

AROUND THE Circle Newsletter

Circle Of Concern
Food Pantry



It's All in the Ask

Sometimes you just don't know until you ask. This old bit of wisdom was the basis for a client survey that Circle Of Concern conducted in the fall of 2016. The survey explored aspects of our clients' lives, their experiences at Circle and even what kind of soup they preferred from the food pantry! Here are some of our findings that paint a picture of our families:

The largest group that Circle serves is single mothers, aged 30 to 49 years old, with one to three children.

74% of our client households have an annual income less than \$25,000. 26% make less than \$10,000.

72% of our client households have at least one adult in the home with a full-time job. (20% have at least two adults holding full-time jobs.)

Most clients have been coming to Circle between one and three years. 35% have been clients four or more years; this number correlates with the number of clients who are elderly or who are disabled.

27% of our clients are unable to work as a result of disability or advanced age.

75% of our survey participants reported that sometimes or often in the last three months, they ran out of food and didn't have money to buy more. Almost half also admitted to cutting or skipping meals at least once in that timeframe because there just wasn't anything to eat in the home; a third of those said this happened at least once each month.

Each of these findings—and many more—document what we see at Circle every day. Our clients rely on the food and other programs we provide. And we can only provide our programs with your help. On behalf of every family we serve, thank you.

Oh, and that soup question? Chicken noodle wins by a landslide!

Current Needs:

- Jelly
- Canned Chicken - **CRITICAL**
- Cereal
- Pasta Sauce - **CRITICAL**
- Tomato Products - **CRITICAL**
- Size 5 & 6 Diapers
- Baby Wipes
- Tampons - **CRITICAL**

OUR MISSION:

Circle Of Concern feeds the hungry and provides assistance to low-income families living in west St. Louis County.

OUR VISION:

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



*Feeding Families is
Just the Beginning*

Thinking Outside the Circle

When we say "outside," we sometimes really mean OUTSIDE! Two local drives are coming up that help fill the pantry shelves. When you see the bags hanging on your door in the days leading up to these dates, please respond generously and fill them up for our friends who will pick them up from your door!

April 8 Girls Scouts APRIL SHOWERS

Our local Girl Scouts rock! On April 1– no fooling!–Scouts will leave a bag on your door, picking up non-food necessities one week later on the 8th. This annual collection of personal care and grooming items enables us to give our families a choice of essentials like soap, shampoo, toothpaste and brushes, feminine care and other critical items that many forms of aid just won't cover.



May 13

Neither snow nor rain nor heat... will keep your letter carrier from helping our hungry neighbors! Each year, the National Association of Letter Carriers carries out Stamp Out Hunger, a food drive to provide for their communities. This year during the week of May 8, your postal carrier will leave a blue bag on your door and pick up nonperishable, non-breakable foods on the 13th. Last year, the drive collected 75,000 items; can you help to top that number this year?



Thank you, letter carriers and Girl Scouts, for Thinking OUTSIDE For Circle!

“Volunteers are not paid ~ not because they are worthless, but because they are priceless.”

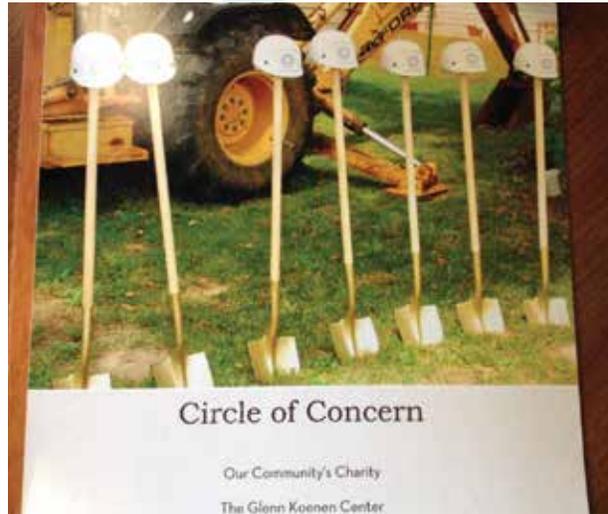
This message hangs in our volunteer area, and it perfectly captures the hidden treasure of Circle. With nearly 400 active volunteers serving our neighbors, Circle is as rich as the gifts our volunteers bring to their work here.

April is National Volunteer Appreciation Month. Please take a moment and thank a volunteer for enriching our world with their service.

Jelly Roll Bunco!

We're almost sold out! Time is running out for the 3rd annual Circle **JELLY ROLL Bunco Fun-Raiser!** Join us on **Friday, April 21** at St. John Church (15800 Manchester in Ellisville) for classic Bunco, a silent auction, hors d'oeuvres, prizes and fun! Cost is only \$20 per person, and proceeds will help buy jelly and other items for Circle's food pantry.

Register online at circleofconcern.org no later than **April 15**. See you there!



A Circle History Moment

Shovels at the ready! 2008 saw the groundbreaking of our current facility. The Glenn Koenen Building – or the *new building*, as it's usually called – allows us to provide a wide range of services to our clients.

February Stats:

Number of people fed = **1,638**
Number of bags distributed = **2,724**
Number of families = **564**
Cost = **\$78,410.34**

Financial Assistance
34 families
\$5,462.00

Volunteers
176 volunteers
1,898 hours



The 13th Annual



New year, new location! Join us for a day of authentic Links-style golf at the Aberdeen Golf Club in Eureka, Missouri on Monday, May 8, 2017!

Aberdeen's zoysia grass fairways and greens surrounds are trimmed closely for running shots, while the bentgrass greens are maintained to replicate the playing conditions of traditional Links courses. This variety promises a good day on the links, all to benefit Circle Of Concern!



Presenting Sponsor

Orthopedic Specialists

Proudly hosted by the Deacons of
St. Mark Presbyterian Church

What

When

Where

Cost

Golf Scramble
4-Golfer Teams
Captain's Choice,
Best Ball Format

Monday, May 8, 2017
8:00 a.m. Check-In
9:30 a.m. Shotgun
Prizes & Late Lunch

Aberdeen Golf Club
4111 Crescent Road
Eureka, MO 63025

\$125 Golfer
\$500 Foursome

Longest Drive
Men & Women
Closest To The Pin
\$10,000 Hole-In-One
Putting Contest
Silent Auction
Drinks, Buffet Lunch

Hole, Contest & Event Sponsorships are still available! Visit discoverstmark.org/ Events for information!



aberdeengolf.com

Register to play today!

Payment options on reverse.

The 13th Annual



Monday, May 8, 2017
Aberdeen Golf Club
Eureka, Missouri

Register today before our
slate is full! There are two
ways to pay:



Pay by check - Complete this
form with your name and
those of additional golfers
and dinner guests. Mail it

with your check, payable to
St. Mark Presbyterian Church to:

*St. Mark Presbyterian Church
Circle Golf Tournament
601 Claymont Drive
Ballwin, MO 63011*

OR



Pay by credit card by calling
Circle Of Concern at
636.861.2623. Ask for
Cyndi (ext. 117) or
Juliet (ext. 106)

(Have your player names ready!)

Proceeds from the tournament support
Circle's food pantry and other programs to
help our West County neighbors. If you
don't golf but would like to help, please visit
circleofconcern.org!

GOLFER #1/Team Captain

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Payment Enclosed? Yes or No

Additional Golfers

GOLFER #2

Name: _____

Email: _____

Payment Enclosed? Yes or No

GOLFER #3

Name: _____

Email: _____

Payment Enclosed? Yes or No

GOLFER #4

Name: _____

Email: _____

Payment Enclosed? Yes or No

Buffet Only \$25

Name: _____

Email: _____

Payment Enclosed? Yes or No

Board President's Message

This year—2017—is a big year for Circle Of Concern. It's our 50th birthday, and as we celebrate, we're doing a bit of looking back at where we came from and a lot more looking ahead to envision this organization in Year 51 and beyond.

A look *back*...

and a look *forward* →

2016 was a good year at Circle. Just a few outcomes of our client programs follow:

- The number of clients served in our food pantry each month has remained fairly level post-recession – nearly 2,000 individuals. We shared 825 Kid Bags full of summer food.
- 371 families received financial assistance; that number does not include the many additional families we assisted from across the region during the January 2016 flooding of the Meramec River.
- 176 Friends of Circle “adopted” 306 families in the Holiday Adoption program – a Circle record!. Each family adopted means more engagement by the community in the good work of Circle and more families experiencing the joy of the holidays.

You, our friends and supporters, made every bit of this possible. You are also the reason I'm confident that, looking forward, our programs will impact and improve more of our clients' lives. For example, 17 young people and 10 adult clients received scholarships last year. By inviting our friends to underwrite scholarships in the name of education champions in their lives, we expect to nearly double that number in 2017. By enlisting more of our friends to volunteer in our mentorship program, we expect the number of clients benefiting from working with mentors to increase, too.

These are just a few of our many successes. We also keep an eye out for challenges. In the course of a year, for example, some food prices can be volatile. Recent flooding meant we increased our giving for a time. No matter what happens, we strive to meet the need with your help.

Despite these uncertainties, though, Circle Of Concern will serve our neighbors today and tomorrow. We will continue to rely on and celebrate the commitment of our 391 active volunteers and our small support staff. Most of all, we will continue to rely on and celebrate you! Whether a current or former donor, volunteer or community partner, we appreciate you. And if you haven't come to see us recently, consider stopping by. I think you'll be pleased with all the good you do!

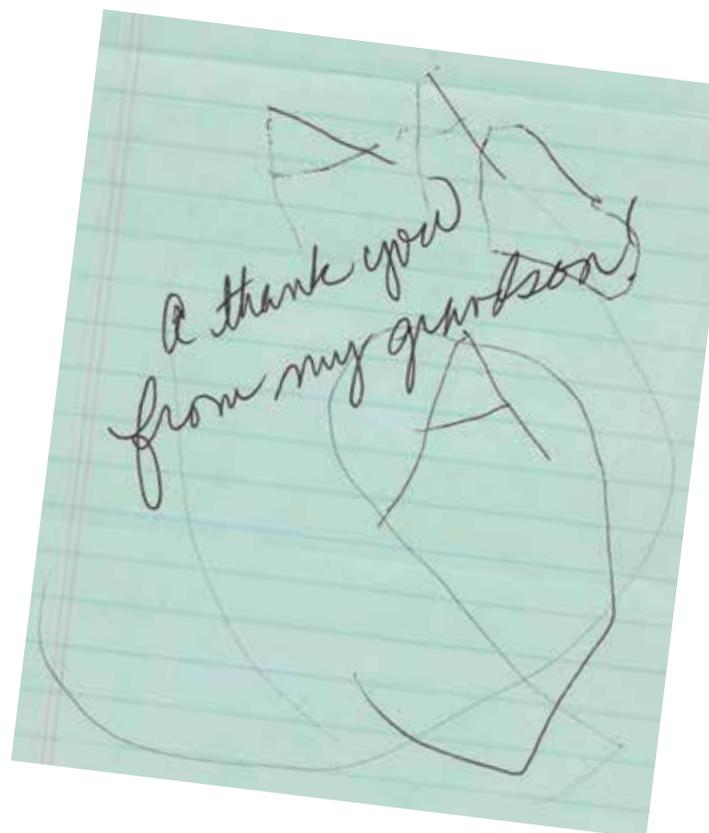
Steve Ernst
Board President

Circle By the Numbers



You make the work of Circle possible. Just look at what you accomplished in 2016:

- ... Fed nearly **2,000** people each month in the Food Pantry
- ... Shared **37,115** bags of groceries
- ... Bridged the summer hunger gap for children with **825** Summer Kid Bags
- ... Kept utilities on and averted evictions with **\$78,843** in financial assistance
- ... Made college dreams come true with **\$57,000** in scholarships
- ... Celebrated birthdays for **426** young children
- ... Sent **101** children to summer camp
- ... Sent **593** children back to school with adequate supplies
- ... Guaranteed a Thanksgiving Feast for **420** families
- ... Adopted **306** families (**944** people) for the holidays,
- ... Put holiday toys in the hands of **604** children





Circle Of Concern FOOD PANTRY

Feeding Families is Just the Beginning

112 St. Louis Ave.
Valley Park, MO 63088
Address Service Requested

Non-Profit Org.
US Postage
Paid
St Louis MO
Permit 175

*A Message
from the
President*

Board of Directors:

Steven Ernst
PRESIDENT

Lana Biondo
VICE PRESIDENT

Matt Claflin
TREASURER

Michael Bauer
SECRETARY

Karen Aubuchon
Frank Haase
Sue Hoffman
Maria Keena
Doug Paul
Alva Rozar
Greg Shoemaker
Jason Sinclair
Carol Vandable
Amy Vollmer

We share many donations with our clients:

- Food, Canned and Packaged
- Fresh Garden Produce
- Dry Pet Food, Litter
- New School Supplies
- New Toys
- New Blankets, Hats, Gloves

Donations are accepted:

Mon, Tue, Fri..... 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Wednesday..... 9 a.m. - 7 p.m.
Saturday..... 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Important Dates:

April 8	Girl Scouts April Showers Collection
April 14, 15	Circle Closed for Spring Holiday
April 21	Bunco Fundraiser St. John Lutheran Church, Ellisville
April 24	General Membership Meeting 7:30 p.m. St. Mark Presbyterian Church 601 Claymont, Ballwin
May 8	13th Annual Charity Golf Tournament Aberdeen Golf Club, Eureka
May 13	"Stamp Out Hunger" Letter Carriers Food Drive
September 16	4th Annual Run Circles Around Hunger 5K Valley Park - Arnold's Grove Trailhead Park
November 4	50th Anniversary Celebration Dinner Forest Hills Country Club, Chesterfield



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

STAFF DIRECTORY..... **636.861.2623**

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Juliet Holden, Senior Director juliet@circleofconcern.org..... ext. **106**

Michelle Lepak, Pantry Director michelle@circleofconcern.org..... ext. **107**

Niki Vandable, Client Services Director..... niki@circleofconcern.org..... ext. **108**