



Circle of Concern FOOD PANTRY

Feeding Families is Just the Beginning



2024

ANNUAL REPORT

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Reflecting back on 2024, I'm reminded of the opportunities afforded to us by our generous community of supporters – those of you who are new to us, and those who have faithfully supported us for years – in some cases for decades.

In 2024, your gifts enabled us to serve more client households – 10% more than in 2023. Your gifts enabled us to think bigger – and to plan for much-needed improvements to our facilities and grounds. In fact, last year we took a first step toward making major improvements, with the purchase of an adjacent property once occupied by the Meramec Jack's restaurant. We also purchased a new van and installed new commercial shelving in our pantry. Both purchases brought improved safety features and increased our capacity to serve more families.

Our dedicated staff and volunteers offered our clients quality, wholesome foods in our client-choice pantry, and also critical wrap-around programs to help families move from crisis and uncertainty toward stability and hope. We embarked on a year-long training plan for our staff, board and volunteers, helping us all to better understand the challenges our client families are facing, and how best to serve them.

Along the way, we benefited from fun and fruitful events – a pickleball event, the Letter Carriers' Food Drive, our annual golf tournament with St. Mark Presbyterian Church, and our packed-to-the gills Harvest Moon Trivia Night. Our own garden team, and others representing area churches and community groups offered up the most beautiful vegetables to share with our neighbors in need.

It was a bountiful year thanks to you and so many other good people in our midst. Thank you for your caring and commitment to others.

Sincerely,



Mark Barbee
2025 Board President



Summary of Financial Data

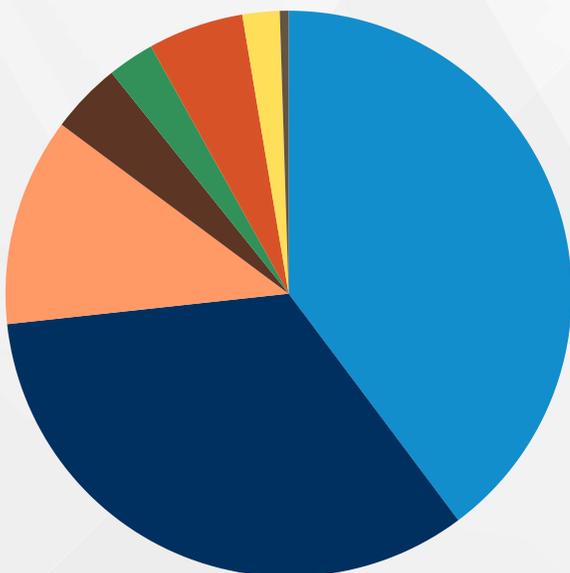
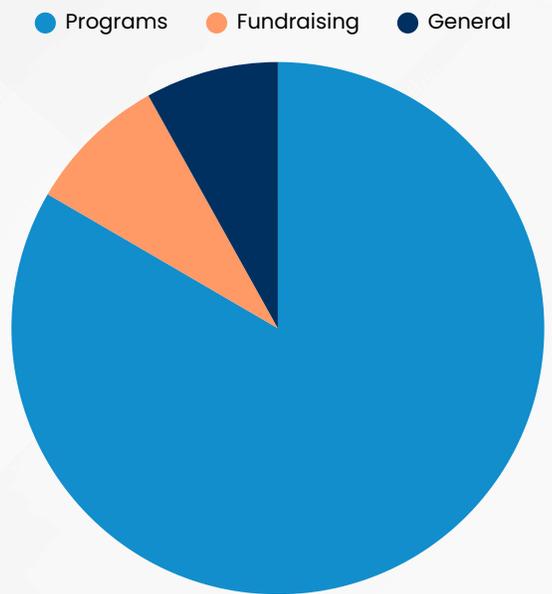
2024 Revenue & Support

Individuals	\$1,078,698
Businesses	\$72,299
Churches, Community	\$110,050
Foundations	\$323,070
Special Events	\$57,571
In-Kind	\$908,619
Government Grants	\$13,600
Other	\$148,070
Total	\$2,711,977
Investment Return	\$297,318

Total Net Assets End-Of-Year **\$7,246,026**

2024 Expenses

Programs	\$2,317,241
Management & General	\$224,470
Fundraising	\$236,868
	\$2,778,579



Total Net Assets End-of-Year:
\$7,246,026

"In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Circle of Concern as of December 31, 2024 and 2023, and the changes in its net assets and its cash flows for the years then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America."

Armanino, LLP
St. Louis, Missouri
June 23, 2025

FOOD PANTRY

Fresh fruits and vegetables, milk, eggs, and frozen meats along with a wide selection of nonperishable foods.

- 3,881 people (unduplicated) were served through our food pantry in 2024, from 1,326 families (unduplicated). That's 113 more families served than the prior year.
- 1,027 grocery gift cards helped feed students and their families through the summer months, a 25% increase.

EMERGENCY FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Funds to help prevent an eviction or utility shut-off or to help with other critical short-term needs of established clients.

- 481 families received in total \$126,921 in Emergency Financial Assistance to keep the lights on, avoid eviction and more. We assisted 59 more families in 2024.

SCHOLARSHIPS FOR YOUTH & ADULTS

Competitive scholarships for college and trade school-bound students and adult client scholarships to build earning potential through job certification, college courses, retraining or GED testing.

- 27 young people received college scholarships to set them on their education and career paths.
- 13 adult clients received funds for education to improve job skills and employment prospects.

BIRTHDAY CLUB

Personalized gift bags or gift "towers" along with cake mixes, candles and more to celebrate our clients' young children.

- 458 children felt extra special on their special day, thanks to the Birthday Club. 42 more kids received meaningful gifts this year.

SUMMER OPPORTUNITIES

Small scholarships ("camperships") making camp programs and other enriching summer opportunities accessible to our clients' children.

- 111 children and youths experienced the joy of summer through sports and music programs, swimming classes, horseback riding and more!

BACK-TO-SCHOOL PROGRAM

Retail gift cards helping families with school-aged children to purchase backpacks, notebooks, markers, calculators and more!

- 538 youngsters from kindergarten to age 18 were outfitted with necessary supplies and clothing to start the school year!

HOLIDAY PROGRAMS

Seasonal holiday foods and retail gift cards, funded by community friends.

- 576 families received Thanksgiving favorites.
- 570 families (2,001 individuals) felt the joy of the season, receiving gift cards and other holiday extras.

THANK YOU VOLUNTEERS!

- 24,342 volunteer hours contributed by the world's best volunteers made our work possible! That's 2,573 more hours than last year.

The Power of Planning – and Giving!

Former volunteers, George and Carolyn Burr would be pleased with the way their charitable dollars have been used to support Circle's clients and volunteers; and the way their dollars are helping Circle to plan for the future. Their charitable bequest, received in 2023, enabled us to serve ten percent more families in 2024. It enabled us to purchase an adjacent property (the lot formerly occupied by Meramec Jack's,) and to replace an aging delivery van in need of repair. The new van allows our volunteers to stand upright while loading and unloading. It has a back-up camera, making it easier and safer to back in and out of loading docks and enables us to retrieve larger donations. With our bigger campus, we can explore improvements to our warehouse and pantry that streamline operations and allow us to serve even more families in the future.



New Pantry Shelves Improve Safety and Capacity

For every organization, big or small, strategic planning is critical; and the initiatives that come from that work vary in complexity and effort. New commercial pantry shelving may not seem like the stuff of strategy-making, but when that new shelving improves safety and maximizes storage and display capacity for our core program, that puts the project in a whole new perspective! Our shelving project was months in the making, and it was unveiled mid-February after a four-day shut-down of the pantry. Our Building and Grounds committee and pantry staff lead the project with the help of some hard-working volunteers. The feedback was overwhelmingly positive from our client families and volunteers, who love the clean, professional look of the shelving and the more "open" feel of the pantry space.



Improvement projects like these are made possible by our generous community. We are filled with gratitude for all who play a role in both our day-to-day work, and especially the strategic initiatives that make us better!

VOLUNTEERS

We love our volunteers!
24,342 volunteer hours contributed
by the world's best volunteers
made our work possible!



COMMUNITY SUPPORT

These are just a few of the community organizations that make our work possible. We are grateful for the consistent support from local partners that improve our clients' lives throughout the year and beyond.



VISION

To improve every life in our community by reducing hunger and poverty.



MISSION

To feed the hungry and provide assistance to low-income families living in our community.



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

(as of December 2024)

Allison Love **Cindy Wolk** **Mark Barbee** **Bridget Guffey**
President Vice President Treasurer Secretary

Brian Boeglin **Thomas Chibnall** **Aaron Froehlich**

John Heskett **Karen Korn** **Edie Quick** **Andrea Trapet**



CIRCLE STAFF

Cyndi Miller
Executive Director

Virginia Pearson
Director of Nutrition
& Operations

Jenny Lawrence
Director of Programs

Nancy Bauer
Director of Volunteers
& Special Events

Beth Niezing
Administrator, Donor
Relations & Finance

Becky Pool
Pantry Coordinator

Tim Elwell
Communications
& Development Manager



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

 636.861.2623

 circle@circleofconcern.org

 circleofconcern.org

