



Circle of Concern
FOOD PANTRY

Around the Circle

Summer 2026



Hunger Doesn't Take a Summer Break

It's already mid-summer—and, for many of us, that means we're enjoying vacations, more family time, and outdoor get-togethers.

But for many families we serve at Circle of Concern, summer brings added stress and uncertainty because nutritious meals are difficult to obtain. For the one in five children nationwide who live with food insecurity, school lunch programs are often the only well-balanced meal they receive. Since school lunch programs aren't available in the summer, families struggle to ensure that children don't go hungry.

At the same time, donations to most food pantries decline in the summer, and Circle is no exception. Despite the incredible support of our many donors and our community, Circle's monetary and in-kind donations decline in the summer months.

There are many ways to help Circle of Concern bridge the summer gap. Please see our website under "Ways to Help" to find out more.

<https://www.circleofconcern.org/ways-to-help/>



Program Updates: College Scholarships and Back to School

Exciting news from Circle of Concern's Scholarship Committee! Circle awarded college scholarships totaling \$142,500 to 26 students pursuing degrees in Cybersecurity, International Relations, Art History, and more. Eight awardees are first-time applicants. Awards are based on eligibility, need, merit, student essay, recommendation letter, and an interview process. Low-income college students who live or attend school in our service area can apply.

Our Back-to-School program has wrapped up for 2026. Current, eligible families received one retail gift card per child for necessary school supplies.

And our Summer Opportunities Program helped 129 children attend camp or lessons this summer by awarding \$200 toward tuition expenses. In the words of one client: "My kids have never gone to a summer camp before. They loved it!" As we say, feeding families is just the beginning!

Current Needs

- Pasta Sauce
- Canned Chicken
- Canned Corn
- Canned Mixed Vegetables
- Boxed Potatoes
- Rice



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

*Feeding Families is
Just the Beginning*

A Note from Cyndi

We recently said farewell and celebrated the accomplishments of staff member and friend Virginia Pearson as she moves to Texas with her family. Virginia's last day at Circle of Concern was Friday, July 10th.



While we are happy for the Pearson family as they embark on a new adventure, we are saddened to lose Virginia's leadership. Virginia came to Circle six years ago as a volunteer and intern, soon joined our board, and we recruited her to join our pantry staff. In her role as Director of Nutrition and Pantry Operations, she expanded our pantry to include more nutrient-dense options while also addressing the needs of our diverse client families. She's been a tremendous support to our Spanish-speaking households. Recently, she led a complex assessment of our building needs to support the case for capital improvements. Her accomplishments and contributions are many!

We will miss Virginia's friendly smile, contagious enthusiasm, and outstanding leadership. We wish her all the best.

Cyndi Miller,
Executive Director

Hydration Station

Thanks to a grant from Missouri American Water, our clients, volunteers, and staff are staying hydrated this summer with our new hydration station! We appreciate the



installation from O.J. Laughlin Plumbing Company and the grant from Missouri American Water.

Sunny Skies, Golf and a Good Cause

This year is the 20th anniversary of Circle of Concern's annual Golf Tournament, a fun and meaningful partnership with St. Mark Presbyterian Church.

The tournament was postponed in mid-May because of severe weather. Our new date in mid-June brought sunny skies, perfect temperatures, and happy golfers to Aberdeen Golf Club in Eureka. Thanks to event sponsor Orthopedic Specialists and St. Mark member and Tournament Chair Bob Stewart, **\$39,000** was raised to directly support our food pantry and client programs. We're grateful to all of our sponsors and to all those who donated auction items and baskets.

You can see more photos and the tournament results on our website under "Recent News."



Summer's Bounty from Our Generous Community

This summer, we want to give a shout out to two of the neighboring community gardens who contribute fresh vegetables to the Circle of Concern food pantry.

The Bremer Community Garden at Community Christian Church is a 10,000 square foot garden on the church's campus in Manchester. A group of volunteers tends the garden, and the fresh home-grown vegetables are donated to Circle and to families at a nearby elementary school. This year's bounty from the garden is impressive: Kale, Swiss chard, strawberries, lettuce, snow peas, onions, peppers, and basil, with more varieties coming in the late summer and fall.

A quarter-acre garden at St. Martin's Episcopal Church in Ellisville features over 30 raised beds with 19 vegetable varieties and sunflowers for pollinators. Seven hardworking gardeners maintain the garden, and the ongoing harvest of fresh vegetables is donated to Circle of Concern. St. Martin's even has an indoor space for curing onions before they bring them to us! Our clients have so appreciated the beautiful beets, tomatoes, greens, and wide variety of healthy food.

Both churches support Circle in so many ways. We appreciate the generosity of the gardeners and congregations at St. Martin's Episcopal Church and Community Christian Church.



St. Martin's Episcopal Church
volunteers



Community Christian Church
volunteers

In Honor and Memory

November 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026

Donations in honor or in memory of a loved one directly benefit our clients. Because of the generosity of our donors, our clients have a wide choice of nutritious food and Circle is able to offer critical support programs. Thank you!

IN HONOR

Alan Akerson
Jill Albano's Birthday
Maureen Bahn
Nancy Bauer
John Bender
Rick and Carol Bender
Todd Bender
Barbara Bess
Lana Biondo
Maury and Genny Boehmer
Jim Brennan
Wayne Brent
Paul Brown
Kristen Sparks and Jacob
Burch's Wedding
Butler Family for Christmas
Penny Christoffel
Circle of Concern Volunteers
Dave Combs
Billie and Don Coon
Ellen Craven
August Delcay
Drivers at Valley Park Meals
on Wheels
Karen Dunne
Easter
Allan Epstein's Birthday
Erica Eritreo
M. Ray Evans
Farfel and Frisco
Lee Fox
Amanda Gaskill
Tim and Jackie Golby
Carole Gwyn
Steve and Becky Hager
for Christmas
Dean and Betty Hammann
Jim and Mary Hannah
Tedd and Joyce Harrell
Jean Heflin
DeAnna Helfer
Ryan Herbster
Manu and Georgette Hinduja
Cody Huff's Birthday
John and Barb Ilges
Inglestone Court Neighbors
January and February
Birthdays
Jeff
Donna Jelovic
Greg and Joyce John
Gail Johns
Boyd and Barbara Jones
Carol Kern's Birthday
Betsy Kramer
Roger C. Krasnicki
Lisa Laudel
Legacy Physical Therapy Team
Don Loso

Jackie Lott's 90th Birthday
George and Nancy Lynn
Paul and Mary Mallery
John W. Mattus
Sally McDonough
Genie McKee
Janis Meckfessel
Bob and Marilyn Merlo
Rich and Donna Messey
Scotty Meyer
Susan Meyer
Cyndi Miller
Dave and Mary Miller
Jo Ellen Miller's Birthday
Lucille and Ellis Moyer
Lori Mullins
Amy and Jim Newhard
Jim Nieman
Jerry and Kathy Ortinay
Bennet Oswald
Our Loved Ones
Bill and Nancy Parker
Dr. Stephen Petersen's
Birthday
Emma Jean Phillips
Mike and Sally Pierle
Jessie Pietroburgo
Kevin and Carol Ponciroli
Larry and Edie Quick
Dolores and Art Rodenberg
Jessie Ruff
Jim and Kathy Ruggeri
Carole Schmidt
Leanne and Harvey
Schneider's 60th Wedding
Harvey Schneider's
90th Birthday
Ken and Diane Schulz
Fran Schuster
B.J., Sarah, Luke and Simon Self
Baker and Jackson Sharpe
Sisters of Good Times
Sheri Slattey
SLBMI
Linda and Mike Smith
SNAP Recipients
Stacey Stater
Mark and Corrie Stock
Chuck and Carol Stout
Sharon Maddox and
Mark Strothmann's
3rd Wedding Anniversary
Team DKM
Those that Volunteer
Rick, Ann and Amy Torbert
Sherryl Triplett
Veterans
Kathy Walker
Jane Walsma's Birthday
Brian Ward for Christmas
Paulette Warren

Fred and Sharon Wear
Wednesday Morning Crew
Fred Wellman
West County Democrats
Westermann Family
for Christmas
Chris Wiley's Birthday
Barb Woehle
James D. Wolfe's Birthday
Kathy Zelch's Birthday

IN MEMORY

Alvin
Robert D. Andert
Nellie Anselmi
Kelly Anthony
Lisa Marie Anzalone
Joyce Ashton
Nancy Baniak
Sally Barnhart
Donald F. Barr
Randall Barron
Jeff Baumgartner
Judy Behrman
Lisa Beke
Kenneth Berkbigler
Steven Bernier
Ronald Bishop
David Borisov
Mary Brauningner
Wayne Andrew Brent
Kenneth Brockmann
Betty Brown
Jerry G. Brown
Karen Brown
Bill Browne
Donna Brumley
Helen Burkhardt
Jerry Caesar
Captain Farfel
Jeanne and Terry Carmack
Carol Carvely
Vicki Challis
Bob Clement
Lisa Copeland
Hanna Cox
Dennis Crump
Tom Cullmann
Donald Lee Dahlem
Katherine and Ray Dains
Patricia Davis
Chris Dawson
Judy Doehring
Betty Boop Duff
Louise DuMontier
Helen Earls
Jean Eimers
Don Erhardt
Alicia Mendez Feito
Benjamin and Stephen Ferris

Carol Filla
Joan Fisher
Dennis M. Flanagan
Gene Fleher
Phil Folsom
Jim Gambell
Norbert Gawedzinski
Sam Giaimo
Rev. Dr. Howard Allen Gleason
David Goalstone
Luke D. Grater
Robert and Virginia Guinther
John William Guyer
Katelyn Hampshire
Jim Hannick
Ronald Hanson
Nathan Hardesty
Doris Harrington
Carole Holloway Hart
Bonnie Hawk
Irene Hecker
Cathleen Heitmann
Marv, Pattie and Georgia Herpel
Florence and Roy Hicks
Mr. and Mrs. Hill
Sherri Hill
Herman Holtmeyer
Mark A. Howell
Mae Hudson
Robert Huheey
Sharon Husak
Mel Ingram
Chanchal Kapoor
Rasoul and Ruth Karimi
Patricia Keating
Matthew Charles Keller
Lois A. Kelley
Chuck Kern
Ashraf Khan
Mary Kniep
Jane Kostelc
Linda Kraemer
Pastor Gerhard Kraus
Haran Kumar
Margaret Kunst
Ruth Marie Kuster
Lorene Lane
Kenny Lederich
Esther and Andrew Lehmann
Jane Lemonds
William Lenox
Patrick Livingston
Grace Loeffelman
Mary and Jesse Lopez
Victor Luechtefeld
Mary D. Luke
Pete Makulec
Linden Mann
Patricia McKeague
Betty McMullin
Jan Meeh

Sherry Messena
Glenn Meyer
Merel Kenneth Meyer
Dominic Mikal
Ruth Minister
Pam Motycka
Marti Mueller
Paul Mueller
Marlene Muir
Lila Murphy
Anne Travis O'Connell
Oner Onergil
William Owens
Flip and Arleen Pallozola
Beverly Perich
Wayne Peters
Violet Pickett
Donald Piekarski
Marylee Pratt Baygents
Glenda Pyles
Carl Quicksall
Steve Rauschenbach
Joe and Grace Reiner
Lana Renetzky
Dorothy Routt
Lawrence Schaefer
Kathy Lynn Schiro
Verlene Schmidt
Mary and Herman Schmitz
Art Schnatterly
Dominic 'Doc' Schuckman
Dorothy Schulz
Bill Sei
Dr. L.C. "Charlie" Senay
Millie Serben
Anna Mae Sherman
Linda Smith
Rick Smith
David Sorenson
Marian Steinkamp
Marti Stricker's Aunt
Ann Studards
James Stulce
The Strohs
The Wilkes
Patty Thompson
Helen Vazis
Gertrude Vietor
Marilyn Walters
Carl A. Wattenberg
Robert 'Bob' Weiler
Harry and Jean West
Larry Wexelman
Griffin Weyforth
Nicholas Wiseman
Jerry and Marj Withers
Dan Woodard
Otis Woodard
Amy Marie Woods
Vern Wunnenberg Sr.



Follow Us on **Facebook,**
Instagram and LinkedIn.

Visit us online at
www.circleofconcern.org



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

Summer News Around the Circle

BOARD of DIRECTORS

Brian Boeglin
PRESIDENT

Andrea Trapet
VICE PRESIDENT

Karen Korn
TREASURER

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 am – 3 pm
Wed 9 am – 6:30 pm
Thurs 9 am – 12 pm
Sat 9 am – 1 pm

IMPORTANT DATES

September 5–7 Circle Closed
for Labor Day

October 9 Harvest Moon Trivia

September 28 Board Meeting
Contact cyndi@circleofconcern.org for more info



**Your monetary gift or food donation can qualify for MO Food Pantry Tax
Credits. Contact Circle@circleofconcern.org to find out more.**

STAFF DIRECTORY 636.861.2623

Cyndi Miller, Executive Director cyndi@circleofconcern.org ext. **117**

Kathy Bratkowski, Community Relations Manager kathy@circleofconcern.org ext. **121**

Tim Elwell, Director of Development tim@circleofconcern.org ext. **106**

Jenny Lawrence, Director of Programs jenny@circleofconcern.org ext. **108**

Beth Niezing, Administrator, Donor Relations & Finance beth@circleofconcern.org ext. **112**

Becky Pool, Director of Nutrition and Pantry Operations becky@circleofconcern.org ext. **120**

Brittnie Selbert, Volunteer and Facilities Manager brittnie@circleofconcern.org ext. **113**