

AROUND THE

Circle Newsletter

Circle of Concern
Food Pantry



Current Needs:

- Dinner Helpers
- Snacks (8-12 per package)
- Canned Tomatoes
- Pasta Sauce
- Cereal
- Boxed Potatoes
- Boxed Rice
- Oatmeal

The Roots of Community

In times when so many families are facing food insecurity, financial struggles and uncertainty, donors like you provide more than meals – you bring stability, hope and possibility to the families we serve.

Whether it's a mother picking up groceries for her family of five, a senior choosing between rent and groceries, or an unhoused person just trying to get by, your support reminds each that they are not alone. They are part of a community that cares.

We thank you for choosing compassion toward neighbors you may never meet; and for strengthening the roots of our community. With your generosity, Circle's doors remain open to meet the urgent needs of today and in the years to come.



A Client's Recipe ~ and Heartfelt Thank You

"Dear Sir/Ma'am, I am a client and I wanted to thank you for the food you gave me yesterday. I am including a picture of some soup I made using zucchini, a white potato, onion, baby eggplant, purple potato, milk, etc. that I got from you. (I added a couple of things) but 90% of it is from YOUR agency... YOUR help. I am so very grateful to have help during this hard time. I also made some cantaloupe sorbet with a cantaloupe you gave me. I intend to put all of the food you gave me to good use. Thank you again.
Sincerely,
A thankful client"

Support from our community and our dedicated volunteers fuels this type of response from our clients. We thank you! We are grateful to serve.

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

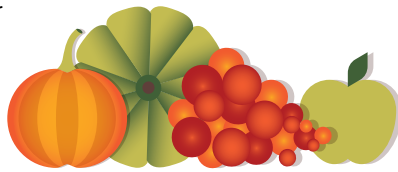
OUR VISION:
Improving every life in our community by reducing hunger and poverty.



*Feeding Families is
Just the Beginning*



Harvest Moon Trivia is back on Friday, October 10th at Andre's West in Fenton – the trivia you know and love with a few new twists to keep you on your toes! This event features a full open bar, eight rounds of challenging trivia, contests, raffles, silent auction and more. Show your support for Circle at this fun-filled event by becoming a sponsor! Your friends will be impressed by your brilliance. Sponsorships are offered at various levels and **tables are filling up quickly so sign up today!** Your support of Harvest Moon Trivia helps feed families, ease financial burdens, and nurture hope in our neighbors' lives. For more info on this event, visit www.circleofconcern.org or scan the QR code.



Missouri Baptist Healthcare Foundation and Circle Join Forces to Fight Food Insecurity

We are incredibly grateful to the Missouri Baptist Healthcare Foundation for their continued partnership and generous support of \$20,000 for our food pantry!

For years, the Foundation has stood with Circle of Concern, supporting our scholarship program. Now, we're joining forces to fight food insecurity and uplift low-income households in our community. This ongoing commitment helps us to assist more than 700 families each month with fresh, nutritious foods, utility and rent assistance and other programs. Thanks to Missouri Baptist Healthcare Foundation, we can make a lasting impact in our community.

McKelvey Homes generously gives back to the community once again! This very charitable group chose Circle of Concern as their latest beneficiary, and we are so grateful. For each McKelvey home sold April 1st through June 30th, the company donated \$1,898 to commemorate the company's founding year.



The promotion raised nearly \$38,000 to help fund our food pantry, emergency financial support, and community programs for hundreds of local families. Building homes, strengthening communities, making a difference. We are grateful to partner with McKelvey Homes on such an impactful campaign! Read more: <https://www.circleofconcern.org/mckelvey>



We know that higher education and vocational training can lead to greater job opportunities and economic circumstances. So, we support both through our Student Scholarship Program. We're excited to share that in August we awarded scholarships to **27** students, totaling **\$114,000** in educational support. This year's recipients are inspiring, resilient and hard-working! They're pursuing degrees in cybersecurity, nursing, animal science, and more.

During the interview process, candidates are asked where they see themselves five to six years from now. One student, who comes from a single-parent household, replied, "In five to six years, I see myself working in my field of study—and finally being able to help my mom with the bills."

Circle's Scholarship program is not only transformative for a student's future – It can turn the tide for families in our community. Thank you for making this possible!



Circle's 2025 Holiday Program

You can help Circle families
this holiday season by
scanning the QR code



You bring the joy that fills a holiday wish list. When you give to Circle's Holiday Extras Program, you're helping a client write their own story for the holiday season. Empowering families with choice and the dignity that comes with providing for those they love. You're making sure children, seniors, and individuals feel remembered and celebrated. A simple gift card turns a small gift into meaningful memory for a client.

Will you help spread holiday cheer this year by supporting our holiday gift card program? Thanks to your generosity, the season shines a little brighter for every client we serve. With heartfelt appreciation, we thank you for making holiday magic happen. Scan the QR Code to support our Holiday Extras Program!

MO Food Pantry Tax Credit

The Missouri Food Pantry Tax Credit (FPTC) reduces the amount you pay for your state income taxes. With a simple form verified by Circle and filed with your state tax return **by April 15 of 2026**, you can earn up to \$2,500 in tax credits when you donate up to \$5,000 in 2025. Couples filing jointly can earn up to \$5,000 in credits when they contribute up to \$10,000.

We learned that last year's claims for the tax credit exceeded the state's \$1.75 million pool of credits available, resulting in donors receiving approximately 87.8 percent of the credits expected. While such a scenario is possible again in the coming year, the FPTC remains an excellent opportunity to benefit your state tax bottom line even as you support a vital local community resource - Circle of Concern.

Please consider supporting Circle as you plan your year-end giving. The good you give comes right back to you through the FPTC! Contact circle@circleofconcern.org to find out more.



CPR First Aid Training for Staff

Good news! Our dedicated staff, along with a few of our amazing volunteers, have successfully completed (or renewed) their CPR/AED training! This certification reflects our ongoing commitment to the safety and well-being of everyone in our community.

This training not only enhances our capabilities but also underscores our dedication to providing a safe environment for all who engage with our organization. We believe that being prepared is key to serving our community and we do it with safety and care at every step.



A Special Shout-out to the Birthday Girl!

Sofia is 17 years old, and since her eighth birthday she has asked for canned food donations for Circle families, in lieu of birthday gifts for herself. Each year, the bounty of food collected has grown. It reached new heights this year, generating 5,000 food items from family members and friends from Eureka, Fenton and Kirkwood! That's more than a ton and a half of food to help our neighbors in need!

The timing of this food drive is meaningful, too. Summer is a slow season for food donations, when many families are facing increased needs.

Sofia's birthday drive fills our pantry shelves!

We're sending a heartfelt shout-out and thank you to Sofia and her family and friends for making Sofia's Birthday Food Drive such a beautiful tradition of giving!



Circle of Concern FOOD PANTRY

112 St. Louis Ave.
P.O. Box 444
Valley Park, MO 63088
Address Service Requested

NONPROFIT
AUTO
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
ST LOUIS, MO
PERMIT NO. 3252

The Roots of
Community
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Fall 2025

Board of Directors:

Mark Barbee
PRESIDENT

Brian Boeglin
VICE PRESIDENT

Karen Korn
TREASURER

Bridget Guffey
SECRETARY

Thomas Chibnall
Kathie Fuchs
John Heskett
Susan Nunez
Edie Quick
Andrea Trapet

We share many donations with our clients:

- Food, Canned and Packaged
- Fresh Garden Produce
- Dry Pet Food, Litter
- Personal Care Items

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 to find out more.

Important Dates:



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| October 10 | Harvest Moon Trivia Night info at circleofconcern.org |
| November 17 - December 20 | Holiday Extras Program |
| November 27-30 | Circle Closed for Thanksgiving |
| December 1 | Circle Board Meeting Contact cyndi@circleofconcern.org for more info |



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

STAFF DIRECTORY 636.861.2623

- Cyndi Miller**, Executive Director cyndi@circleofconcern.org ext. **117**
Tim Elwell, Communications and Development Manager tim@circleofconcern.org ext. **106**
Virginia Pearson, Director of Nutrition and Operations virginia@circleofconcern.org ext. **107**
Nancy Bauer, Director of Volunteers and Special Events nancy@circleofconcern.org ext. **113**
Jenny Lawrence, Program Director jenny@circleofconcern.org ext. **108**
Beth Niezing, Administrator, Donor Relations and Finance beth@circleofconcern.org ext. **112**
Becky Pool, Pantry Coordinator becky@circleofconcern.org ext. **120**