

AROUND THE Circle Newsletter

Circle of Concern
Food Pantry



Your support stays in the community, helping neighbors close to home

Circle is rooted in the belief that caring for one another starts close to home. We serve neighbors and families in west St. Louis County and parts of Jefferson County who are navigating food insecurity, financial challenges, or housing instability, including those who are unhoused. Services are focused on residents within the Parkway, Rockwood, Kirkwood, and Valley Park school districts, as well as households in the Fenton (63026) and High Ridge (63049) ZIP codes, and children attending schools in these districts through a transfer program.

Circle helps individuals and families living on low incomes access nutritious groceries, personal care items, and meaningful resources. Beyond food assistance, eligible clients can find support through emergency financial aid, children's programs, counseling, student scholarships and more.

Each month, about 750 families from our neighborhoods are served with dignity and compassion, reminding them that they are not alone. Learn more about how you can make a difference this year by visiting www.circleofconcern.org.

Current Needs:

- Dinner Helpers
- Pasta Sauce
- Condiments
- Lotion
- Kids Pull-ups
- Size 6 Diapers
- Women's Incontinence Briefs Size L & XL
- Tampons
- Mouthwash
- Razors

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.

I used to be bothered by most things until I learned coping skills through counseling. Changed my life!

- A client was grateful to receive free counseling services offered through Circle. 79 clients participated in counseling sessions last year through this program.



Circle of Concern
FOOD PANTRY

*Feeding Families is
Just the Beginning*

2025

By the Numbers

- Over **850,000 meals** were shared with local households in 2025!
- An average **783 families** visited our client choice pantry each month.
- **411 households** received emergency financial assistance (typically for rent or utilities) totaling over **\$140,000**; helping each to remain safely housed.
- Over **800 retail gift cards** were shared with Circle families during the summer months through our Student Snacks program.
- **27 area students** earned scholarships for studying cybersecurity, nursing, computer science and more; while **20 adults** earned scholarships to improve job skills and earning potential.
- **79 households** participated in counseling sessions through our mental health program.
- **142 children and youths** experienced the joy of summer camp, sports or music lessons; and other enriching programs.
- **532 kids**, ages 5 to 18, were outfitted with backpacks, binders, calculators and more through our Back-to-School program.
- **470 children** felt extra special on their special day, thanks to our Birthday Club and "Birthday Bobbie!"
- **610 households** enjoyed traditional Thanksgiving staples including sweet potatoes, cranberries, a frozen fruit pie and much more; and had the freedom to purchase a turkey, ham or other protein option with a \$30 grocery gift card.
- **2,024 clients** received retail gift cards through our Holiday Program.
- **532,432 pounds** of food were donated from our community and partners!
- Approximately **244 committed, caring volunteers** donated **22,571 volunteer hours!**

Farewell to Nancy

"We're sad to announce the staff departure of our wonderful and most appreciated Nancy Bauer. Nancy came to Circle, first as a pantry volunteer during the covid pandemic. After a couple of years she joined our Board of Directors—for just one month—and then we recruited her to fill the role of Director of Volunteers and Special Events! She joined during a time of transition, with staff changes and our move from curbside services back to in-person client care.



Nancy was tasked with volunteer recruitment, onboarding and training, and rebuilding our volunteer corps from about 30 or 40 members to approximately 160 so that we could re-open our doors, ready to serve clients again in our case offices and in our client choice pantry. Today, we have 230 volunteers! Beyond growing, enhancing and leading an amazing volunteer program, she's put the fun in fundraising, with our annual golf tournament and trivia night, and even a pickleball tournament!

While Nancy has not yet identified her next big adventure, she is looking forward to a well-earned hiatus from the daily hustle. Nancy is such a professional, and makes it all look so easy. Beyond her impressive skills, she is a beloved member of our team. She will be missed!"

– Cyndi Miller, Executive Director

We Welcome Our Newest Board Members

We are excited to introduce our newest members of the Board of Directors. Please welcome Paul Brusati, Randy Jacobsmeyer, and Vinod Vydier! Their experience and passions will elevate our work.



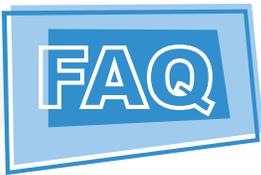
Paul Brusati



Randy Jacobsmeyer



Vinod Vydier

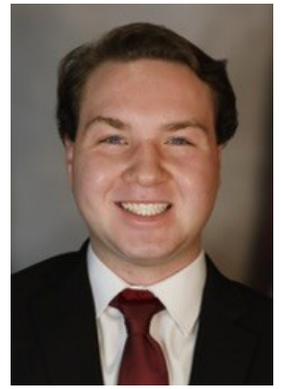


How quickly do food donations reach our clients?

While some donations can make it to our shelves immediately, expect your contribution to be part of our daily flow, reaching someone within days to just a few weeks, depending on the item. Efficiency is at the heart of everything we do at Circle, and 2025 was a powerful example of that. Our teams successfully received, processed, and safely stored 532,432 pounds of donated food and personal care items! This steady, efficient flow through our pantry doors and into our clients' shopping carts is made possible by collaboration among staff, volunteers, and community partners like you as we work together to ensure our pantry shelves stay full and resources reach neighbors without delay.

“Our community’s incredible support, powered by dedicated volunteers, ensures food and personal care items move quickly from our warehouse to those in need. In just one month, 55% of the 47,000 pounds of donations we received in December were already in clients’ hands. Your kindness makes a real, immediate difference in the lives of our clients every single day! Thank you all!” said Virginia Pearson, Director of Nutrition and Operations.

Student Scholarship Recipient Thanks the Circle Community



“This past fall semester has been full of growth, learning, and meaningful experiences; both personally and professionally. One of my main goals this semester was to strengthen my relationships while continuing to pursue opportunities that set me apart, and I’m grateful to say I was able to do just that.

I’ve gained valuable experience through volunteering with Junior Achievement, serving as Director of Outreach for Mizzou Catholic, working at Central Bank (where I was promoted to Flex Banker), and interning with the U.S. House of Representatives. This semester also included visits to organizations such as EY, KPMG, PwC, Nestle Purina, Build-A-Bear Workshop, the St. Louis Cardinals, and attended Federal Reserve events that expanded my knowledge and networking. Looking ahead, I’ve been fortunate to secure future accounting internships with RSM LLP and Forvis Mazars LLP.

I truly would not have had such a successful Summer 2025 and fall semester without the support of Circle of Concern and this scholarship. I’m incredibly grateful to be a recipient and excited to build on this momentum; academically, professionally, and personally. Thank you!” – Ryan K., sophomore at Mizzou and Circle of Concern Student Scholarship Recipient.

Community Strong!

When our warehouse needed attention, community volunteers answered the call. They helped organize a wave of year-end donations and because of their efforts, we were able to offer a wider selection of food for everyone who came through our doors. From canned goods and grains to fresh fruits and vegetables, their swift efforts ensured that food moved quickly from donation bins to our shelves, ready for families.

Thanks to Eaton, Mercy, Equifax, RGA and more for stepping up and helping us during the busy holiday time!





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

2025 Annual Impact Winter 2026

Board of Directors:

Brian Boeglin
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Bridget Guffey
SECRETARY

Paul Brusati
Kathie Fuchs
John Heskett
Randy Jacobsmeyer
Susan Nunez
Edie Quick
Vinod Vydier

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:



- February 3 - April 10** **AARP Community Tax Aid**
Contact circleofconcern.org for more info
- March 30** **Circle Board Meeting**
Contact cyndi@circleofconcern.org for more info
- April 3 & 4** **Circle Closed for Spring Holiday**
- May 18** **Save the Date!**
20th Annual Circle Golf Tournament
Hosted by St. Mark's Presbyterian Church



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

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