



the Heart of Service in Boone County

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 **Boone County National Bank**
Presents the Voluntary Action Center's
20th Annual Christmas in July

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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**HO! HO! HO! SANTA CLAUS IS COMING TO TOWN...
BUT, IN THE SUMMER?**

Yes! It is that time again to help those in need in Boone County. This year, **Boone County National Bank** is sponsoring VAC's **20th annual Christmas in July Picnic**. Special assistance is also being provided by **Missouri United Methodist Church**.

Started in 1992, **Christmas in July** annually offers 350 to 400 low-income people a great summer picnic meal and a visit from Santa Claus who distributes toys to the children in attendance. The threefold purpose of the event is to:

- provide a Christmas-themed picnic (food and presents) for low-income families
- increase awareness that there are needs all year long...not just during the holidays
- raise funds to help VAC continue providing assistance with basic needs and emergency services to Boone County's low-income citizens

This year's event will be Thursday, July 28 from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m. at Missouri United Methodist Church, which is located at 204 South Ninth Street.

VAC is asking the public to support this important fundraiser by purchasing raffle tickets. **The ticket donation is \$10 per ticket or \$75 for ten. For each tax-deductible ticket purchased, the donor's name will be entered in a drawing for some great prizes and will provide a place at the Christmas in July Picnic for a child or adult in need.**

This year's grand prize is a 2011-2012 season Columbia Entertainment Company pass for two, and there are many other great prizes.

VAC's goal is to raise \$15,000, which will help make it possible for VAC to keep providing much needed services to low-income individuals and families living in Boone County.

"We want to raise awareness that there are needs all year long, not just at holiday times," said Cindy Mustard, executive director of the Voluntary Action Center. "These are tough times for lots and lots of families, and we are trying to fulfill more needs than we have had to do in the past."

For more information, please contact Ron Schmidt at (573) 874-2273, ext. 203 or proj-dir@vacmo.org.



The Voluntary Action Center (VAC) is the Heart of Service in Boone County. VAC, a not-for-profit social service agency, was formed in 1969 by Hazel Riback. The Voluntary Action Center's Core Services include:

- Family Assistance and Emergency Services (Year-Round)
- Special Assistance and Services
- Volunteerism

Family Assistance and Emergency Services (Year-Round)

Financial Assistance with:

- | | |
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| • Baby formula | • Medical/dental copayments |
| • Driver's licenses/state I.D.s | • Minor car repair for employed persons |
| • Educational/employment programs | • MO birth certificates |
| • Emergency motel stays | • Prescriptions |
| • Gas for work and/or medical appointments | • Required work uniforms for new jobs |

Providing:

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| • CATS bus tickets | • Emergency food |
| • Clothing referrals to the Wardrobe | • Hygiene/household products |
| • Diapers | |

Special Assistance and Services

In addition to these very important year-round direct services, VAC also sponsors many special initiatives throughout the year. These invaluable programs help families and individuals meet unique needs and take advantage of opportunities that would have otherwise been out of their reach. Some examples are:

- Youth Enrichment Fund
- Homes for Computers
- Summer Fun program
- Lunch in the Park
- Christmas in July
- School Supplies program
- Warm Up Columbia
- Christmas program

Volunteerism

And, of course, VAC is still an advocate for volunteerism in the community. Through community presentations, the coordination of local volunteer fairs, and the development and distribution of the Helping Hand catalog, the Voluntary Action Center helps connect volunteers to hundreds of valuable community events and programs. VAC also helps celebrate the importance of community volunteers through its co-sponsorship of the annual Hero Awards, which celebrates volunteers who have made a significant impact through their donation of time and resources to local agencies.

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Voluntary Action Center

the Heart of Service in Boone County

Christmas in July

