



Circle of Concern
FOOD PANTRY
Feeding Families is Just the Beginning



2023 ANNUAL REPORT

A LETTER OF THANKS

Hello Circle Friends,

Feeding families is just the beginning! Our 2023 was a year of expansion, preparation, assessment and new partnerships!

It was the first post-pandemic calendar year since transitioning from curbside services to in-person services and client-choice shopping. With our staffing and volunteer corps fully trained and in place we were able to focus more fully on client programs, nutrition education, DEI work, facilities, and emergency preparedness.

We expanded our services to a new community – High Ridge, following an expansion into Kirkwood in 2022. With an eye to serving all, our pantry staff brought ever more variety to our purchased foods, incorporating more seasonal produce, vegan items, new protein and dairy items, and also much-needed diapers and hygiene products. Our Garden Greens Committee had another banner year – harvesting over 1500 pounds of produce just steps away from our pantry.

We gratefully accepted a bounty of fresh vegetables from other community gardeners, including some of our faith-based supporters; and began a partnership with the Restorative Justice Program.

Nutrition education continued through monthly “featured foods” and easy recipes using low-cost, seasonal and accessible foods. To support our staff and volunteers, we coordinated trainings in de-escalation and trauma-informed care. We continued to support our client families providing counseling sessions through St. Louis Counseling and Provident Behavioral Health.

We developed a comprehensive emergency plan and trained our staff and key volunteers in CPR and first aid. Our strategic plan calls for an assessment of our grounds, buildings and facilities, and with that came pantry improvements aimed at increased safety and capacity.



We conducted an in-depth client survey (as we’ve done biannually since 2017.) We learned that our programs are still valued and needed; and that many of our clients struggle with health concerns. Single parent households, seniors and those living with a disability continue to be the largest groups we serve.

Of course, through all of this we delivered client programs – we’ve summarized the impact of those efforts in this report.

None of this would be possible without our staff and volunteers – those who managed and supported client programs, and those who raised the dollars and resources.

To you, our faithful donors, we owe our deepest gratitude. Thank you!

Sincerely Yours,
Allison

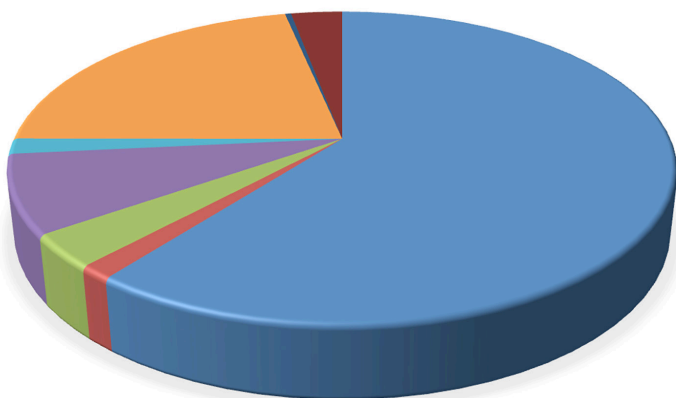
Dr. Allison Love
2024 President, Board of Directors

Summary of Financial Data

2023 REVENUE & SUPPORT

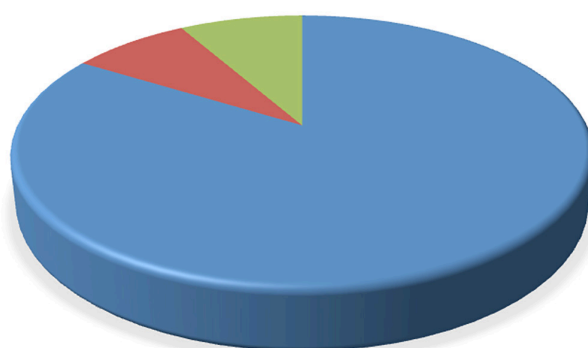
Individuals	\$2,371,059
Businesses	\$55,131
Churches, Community	\$133,598
Foundations	\$317,562
Special Events	\$62,660
In-Kind Food, etc.	\$848,144
Government Grants	\$13,600
Other	\$116,239
Total	\$4,137,650
Investment Return	\$219,657

Total Net Assets End-Of-Year \$7,015,310



2023 EXPENSES

Program	\$2,230,687
Management & General	\$211,860
Fundraising	\$220,039
Total	\$2,662,586



**Total Net Assets
End-Of-Year:
\$7,015,310**

"In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Circle of Concern as of December 31, 2023 and 2022, and the changes in its net assets and its cash flows for the years then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America."

Armanino, LLP
St. Louis, Missouri
June 5, 2023

Circle of Concern Programs & Outcomes

Food Pantry

Our Food Pantry provides fresh fruits and vegetables, milk, eggs and frozen meats along with a wide selection of nonperishable foods.

- 3,510 people (unduplicated) were fed in the food pantry in 2023, from 1,213 families (unduplicated). That's nearly an 11% increase from the prior year.
- 817 grocery gift cards helped to feed students and their families through the summer months

Emergency Financial Assistance

Funds to help prevent an eviction or utility shut-off or to help with other critical short-term needs of established clients.

- 422 families received in total \$122,571 in Emergency Financial Assistance to keep the lights on, avoid eviction and more.

Scholarships for Youth & Adults

Competitive scholarships for college and trade school-bound young people plus adult client scholarships to build earning potential through job certification, college courses, retraining or GED testing.

- 27 young people received college scholarships to set them on their educational and career paths
- 5 adult clients received funds for education to improve job skills and employment prospects

Birthday Club

Personalized gift bags or gift "towers" along with cake mixes, candles and more to celebrate our clients' young children.

- 416 children felt extra special on their special day, thanks to Birthday Club. 26 more kids received meaningful gifts this year through this program!

Summer Opportunities

Small scholarships ("camperships") made camp programs and other enriching summer opportunities accessible to our clients' children.

- 96 children and youths experienced the joy of summer through sports and music programs, Scouts camp, STEM opportunities and more!

Back-To-School Program

Retail gift cards help families with school-aged children to purchase backpacks, notebooks, markers, calculators and more!

- 493 youngsters from kindergarten to age 18 were outfitted with necessary supplies and clothing to start the school year!

Holiday Programs

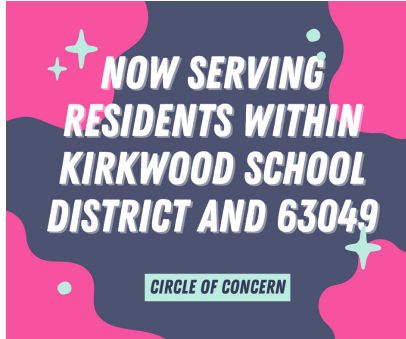
Thanksgiving Boxes offered seasonal holiday foods while retail gift cards, funded by community friends, warmed the season for our client households.

- 712 families received Thanksgiving favorites
- 608 families (2,171 individuals) felt the joy of the season, receiving gift cards and other holiday extras.

Thank You Volunteers!

- 21,769 volunteer hours contributed by the world's best volunteers made our work possible! That's 7,872 more hours than last year.

2023 HIGHLIGHTS



Kirkwood and High Ridge Expansion

We expanded our service area to include the footprint of the Kirkwood School District and the zip code of 63049 in High Ridge. Now low income and food insecure residents in these areas can benefit from our food pantry and other programs. It's wonderful that we are able to serve new areas beyond our previous footprint! There certainly is a need in these communities.



Restorative Justice Program Gardens

We began a partnership to offer Circle families an even greater variety of fresh and local produce. Our restorative justice team, led by volunteers, collects produce each week from the Eastern Missouri Correctional Facility, located in Pacific, MO. Through a unique partnership with the facility's Restorative Justice Program, we benefit from the one-acre garden located at their facility. Each week during the peak garden harvest season, our team picks up the produce at the facility and then processes the items so they are quickly shared with clients. In 2023, the facility donated 3,862 pounds of produce for our clients!

Emergency Preparedness

In response to recent weather and other emergency situations, we revisited our emergency preparedness plans to ensure our clients, volunteers, donors and staff are safe in our building. Plans for severe weather, medical emergencies, active shooter, earthquake and more are fine-tuned and ready to implement at a moment's notice. Staff and key volunteers took part in a six-hour first aid and safety training through the American Red Cross and our friends at the Valley Park Fire Protection District. Many thanks for their service and for getting us emergency-ready!



VOLUNTEERS

We love our volunteers! 21,769 volunteer hours contributed by the world's best volunteers made our work possible!



COMMUNITY SUPPORT

These are just a few of the community organizations that make our work possible. We are grateful for all of the consistent support from local partners that improve our clients' lives throughout the year and beyond.



Greenscape Gardens

In May, when a hailstorm stripped most of the leaves off some of our tender plants, Greenscape Gardens helped replace those plants with new seedlings with a cheerful, "Take whatever you need!" Our garden recovered, and thanks to their generosity, our clients enjoyed eggplants, peppers, tomatoes and more.



Kehrs Mill Elementary

Way to go Kehrs Mill Elementary! Students surpassed their original 1,000 pound goal by collecting 2,800 pounds of food for Circle of Concern clients.



St. John's UCC

Thank you, St. Johns United Church of Christ, for always being an amazing supporter of Circle! We appreciate your generous support and this donation of laundry detergent.



Missouri Baptist Medical Center

A food drive competition between departments at Missouri Baptist Medical Center generated 971 pounds of food with a focus on critically-needed and nutrient-dense food items. As our shelves filled with food, our hearts filled with gratitude.



Thies Farm

Joy, generosity and fresh seedlings in a single picture! Many thanks to our friends at Thies Farm in Maryland Heights for this abundance of seedlings they shared with our clients!

MISSION STATEMENT

Our mission is to feed the hungry and provide assistance to low-income families living in our community.

Board of Directors (as of December 2023)

Dolores Rodenberg, *President*
Allison Love, *Vice President*
Mark Barbee, *Treasurer*
Cindy Wolk, *Secretary*

Brian Boeglin
Mayank Chaudhary
Thomas Chibnall
Aaron Froehlich

Bridget Guffey
Brandi Hamm
Edie Quick



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Circle of Concern Food Pantry

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