh fruits and vegetables for our clients starting in May. Families will be ready to enroll their children in camp and plan for school. Our board will decide on a budget that assures good stewardship of our funds and a sustainable way to live our mission far into the future.

January is good time for all of us to take stock of our financial landscape and map out the road ahead. For that reason, Circle is partnering with *FreeWill.com* to assist our friends and donors with tools to make good decisions about their money today and in the future. And, yes, we're hopeful the tools might lead you to include Circle of Concern in some of those plans! Folded into this newsletter is a **Permanent Giving Guide** that we hope you'll hold onto to help you put your assets to work in ways that take care of your loved ones, meet your financial goals, honor your charitable interests and make it easier to continue your legacy.

The Guide includes information about the benefits of giving from one's wealth, rather than from one's income. For example, giving a donation as part of an IRA's Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) – called a Qualified Charitable Distribution – instead of by a check from a checking account means you won't pay taxes on those dollars as income even as you meet the RMD requirements when you reach age 70 ½. Other giving vehicles and strategies are also discussed to plant charitable ideas.

As Mr. Buffet says, what you plant now sows the seeds for care in the future. Please accept this Guide as our gift and know that how you give now will provide shade—and hope—for countless lives in the years to come.

## Current Needs:

- Jelly
- Kid-Friendly Cereal
- Flavored Oatmeal Packets
- Boxed Side Dishes (Rice, Potatoes, Noodles)
- Dinner "Helper" Mixes
- Condiments (Ketchup, Salad Dressing, Mayonnaise)
- Canned Fruit
- Body Lotion

“Someone's sitting in the shade today because someone planted a tree a long time ago.”



Circle of Concern  
FOOD PANTRY

*Feeding Families is  
Just the Beginning*

## A Note from Cyndi

As this month's newsletter focuses on how donors like you can maximize the impact of your charitable dollars, I want to share a story that illustrates that impact for one client family.

Recently, a woman stopped by to donate some food. While doing so, she struck up a conversation with our Director of Volunteers, Nancy Bauer. She shared with Nancy that about 20 years ago, she came to Circle of Concern seeking help. She was in the midst of an abusive relationship, and was trying to make an exit plan for herself and her children.

She says she got through that very difficult time with Circle's help. She told herself, "I can do this. I can't fail when I have people helping me." She went on to share that she and her grown children are now thriving. Her kids went on to college, and they each work in "compassionate care" roles. She, too, provides care and compassion in her work as a hospice professional.

She likes to donate to Circle when she can, "to try to give back."

Full-circle stories like this one really touch my heart. While admiring the tenacity and grace of this mother and her children, I'm filled with gratitude, too, for the caring community of donors, staff and volunteers that make our work possible. Together, we can help families through challenging, even frightening, circumstances. Your gifts truly make an impact. Thank you.

Wishing you joy and peace in the New Year,

*Cyndi*

Cyndi Miller

## There's Still Room for You in the Pickledome!

Reserve your spot NOW at the second annual **Dink It! Social Pickleball Scramble For Families In Need!**

When: Saturday, February 3  
Time: 6 to 9:30 p.m.  
Where: Missouri Pickleball Club (747 Gravois Bluffs, Fenton)  
Cost: \$50 per player (\$25 to learn to play or only \$20 to skip the play but join the fun!)

**Social Pickleball** 🏓 **Snacks** 🍷 **Raffle** 🎟️ **Prizes** 🏆 **Cash Bar** 🍹

Point your camera phone at this QR code and click on the link to register today!



Sponsorships are still available for this popular event! Visit [circleofconcern.org/Events](https://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!

## What is FreeWill?

**FREEWILL**

Circle of Concern has partnered with *FreeWill.com*, a no-cost source of tools for individuals to create estate plans, wills and other documents that are 100 percent legal and tailored to your jurisdiction. By partnering with FreeWill, Circle wants to make it easy for our friends to include Circle in their legacy of care. We also want our friends to feel secure in their estate plans, no matter what they are and who they care to support.

### It is free to use the tools available from FreeWill:

- Geographically-valid Wills – A will ensures your wishes are known in the event of your death and saves your loved ones the stress and cost of many probate proceedings.
- Beneficiary Designations – Document and distribute assets that aren't covered by a will, including 401(k)s, IRAs and life insurance policies.
- Living Will/Advanced Healthcare Directive – Make a plan now for your end-of-life medical care decisions, so your family can respect and follow the roadmap you wish.
- Financial Power of Attorney – This document names a person you trust to make decisions about your property and finances in the event you are unable to do so.
- Charitable Stock Gifts – Give a gift of stock directly to your favorite charity to bolster its impact today, and possibly enjoy a tax benefit while you do so.
- Charitable Crypto Gifts – A new currency to some, these gifts can become a new source of funds and impact for your favorite US charity via FreeWill's site [www.CryptoForCharity.com](https://www.CryptoForCharity.com).

Just visit [FreeWill.com/circle](https://FreeWill.com/circle) and look around to see if this valuable site can help you get plans in place for the future...at no cost. And if you decide to include Circle in those plans with a bequest or gift, thank you!



# In Honor and Memory

July 1 - November 30, 2023

When you give in Honor or in Memory of a loved one, you also honor Circle with your gift that ensures families in our area can eat nutritious food and access critical social service programs. Thank you!

## IN HONOR

Carol Barr - Wishing You  
Continued Good Health  
Ken Bauer's Work  
at Our House  
John, Todd & Deanna Bender  
Barbara Bess  
Birth of Jesus  
Jackie Boyce  
Wayne Cody  
Mary Ann Cutelli's Birthday  
Dixie Davis  
Bart Devoti  
Bart Devoti's Birthday  
Karen Dunne  
Sue Easterby  
M/M James Eisenhart's  
60th Wedding Anniversary  
Barbara Fairfax  
Faith Des Peres  
Presbyterian Church  
Jackie Golby  
Joe Goldkamp  
Steve Hager's Birthday  
Steven Hawkins  
Robert Highbloom's Birthday  
Gail Hintz  
Jesus  
JoAnn Kimerle  
Carla & Don Koss  
Betsy Kramer  
Mark & Deborah Kumming  
Mike & Jennifer Lages'  
Anniversary  
Kyle Lages' Birthday  
Denise Livingston  
Don Loso  
Sharon K. Maddox  
Alan McClendon  
Bob & Marilyn Merlo  
Jo Ellen Miller's Birthday  
My Daughter's Birthday  
Vince Nguyen's Birthday

Barbara & Tony Noronha  
Noronha's 50th Anniversary  
Linda Patton's Birthday  
James Pearson  
Emma Jean Phillips' Birthday  
Becky Pool  
Marylee Pratt's Birthday  
Sofia Reinken  
Dolores Rodenberg  
Sharon Rowe  
Penny Ryan's Birthday  
Lauri Schlatter  
M/M John M. Scully's  
50th Wedding Anniversary  
David Senay  
Baker Sharpe  
Lauren Sharpe  
Sisters of Good Times  
Kelly Smith for Thanksgiving  
Betty Spieler  
Valley Park Meals on Wheels  
Mary Vazis  
Chris Wiley's Birthday  
Mary Wilson's Birthday  
Nancy Wilson's Birthday  
Norma Yeater's Birthday

## IN MEMORY

M/M K.O. Barley  
Margaret Barley  
Kenneth Barley II  
Randall Barron  
Virginia Bartnett  
Ryan Bierman  
Connie Bingaman  
Margaret Mary "Peg" Bolen  
Leonard Borgers  
Jerry G. Brown  
Bill Browne  
William Browne  
Janet Byington  
Jerry Caesar  
John & Connie Conrad

Lisa Copeland  
Beth & Kory Costello  
Larry Cronin  
Susan Cuddihee  
Phillip Deluca  
Pat Devoti  
Kathy Dieckmann  
Joan Duffey  
Louise DuMontier  
Stephen Dunne  
Sally Edmiston  
Jean Eimers  
James Kevin Foley  
Howard Allen Gleason  
Laverne Grommett  
Donna Halsband  
James Hannick  
Paul Hanson  
Robert Harper  
Irene Hecker  
Cathleen Heitmann  
Cindy Herman  
Loren S. Hewitt  
Jesus  
Haran Kumar  
Lynn Lammlein's Brother  
Andrew Lang  
Patrick Livingston  
Grace Loeffelman  
Jean Luedde  
Linda "Joy" Lusk  
Hazel Mabrey  
Lilavanti C. Makwana  
Alice Marron  
Mary May  
Dominic Mikal  
Mildred Miller  
Thomas Morrow  
Don Morton  
Don & Sally Morton  
Sally Morton  
Patricia Mueller  
Patricia & Lou Mueller

Patricia Kathryn Mueller  
Marlene Muir  
Oliver E. Newberry  
Jason Papageorge  
Jeffrey Morse Parker  
Wayne Peters  
Patricia Phipps' Parents,  
Brother & Sister  
Carl Quicksall  
Richard Rauckman  
Kevin Rich  
Virginia Robertson  
Joy Rock  
Lindsay Roth  
Neil & Kathy Schaefer  
Bob Schmidt  
Verlene A. Schmidt's Birthday  
Dominic Schuckman  
Augustine "Augie" Schurk  
Ronald Shelby  
Sophie  
Wayne Spohr  
Margaret Stella  
Donald Steppe  
Janice Strinko  
Patty Thompson  
Edward Throop  
Shashidhara Vasishta  
Don Wallace  
Charles Walters, Sr.  
Russ Washburn  
Jane West  
Larry Wexelman  
James E. Whitt  
Maury Wichmann  
Joyce Wilke  
Rosemary Wiltsch  
Laura Wind  
Carolann R. Winslow  
Sammy Wolfe

## In Good Form

We love the Missouri Food Pantry Tax Credit! It's a win-win-win for our donors, Circle and the families we serve.



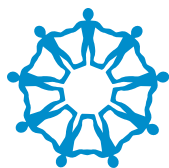
For our donors who contribute at least \$200 in monetary gifts,\* we proactively prepare and sign the Form FPT that must be filed with state tax returns by April 15. We'll have them in the mail by the first week of February, ready for your tax preparer.

*\*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.*

Please contact [Circle@circleofconcern.org](mailto:Circle@circleofconcern.org) if you have any questions about claiming your Food Pantry Tax Credits.

Dear Circle of Concern,  
Happy New Year!  
Please let all your  
hard working people  
know how much they  
are valued. I'm so  
grateful for all that  
y'all do & all that  
is gifted to me. I'm 48  
and just got my first  
Knechtmeyer Ham from  
you folks - that was so  
generous. And the gift  
cards at holiday - wow  
Thank you. I also was able  
to gift my 70 yr old friend  
with some hair color because  
of you. It meant a lot to her.





# 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

Will You Plan  
for the Future?

## Board of Directors:

**Allison Love**  
*PRESIDENT*

**Cindy Wolk**  
*VICE PRESIDENT*

**Bridget Guffey**  
*SECRETARY*

**Mark Barbee**  
*TREASURER*

Brian Boeglin  
Thomas Chibnall  
Aaron Froehlich  
John Heskett  
Karen Korn  
Edie Quick  
Andrea Trapet

## 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 [Circle@  
circleofconcern.org](mailto:Circle@circleofconcern.org) to find out more.



**"LIKE US"** on Facebook and visit us online at [www.circleofconcern.org](http://www.circleofconcern.org).

## Important Dates:



January 13-15	Circle Closed in Observance of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
January 29	Board Meeting at Circle at 5:30 p.m. Contact <a href="mailto:cyndi@circleofconcern.org">cyndi@circleofconcern.org</a> for info
February 3	Dink It! Pickleball Event Learn more at <a href="http://circleofconcern.org">circleofconcern.org</a>
February 9-12	Circle Closed for Facility Improvements
March 25	Board Meeting at Circle at 5:30 p.m. Contact <a href="mailto:cyndi@circleofconcern.org">cyndi@circleofconcern.org</a> for info
May 20	Circle of Concern Golf Tournament Aberdeen Golf Club, Eureka

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