

AROUND THE

# Circle Newsletter

Circle of Concern  
Food Pantry



## Make-A-Will Month

August marks the beginning of National Make-A-Will Month: a month-long event dedicated to the importance of creating a plan for the future, not just for yourself and loved ones, but potentially for Circle of Concern as well.

As we prepare for this month-long event for the first time, we want to inform you of all the things a will can achieve:

- **Security:** Creating your will allows you to communicate important financial and healthcare decisions, so you and your loved ones are prepared for whatever the future may hold.
- **Peace of mind:** A will allows you to provide for the people you love.
- **Impact:** By including an optional planned gift in your will, you can continue to support the causes you believe in.

Circle's new partnership with FreeWill helps you complete this important task, for free. The FreeWill online will-writing tool guides you through the entire process in under 20 minutes, making it simple to protect your loved ones and cement your legacy with Circle. Learn more by going to [circleofconcern.org](https://circleofconcern.org) or scanning the QR code.

## Current Needs:

- Pasta Sauce
- Flour
- Cooking Oil
- Condiments - Salsa, Salad Dressing, Mayonnaise
- Women's Incontinence Pads
- Granola Bars (8-12 count)

### 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*

## Furry Friends Need Support Too!



With our goal to leave no bowl empty, we help people and their pets too! Circle clients may receive free food for their dog or cat, thanks to a partnership with Clare's House, a local pet nonprofit. Founder,

Terry Economos, was connected to Circle of Concern by the help of volunteer Cyndie Branson-Rinehart with the intent to support clients and their pets. The partnership flourished and now Clare's House provides monthly donations of pet food! We're thankful to be able to offer these items to families while supplies last.

Clare's House is a nonprofit that believes people who are dealing with temporary challenges like hospitalization, injury, physical rehab or illness shouldn't have to deal with added stress and worry about their beloved pets. Clare's House steps in and offers helping hands and hope for these owners, providing experienced and caring fostering or dog walking until both owner and furry friend can be safely home together. They're not a shelter or a pet sitting service. For the dog, they're a home...for a day or for a while longer. For the owner, they're peace of mind when they need it most. Find out more by visiting [www.clareshousestl.org](http://www.clareshousestl.org). Thank you for the continued support, Clare's House!

## New Funder Supports Jefferson County Residents

Circle of Concern has supported the Fenton community, which straddles both St. Louis and Jefferson counties, for many years. In 2023, we expanded further into Jefferson County, adding the High Ridge community to our service area.

Now, Jefferson Foundation is supporting this effort. A grant award of \$10,000 is helping us to provide fresh foods and financial assistance to eligible clients. With these monies we have helped Fenton and High Ridge families with nutrient-dense fresh foods (protein and dairy items; and fresh fruits and vegetables); and also emergency rent and utility assistance.

Jefferson Foundation was created in January 2013, funded by proceeds from the sale of Jefferson Regional Medical Center in Crystal City. The Foundation's mission is to support charitable and educational activities promoting individual and community health and well-being in Jefferson County.

We are grateful to our new friends at Jefferson Foundation and the many community partners that make our programs possible!

## Take the Credit

The Missouri Food Pantry Tax Credit Program is a win-win for you *and* the families you help to feed! When you donate \$200 or more to Circle of Concern Food Pantry, we'll proactively send you a completed Missouri Food Pantry Tax Credit Form late in January to submit with your Missouri Income Tax Return. You'll receive back 50% of your donation in the form of a credit - up to \$2,500 (for a \$5,000 donation) for individuals and businesses; and up to \$5,000 for married couples filing jointly (for a donation up to \$10,000). For details on the program, visit <https://dor.mo.gov/tax-credits/fpt.html> or email [circle@circleofconcern.org](mailto:circle@circleofconcern.org).





## Books and Babes Event

Circle of Concern relies upon supporters like you for all our client needs - and EVERYONE needs books! Clients and their children can choose FREE books from our shelves year-round, and in the summer months, when school is out, our shelves are quickly depleted. To meet this challenge, volunteer Jackie Golby hosted a Books and Babes event. Attendees brought new and gently used books to the gathering as well as diapers, wipes and personal care items for the babes! The collection will replenish our shelves and give Circle children a wide selection of new books to choose from during the summer months.



## Client Wellness

Our first St. Luke's Wellness Day was a fantastic success! We had the privilege of serving 15 clients, all of whom expressed their heartfelt gratitude. It was rewarding to witness firsthand how the valuable information provided by the St. Luke's team empowered our clients to take the next step towards better health. A special shoutout to St. Luke's Hospital for their amazing collaboration and support in assisting our clients! Together, we're making strides towards a healthier community.



**Friday, October 18**

Join us for Harvest Moon Trivia on Friday, October 18th at Andre's West in Fenton, where you'll experience the trivia you know and love and a few new twists to keep you on your toes! This event features a full open bar, eight rounds of challenging trivia, a mystery bonus round, contests, raffles, silent auction and more. Get all the details at [www.circleofconcern.org/events/harvest-moon-trivia-2024](http://www.circleofconcern.org/events/harvest-moon-trivia-2024) or by scanning the QR code above.



# Circle of Concern FOOD PANTRY

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Valley Park, MO 63088  
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**Summer in Season**  
**August 2024**

## Board of Directors:

**Allison Love**  
*PRESIDENT*

**Cindy Wolk**  
*VICE PRESIDENT*

**Mark Barbee**  
*TREASURER*

**Bridget Guffey**  
*SECRETARY*

Brian Boeglin  
Thomas Chibnall  
Aaron Froehlich  
John Heskett  
Karen Korn  
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](mailto:Circle@circleofconcern.org) to find out more.

## Important Dates:



- August 17**      **Operation Food Search Shop Out Hunger**
- September 2**      **Circle Closed in observance of Labor Day**
- September 30**      **Circle Board Meeting**  
Contact [cyndi@circleofconcern.org](mailto:cyndi@circleofconcern.org) for more info
- October 18**      **Harvest Moon Trivia Night**



**"LIKE US"** on Facebook and visit us online at [www.circleofconcern.org](http://www.circleofconcern.org).

## STAFF DIRECTORY

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