

AROUND THE

Circle Newsletter

Circle of Concern
Food Pantry



From pint-sized to oversized, your gift made an impact in 2024! THANK YOU!

We appreciate how our community (that's you!) consistently supports our initiatives to provide resources for those in need. We recognize and value how you have joined us time and time again to make our mission a reality, making a significant impact in our community every single day.

Whether you gave a handful or an armful, every gift matters at Circle of Concern. From pint-sized to oversized donations, your generous contribution enables us to stock shelves and lessen the burden of food insecurity. It's heartening to see the outpouring of support from individuals like you, making us confident that no gift is too small to make a positive change in someone's life.

Your help ensures that vulnerable families are fed, that children go to school with full bellies, and that our elderly community members are not overlooked. Your donation, regardless of its size, is impactful! We thank you and hope you take pride in what we accomplished together in 2024!

Current Needs:

- Pasta Sauce
- Dry Pasta
- Canned Tuna or Chicken
- Canned Fruit
- Condiments - Ketchup, Salad Dressing, Salsa, Mayo, BBQ Sauce
- Shampoo and Conditioner
- Body Wash
- Feminine Care Products

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.



learn more inside...



Circle of Concern
FOOD PANTRY

*Feeding Families is
Just the Beginning*

2024 By the Numbers

Over **800,000** meals were shared with local households in **2024!**

Approximately **737** families visited our client choice pantry each month. Overall, **3,881** people from **1,326** households received services last year.

348 households received emergency financial assistance (typically for rent or utilities) totaling over **\$120,000**; helping each to remain safely housed.

Student Snack gift card disbursements brought kid-friendly foods to **1,027** students during summer break.

27 area students earned scholarships for college or trade programs setting each on a productive and hopeful path to independence; while **13** adults earned scholarships to improve job skills and earning potential.

42 households participated in counseling sessions through our mental health program.

109 children and youths experienced the joy of summer camp, sports or music lessons; and other enriching programs.

538 kids, ages 5 to 18, were outfitted with backpacks, binders, calculators and more through our Back-to-School program.

458 children felt extra special on their special day, thanks to our Birthday Club and "Birthday Bobbie!"

576 households enjoyed traditional Thanksgiving staples including sweet potatoes, cranberries, a frozen fruit pie and much more; and had the freedom to purchase a turkey, ham or other protein option with a \$30 grocery gift card.

570 households - **2,001** individuals - received retail gift cards through our Holiday Program.

Approximately **220** committed, caring volunteers donated **24,342** volunteer hours!

Why Do We Ask for Condiments?

Condiments often take a back seat in discussions about food donations, overshadowed by hearty main ingredients like breakfast cereals, canned soups and dinner helpers. But as we all know, condiments can make a meal. Mayonnaise can turn a can of chicken into chicken salad. A dollop of ketchup can entice a child to try something new. Salad dressing brings flavor and zing to a wholesome bowl of greens.



When you contribute condiments, our clients benefit! They get to enjoy flavorful and satisfying meals, while using their limited funds for other needs. Currently, we're asking for donations of ketchup, salad dressing, salsa, mayonnaise and barbecue sauce. Check out our current needs list by visiting www.circleofconcern.org! We thank you for considering condiments the next time you donate!

SAVE THE DATE!



ST. MARK
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



Orthopedic Specialists

CIRCLE OF CONCERN'S

19TH ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT

Aberdeen Golf Club in Eureka, MO

MONDAY, MAY 19, 2025



Circle of Concern
FOOD PANTRY

CIRCLEOFCONCERN.ORG

"I get all of this for free!"

A first time client was amazed by the amount of food and personal care items that she received during her visit.

Pickleball Recap ~ More than Just a Game

We want to thank everyone who joined us at our Pickleball Social on February 1st! Dink It For Families in Need not only promotes physical activity and community spirit but also provides a platform to support those in need. Your generosity in attending this event has made a real difference for families that are struggling to put food on the table.

We are grateful for your support and hope you enjoyed the event as much as we did!



Dink It! Pickleball For Families in Need



Thank you for participating!



Helping families



and having fun!



Welcome Our Newest Board Members

We are excited to introduce our newest members of the Board of Directors. Please welcome Kathie Fuchs and Susan Nunez! They bring experience, passion, and skills that will undoubtedly enrich our path.



Kathie Fuchs

For a few years now, Kathie has served as a Circle volunteer, both as a Case Worker and Client Resource Manager, offering valuable perspectives on client needs and community resources.

Susan Nunez

Susan comes to us with extensive expertise in state and local tax, and we're eager to leverage her wealth of knowledge to strengthen our initiatives.



Please join us in celebrating their addition to our Board!

Target Circle

Did you hear? We're featured in Target Circle! We've been chosen to participate in this special charitable giving campaign and you have the chance to help direct a portion of Target's donation to our programs and services. Now through March 31st you can vote to help us receive a portion of the available Target funds as we continue our mission to feed the hungry and provide assistance to low-income families living in our community.

Here's how to vote after you sign in or create your free Target Circle account:

- Step 1:** Choose 'My Target' in the Target app or 'Account' on Target.com
- Step 2:** Tap 'Cast votes'
- Step 3:** Find us and vote

We're a **Circle** participant.
Vote for us.





Circle of Concern FOOD PANTRY

112 St. Louis Ave.
P.O. Box 444
Valley Park, MO 63088
Address Service Requested

NONPROFIT
AUTO
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2024 Impact Inside February 2025

Board of Directors:

Mark Barbee
PRESIDENT

Brian Boeglin
VICE PRESIDENT

Karen Korn
TREASURER

Bridget Guffey
SECRETARY

Thomas Chibnall
Katie Fuchs
John Heskett
Susan Nunez
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:



February 4 - April 10 **AARP Community Tax Aid**
Contact circleofconcern.org for more info

March 31 **Circle Board Meeting**
Contact cyndi@circleofconcern.org for more info

April 18 & 19 **Circle Closed for Spring Holiday**

May 19 **Save the Date!**
19th Annual Circle Golf Tournament
Hosted by St. Mark's Church



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

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