



VOLUNTARY ACTION CENTER NEWSLETTER



City of Columbia



United Way

800 N. Providence, Ste 220, Columbia, 65203 ~ 874-2273 ~ www.vacmo.org ~ August–September 2008

Back To School



The beginning of the school year can be a financial strain on low-income families. Here's a sampling of programs available to assist Boone County families with items needed at this time.



Back-to-School Health Fair

Saturday, August 2, 9 a.m. – 2 p.m.
Calvary Baptist Church
606 Ridgeway Ave.

Children in grades K-12 are invited to attend the fair and receive a free backpack and school supplies while supplies last. The fair will also include free dental, hearing and vision screenings for kids, adult screenings, hygiene kits, complimentary food and refreshments, entertainment, and more! All children must be accompanied by a parent or guardian in order to receive services. For more information about the fair, call VAC at 874-2273. The fair is sponsored by many local agencies and businesses.

Shoes and Clothing



Families with children in grades K-12 can purchase one \$4 shoe coupon per child from the Wardrobe between August 4 and 8. The coupons can be redeemed for new shoes at Payless Shoes on Business Loop 70 during the month of August. The family must have a Wardrobe referral issued after 9-1-07. New referrals are available at VAC. The date the coupons can be purchased is determined by the last name of the head of household (Aug 4: M-R, Aug 5: S-Z, Aug 6: A-B, Aug 7: C-G, Aug 8: H-L). Families with a Wardrobe referral can also obtain free clothing on Tuesdays throughout the year.

Additional School Supply Programs



Fairview Road Church of Christ, located at 201 South Fairview Road, will provide free school supplies to 225 children in grades K-5. A voucher for the school supplies must be obtained from VAC before Friday, August 8. The supplies can be picked up at the church on August 8 from 5-7 p.m. or on August 9 from 9-11 a.m.



Voluntary Action Center is accepting donations of school supplies for low-income students. These supplies will be distributed at VAC's office from August 6 – 29 for those in need. Supplies for middle, junior, and high school students are most needed, since these students cannot get supplies through Fairview Church. Supplies or monetary donations for this program are greatly appreciated, and can be delivered to the VAC office. Call VAC at 874-2273 with any questions about donations or client eligibility.



Salvation Army **"Tools for Schools"** will provide school supplies directly to local schools. Families should contact the school guidance counselor after the school year begins in order to receive these supplies.

Agency Spotlight



The Missouri Theatre Center for the Arts (MTCA), which has recently been restored to its original grandeur, is central Missouri's only pre-depression era movie palace and vaudeville stage. Built in 1928, it was designed after the Paris Opera House and still has most of its original detailing intact, including a stunning 1800-pound Italian auditorium chandelier. The theater is now a beautiful performing arts center for the community, and also serves as a permanent home for the Missouri Symphony

Orchestra under the leadership of Maestro Kirk Trevor, as well as the Missouri Symphony Society and its educational component the Missouri Symphony Conservatory, which includes the Youth Orchestra, Junior Strings, Children's Chorus, Treblemakers, the Plowman Chamber Music Competition, the Piano Student Showcase, the Missouri Technical Theater Institute, and the Crescendo enrichment program. The Columbia Art League now houses its gallery, offices, and classrooms at the Missouri Theatre, which is also the artistic home for numerous visual and performing arts organizations.

History

The Missouri Theatre opened on October 5, 1928 to the music of Bob Crowley at the Robert Morton organ console and master of ceremonies Jack Keith at the piano with his Missouri Orchestra. The evening was completed by a newsreel, a cartoon, dancing during the stage show and the feature picture, "Steamboat Bill Jr." The Missouri Rockets, later to become the Radio City Rockettes, were the dancers for the evening. Columbia residents could enjoy all this for an admission of 10 cents for children, 25 cents for the balcony or 35 cents for floor seats.

203 S. Ninth Street
Columbia, MO 65201

(573) 875-0600
Fax: (573) 449-4214
info@motheatre.org
www.motheatre.org

Office hours
9 a.m. – 5 p.m. M – F

Due to its size and elegance, the Missouri Theatre was always a challenge to maintain and operate. At first MTCA hosted both cinematic and live entertainment; however, movies became the focus as vaudeville died out in the late 1940's. In 1953, Commonwealth Theaters began operating the theater, and in the 1980s, the company contemplated dividing the auditorium into three "shoebox" cinemas in an effort to make it more profitable. Public outrage erupted and the plan was halted. In 1988, the Missouri Symphony Society, a private non-profit organization, bought the theater. In 2007-2008, the Missouri Theatre underwent a major restoration and renovation which included the addition of new seats, state-of-the-art sound & lighting, a new elevator, expanded restroom facilities, a lounge in the mezzanine and the Bravo Bistro concession area in the Grand Foyer (both operated by the Cherry Street Artisan), administrative offices, and a new rooftop reception patio. The theatre is now a place for all to enjoy, participate, and learn.

There's always something exciting happening at the Missouri Theatre Center for the Arts!

The Artistic Home Of:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Belly Dance United • Boonslick Chordbusters • Columbia Art League • Columbia Chorale • Columbia Civic Orchestra • Missouri Contemporary Ballet • Missouri Symphony Conservatory 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MOSS Children's Chorus • MOSS Youth Orchestra • P.A.C.E. Youth Theatre • Ragtag Cinema's Missouri Theatre Film Series • Show-Me Opera • The Blue Note 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Missouri Symphony Orchestra • Youth Orchestra • Junior Strings • Children's Chorus • The Treblemakers • Crescendo Enrichment Program • MO Technical Theater Institute • Piano Student Showcase

VAC News and Notes



Lunch in the Park

VAC will continue to provide free lunches for children at Douglass Park on weekdays from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. through August 15. In addition to a nutritious meal, kids also benefit from special programs, activities, and entertainment from the Library, Conservation Department, Humane Society, Public Works Recycling, CARE gallery, Girl Scouts, and the Health Department. We are grateful to have many wonderful volunteers helping us this summer, including: Golden K Kiwanis, Downtown Kiwanis, Rotaract, Youth In Action, Shelter Insurance Interns, Michael Frost, Norma & Ernie Falloon, Laura Hager, David & Diane O'Hagan, Anne Braisted, Bill Spicer, Assembly of God Youth Group, Boone Landing, Kayla Irvin, and many others. With all of these wonderful people helping, we guarantee it will be service with a smile!



Warm Up Columbia

The Voluntary Action Center and Kathy Hull are collaborating again to coordinate our 4th annual used coat and blanket drive. Donations of new mittens, hats, socks, and scarves will also be accepted. Kathy is signing up churches that want to involve their congregation in the collection effort throughout the summer, with all donated items picked up from participating churches in the fall. Commerce Bank is also participating, and will have donation drop-boxes in all nine of their local locations this fall. All donated items will be distributed on October 18 to the needy of our community and local not-for-profits. Our goal is to collect 2,400 items this year! If you would like to join in, contact Kathy at Blondmufan@aol.com or 443-3838. For those in need of coats, blankets, or other items, please contact VAC at 874-2273.



VAC Christmas Program Sign-Up Dates:

October 13, 14, 16, 17, 20, 21, & 23: 9:00 a.m.
Wednesday, October 15 & 22: 5:30 p.m. (full-time working parents only)
Saturday, October 11: 9:00 a.m. (full-time working parents only)



Volunteers: help fill out gift wish lists during the above sign-up dates! Contact VAC at 874-2273.

Sponsors: to adopt a family for Christmas, call VAC after October 1 at 874-2273.

Families: for assistance with gifts and food for Christmas, call VAC at 874-2273 for additional information about sign-up. To sign up, bring ID for all persons in the household, proof of income, proof of address, and gift ideas for your children.

*See the October/November newsletter or call VAC for full details about the Christmas Program

Summer Fan Program

VAC will continue to provide fans to low-income families with children, elderly, disabled, or pregnant women through the end of August. Call VAC at 874-2273 for information about making a donation to this program or in order to receive a fan for your family.



VAC's YOUTH ENRICHMENT FUND

YEF provides financial assistance for youth to participate in extra-curricular activities that will enrich their lives, including summer camp, art classes, sports programs, and more. We believe that all children should have the opportunity to participate in extra-curricular and educational activities that many of us take for granted.

This fund provides \$50 per child per year so that youth can take part in local programs. If you know a child who might benefit from the Youth Enrichment Fund, or if you want to contribute to this wonderful program, please contact VAC at 874-2273!

Get out and enjoy YOUR community!

The 25th annual **National Night Out** will be Tuesday, August 5. This national event raises awareness about crime prevention and strengthens partnerships between the Columbia Police Department and local neighborhoods. If you plan to organize a block party or neighborhood gathering, call the Community Services Unit at 875-7405 to arrange for your beat officers to attend.



Columbia Parks & Recreation Outdoor Cinema Series will show *The Spiderwick Chronicles* on Friday, August 8 at 8:45 p.m. at Stephens Lake Park. The cost is \$3 per person, kids 6 and under free. Call 874-7460 for information.

Boone County Council on Aging will present the 18th annual **Mature Living Festival** on Friday, August 8, from 9:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. at the Holiday Inn Expo Center. Call BCCA at 443-1111 or visit bccamissouri.org for more information.



The **2008 Missouri State Fair** will be held August 7-17 at the fairgrounds in Sedalia. The fair features concerts, rodeo action, lots of free entertainment, prize farm animals, carnival rides, contest, and exhibits. For information, visit www.mostatefair.com or call 1-800-422-FAIR. Fair admission is free for kids 12 and under.

Join Big Brothers Big Sisters for the annual **Countdown to Kickoff**, an evening with Coach Gary Pinkel, on Thursday, August 21, from 4:30-7:30 p.m. at Tiger Lounge in Faurot Field. Tickets are \$40 per person. Call 874-3677 or visit www.bigsofcentralmo.org for reservations.

The **Columbia Balloon Invitational** will be held August 22-24 at Corporate Lake. This hot air balloon event is free to the public. Volunteers are needed. For more information, visit www.columbiaballoon.com.



The **Twilight Festival** will be on Thursday evenings in September from 6-9 p.m. in the District. Enjoy street bands, carriage rides, an evening concert series, and a Kids' Camp with hands-on activities. Call 442-6816 or visit www.twilightfestival.com for information.

The Heart of Missouri United Way will hold its 16th annual **United Way Day of Caring** on September 5. Hundreds of people, businesses, and groups participate in this day of volunteerism for the United Way agencies and the clients they serve. Call 443-4523 for more information.

The 31st annual **Heritage Festival & Craft Show** will be held the weekend of September 20-21 from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at historic Nifong Park. This great family event includes artists, entertainers, an 1859 town with re-enactors, cowboys, a WWII exhibit, and tours of the historical Maplewood Home and the Walter's Boone County Historical Museum. For more information, call 874-7460 or visit www.GoColumbiaMo.com.



The **Columbia Festival of the Arts** will be held on the weekend of September 27-28, from 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. at the Courthouse Square. The festival features several performance stages, participatory art experiences for children, a fine arts fair, displays by area art organizations, great food, and more! For information, call 874-6386 or visit www.GoColumbiaMo.com/Arts/Festival.

The 2008 Third Occasional Annual **MOO DAH Parade** will be on September 27 at 2 p.m. in the District. The parade is all about nothing – except having fun, getting silly, showing off your sense of humor, and generally making a fool of yourself. Visit www.moodahparade.com for information.

Featured Event



Bike MS Express Scripts Gateway Getaway Ride 2008

The National Multiple Sclerosis Society is hosting its 24th annual Bike MS event in Columbia on September 6 – 7 at the Midway Expo Center. The MS Society is currently seeking cyclists and volunteers to help make the 2008 Bike MS a continued success! The 2007 volunteer team consisted of more than 700 individuals, who kept the 2,800 cyclists moving safely. In 2008, the goal is for 3,500 cyclists to participate in the event, which would require the assistance of more than 800 volunteers.

Everyone is invited to help make the 2008 Bike MS event a huge success! All volunteers, ages 12 and up, can help out – there is a volunteer activity available to engage almost any skill or volunteer interest! Volunteer roles include:

- ♦ Cheer at the finish line
- ♦ Serve breakfast, lunch, and/or dinner
- ♦ Setup or teardown the event
- ♦ Direct parking
- ♦ Staff the rest stops
- ♦ Photography
- ♦ Serve beverages
- ♦ Monitor bikes
- ♦ Registration
- ♦ And much more!



Join the movement! For more information, to volunteer, or to participate as a cyclist, call 314-446-4182, visit www.gatewaymsbikeride.org, or e-mail tiffany.heil@gatewaymssociety.org.



Human Rights Enhancement Program – Funding Proposals

The City of Columbia's Human Rights Commission is accepting funding proposals from local organizations for human rights educational activities and programs in our community. Programs that promote multicultural education, diversity, inclusion, tolerance, the elimination of discrimination and related human rights issues will be considered for funding.

An informational meeting for applicant organizations will be held on September 3 at 3:30 p.m. at the Health Department. Program proposals are due at the Office of Community Services on September 26.

For more information, call 874-7488 or visit www.GoColumbiaMo.com.

Make a Difference Day

October 25, 2008

The largest national day of helping others, this day is a celebration of neighbors helping neighbors. Anyone can participate just by helping someone else! Put your own cares on hold for one day to care for others. For information, visit the website at www.makeadifferenceday.com, or call 1-800-416-3824. Start thinking about what you can do on October 25 to help others!

Participation Suggestions:

- ★ Pick up litter at a local park
- ★ Visit an elderly neighbor
- ★ Clean up local schools or day care centers
- ★ Collect toys for sick children
- ★ Organize a food drive
- ★ Rake leaves for a neighbor
- ★ Clean a stream
- ★ Collect essentials for a homeless shelter



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ATTENTION ALL VOLUNTEERS!!

The Back-to-School Health Fair will need volunteers to pack backpacks with school supplies starting July 30, and to help at the fair on August 2. Contact Cindy Mustard, 874-2273 to help or to donate supplies.

Missouri Special Olympics Outdoor Sports Championship on August 8-10 needs volunteers to help with golf, tennis and softball activities. Contact 1-800-846-2682 or www.somo.org/content.php.

Central Missouri Food Bank needs volunteers to help repackage food. Contact John Wampler, 474-1020 ext. 114 or johnw@centralmofoodbank.org.

Family Counseling Center needs volunteers for yard work and painting. Call Susan, 443-2204.

Youzeum needs help with fundraising, events, gift shop, tours, exhibit demonstrators and more. Contact Tia Felts, 886-2006 or visit www.youzeum.org.

Salvation Army needs volunteers for their thrift stores, homeless shelter and food pantry. Contact Cindy Chapman, 442-3229 or cynthia_chapman@usc.salvationarmy.org.

Columbia Housing Authority needs volunteers to assist youth with homework, mentor financial management/homeownership classes, and help adults with computer skills, math, reading, and personal development. Contact Ron Schmidt, 443-2556 ext. 1112 or rshmidt@columbiaha.com.

American Red Cross needs volunteers for Disaster Teams, Armed Forces Emergency Services, and Health & Safety programs. Call 445-9411 or email information@redcross-boone.org.

Boone County Council on Aging needs volunteers to assist seniors with yard work and mowing. Contact Diana, 443-1111.

Alternative Community Training needs volunteers to assist people with disabilities with activities such as arts and crafts, community integration, socialization and other skills. Contact Sharla Hyler, 474-9446 ext. 209 or sharla4act@socket.net.

Boone Hospital Center needs volunteers to help in the Gift Shop on the weekends. Contact Barb Shettleworth, 815-3205 or bshettle@bjc.org.

Preferred Hospice needs volunteers to provide companionship to hospice patients. Call Lydia, 1-866-852-3310.

National MS Society needs volunteers to help direct traffic, serve lunch, manage rest stops and more for Bike MS. Visit www.gatewaymsbikeride.org or contact Tiffany Heil, 314-446-4182.

Rainbow House needs volunteers to help with daily activities and care of the children, light office work, outreach, special yard/home projects and home and general maintenance. Training and orientation are provided. Contact Lori Stoll, 474-6600 or lstoll@rainbowhousecolumbia.org.

Ronald McDonald House needs volunteers to help in their guestrooms, family rooms, and common areas. Groups interested in hosting snack drives, being meal providers, or deep cleaning guestrooms are also needed. Contact Jennifer, jennifermiller@socket.net or 443-7666.

SHARE needs volunteers to pack food boxes and carry them to cars for the elderly and disabled. Contact Shirley Hargis, 449-1771.

The Wardrobe needs volunteers to help sort items and hang clothing. Call 442-3260.

YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!



August 2008



<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thurs</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
					1	2 Back-to-School Health Fair
3	4 Wardrobe shoe coupon week →	5 National Night Out Election Day	6 VAC School Supply assistance starts	7 MO HealthNet Info Mtg MO State Fair Begins	8 Outdoor Cinema Series Mature Living Festival	9
10	11	12 United Way Executive Directors Mtg. BCRAA Mtg.	13	14	15 Lunch in the Park Ends	16
17 MO State Fair Ends	18 MU Service Learning Orientation	19	20	21 Countdown to Kickoff Columbia Public Schools Start	22 Balloon Invitational Volunteer Fair Registration Deadline	23 Balloon Invitational
31 24	25 MU Classes Begin	26	27 MU Volunteer Fair Basic Needs Mtg. Interfaith Council	28	29	30



September 2008



<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thurs</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
	1 LABOR DAY VAC Closed No School	2	3 Human Rights Funding Info. Mtg.	4 Twilight Festival	5 UW Day of Caring	6 Bike MS
7 Bike MS	8	9 BCRAA Mtg.	10 VAC Board Meeting	11 Twilight Festival	12	13
14	15	16	17	18 Twilight Festival	19	20 Heritage Festival
21 Heritage Festival	22 Fall Begins	23	24 Interfaith Council Basic Needs Mtg.	25 Twilight Festival	26 Human Rights Funding Proposals Due	27 Moo Dah Parade Festival of the Arts
28 Festival of the Arts	29	30				

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The **Helping Hand Catalog of Volunteer Opportunities** (free) is currently available at VAC, and the **2008 Directory of Community Services for Boone County** will be completed and available for purchase at the end of September. Call VAC at 874-2273 or stop by the office for a catalog or directory.



Coming up in October...

- ★ **Roots n’ Blues n’ BBQ:** October 3-4, the District
- ★ **Columbia Half Marathon Challenge:** October 5, benefits C.M.C.A., www.columbiahalymarathonchallenge.com.
- ★ **Crop Walk:** October 5, cumbiacropwalk.missouri.org/.
- ★ **Alzheimer’s Memory Walk:** October 5 at Stephens Lake Park, www.alz.org/memorywalk/.
- ★ **VAC’s Warm Up Columbia:** October 18, at the Armory.
- ★ **VAC Christmas Signup:** See page 3 of this newsletter



MU VOLUNTEER FAIR

“Celebration of Service”

Wednesday August 27

9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Lowry Mall (by Ellis Library)



A little of your time goes a long way at this annual event – meet thousands of potential volunteers, educate the community about your agency, and network with other local service providers. Call 874-2273 by August 22 to register for a booth. The fair is sponsored by the Voluntary Action Center, MU Service Learning, and the University Y.

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