

AROUND THE

Circle Newsletter

Circle of Concern
Food Pantry



When the cart is full, the heart is full

Imagine empty shelves in your kitchen, stomach rumbling, the weight of uncertainty heavy on your shoulders. This is the reality many of our neighbors experience, unfortunately, on a regular basis. Now picture the relief and gratitude you would feel as you receive a cart full of nutritious food.



Example of what a family of four receives during a pantry visit.

Thanks to our generous community, all of our services are provided at no charge to clients, with the primary objective to break the cycle of poverty. When you give, it extends far beyond a single meal. As you can see in the photo, a typical pantry visit provides a client with fresh produce, dairy, breads, proteins and more—enough to create balanced meals for the entire family. Meals that nourish bodies and ease minds. When clients visit our pantry, they leave with more than just sustenance; they leave with hope, dignity, and the strength to face the days ahead.

As a donor-based food pantry, we rely on community support throughout the year to keep our shelves stocked and ready for clients. But in the summer months, we see a lull in donations and gaps on our shelves. With the holidays approaching and more families seeking help, we hope you'll walk alongside our clients with us. By extending a hand, you can ensure that our pantry continues to be a place of abundance and hope. Will you help fill our shopping carts with wholesome foods? Please view our list of most needed items at circleofconcern.org.

Current Needs:

- Dinner Helpers
- Dry Pasta
- Canned Tuna and Chicken
- Baking Needs
- Canned Fruit
- Feminine Care Items

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

As we wrap up a busy summer season, I'm feeling so much gratitude for the summer programs we offered our youngest families. **Student Snacks** (formerly "Kid Bags") brought monthly gift cards to purchase kid-friendly foods. **Summer Opportunities** brought swim lessons, camps, music, sports and STEM opportunities to children and youths in our area. **Back to School** helped parents to purchase the school supplies (or t-shirts, socks and shoes) their kids needed. These meaningful programs were made possible by you, our faithful friends, *and we thank you!*

Now, we gear up for another seasonal program to help ease the worry of low-income parents and others. Our **Holiday Program** brings the little extras that many of us take for granted - a retail gift card, seasonal foods, a new blanket, a hat and gloves. When our clients get more than they expect...it can mean so much. This message left in my voicemail a couple of years ago touched us all:

"I came today and got some food...and a quilt. I usually keep my heat at 64 degrees. I only make \$1,100, and my rent is \$690. I'm trying. I can't thank you enough...whoever made that quilt...it's so nice, and that they would just give it away (voice cracking). I wanted you all to know how grateful I am. God bless you."

Yes, "the extras" can make a big impact. Would you like to join us in celebrating the holidays, spreading joy and providing something extra for a family we serve? We hope to share a \$50 retail gift card with each member of every household we serve. You can help in this effort by visiting www.circleofconcern.org or by scanning our Holiday Program QR code.

Thank you for all the ways you help area families.

Gratefully,

Cyndi

Cyndi Miller
Executive
Director



Adopt Circle families for the holidays by scanning the QR code or visiting circleofconcern.org



*"Thank you Circle of Concern!
The children enjoyed
Horse Camp 2024.
The Summer Scholarship
made this possible.
We are so appreciative!"*



Donors Make Education and Career Goals Possible

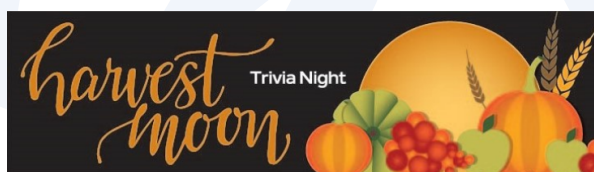
Our Scholarship Committee has completed its review process and announced



Circle's 2024-2025 awardees. After a rigorous application and interview process, nine local high school seniors earned scholarships to attend college and trade programs this fall; and 18 prior awardees earned renewal scholarships to continue their work toward graduation. With the generous and caring support of our donors, education and career goals are attainable for eligible students in our area. Together we can turn the tide for their families. The evidence is clear - a college degree, or certification in the trades, can dramatically impact a student's earning potential and career path. We thank you for investing in these lives and in the future of our community!

Lord of Life Mountain of Food

Lord of Life Church's annual Vacation Bible School once again collected a mountain of food for our clients. The kindness shown by the congregation fills our hearts and shelves. We're extremely grateful for their continued community support. Look at all of these donations!



CIRCLE OF CONCERN

Trivia Night!

FRIDAY, OCT 18

Andre's West | Doors open @ 6:00

Tickets
\$30 each | \$300 table of 10

Visit us at:

www.circleofconcern.org/events
for tickets and more information



Event Highlights

8 rounds of brain teasers
Contests
Raffle
Silent Auction
Open bar

Sponsorships Available



More Information

Contact Nancy

☎ 636-861-2623 x 113

✉ nancy@circleofconcern.org

It's time for trivia! Join us for Harvest Moon Trivia on Friday, October 18th at Andre's West in Fenton. This fun event features a full open bar, eight rounds of challenging trivia, a mystery bonus round, contests, raffles, silent auction and more. A table for you and your nine smartest friends is \$300, or register as an individual for \$30. Become a sponsor and make an even bigger impact for our pantry and clients!

Get all of the info at www.circleofconcern.org/events/harvest-moon-trivia-2024 or by scanning the QR code.

PARTNER SPOTLIGHT

SIGN of the ARROW

Benefiting charities since 1966



Community Partner Spotlight! Sign of the Arrow is a non-profit gift and needlepoint boutique located on Clayton Road in Ladue, MO and is staffed by community volunteers. The shop was established in 1966 by the St. Louis Alumnae Club of Pi Beta Phi, a national fraternity for women, to continue the Pi Beta Phi tradition of providing philanthropic support to the community. Since its inception, Sign of the Arrow has donated more than \$4 million to local charities including Circle of Concern. We're thankful to be a recipient of their generosity. One stitch at a time!

For more information on needlepoint products and services at Sign of the Arrow, please visit www.signofthearrow.com.



Circle of Concern FOOD PANTRY

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

NONPROFIT
AUTO
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
ST LOUIS, MO
PERMIT NO. 3252

What's in a client's cart? September 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 to find out more.

Important Dates:



- | | |
|--|---|
| September 30 | Circle Board Meeting
Contact cyndi@circleofconcern.org for more info |
| October 18 | Harvest Moon Trivia Night
Now accepting sponsors and teams - Register today! |
| November 28 | Circle Closed for Thanksgiving Holiday
Reopens Monday, December 2 |
| December 25 & 26 | Circle Closed for Christmas |
| December 26-28 & December 30-31 | Circle Closes at Noon |
| January 1 | Circle Closed for New Year's Day |



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

STAFF DIRECTORY

	636.861.2623
Cyndi Miller , Executive Director	cyndi@circleofconcern.org ext. 117
Tim Elwell , Communications and Development Manager	tim@circleofconcern.orgext. 106
Virginia Pearson , Director of Nutrition	virginia@circleofconcern.org ext. 107
Nancy Bauer , Volunteer/Special Events Director	nancy@circleofconcern.org ext. 113
Jenny Lawrence , Program Director	jenny@circleofconcern.orgext. 108
Beth Niezing , Donor Relations Administrator	beth@circleofconcern.org ext. 112
Becky Pool , Pantry Coordinator	becky@circleofconcern.org ext. 120