



# VOLUNTARY ACTION CENTER NEWSLETTER



City of Columbia



United Way

800 N. Providence 65203

874-2273

www.vacmo.org

December 2008 – January 2009

## 2009 Columbia Values Diversity Celebration

On Thursday, January 15, 2009, the community of Columbia will gather at the Holiday Inn Select Expo Center from 7:00 a.m. to 8:45 a.m. for the 16th Annual Columbia Values Diversity Celebration and breakfast. This year's theme is **"Columbia Values Diversity: This We Believe."**



A breakfast and live music will be followed by the presentation of the 12th annual Columbia Values Diversity Awards. The highlight of the event will be an original artistic program honoring the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Preregistration is required; the reservation deadline is 5 p.m. on January 9 (cost is \$13, or \$11 for kids under 12). Scholarships are available upon request. Call the Office of Community Services at 874-7488 or visit [www.gocolumbiamo.com](http://www.gocolumbiamo.com) to register.

## First Night Columbia 2009<sup>®</sup>

Celebrate the New Year with friends and family in downtown Columbia and on the Stephens College campus! Entertainment for the evening will include more than 60 performances, plus art and activities at 15 locations in downtown Columbia. Doors will open at 6:30 p.m.

Food will be available throughout the evening while attendees enjoy great musical entertainment, art of all kinds, children's performers and more. The event culminates at Courthouse Square with entertainment and spectacular fireworks at midnight.

First Night, an alcohol-free, community celebration, is "one of many events in Columbia created to bring the community together and to welcome visitors to our city to celebrate together," say event directors.

Admission buttons purchased prior to the event are \$8 (age 8 & older) and \$10 at the door. Buttons are available at Columbia Parks and Recreation, the ARC, Streetside Records, and Gerbes Supermarkets. For information or to volunteer, call 874-7460 or visit [firstnight.missouri.org](http://firstnight.missouri.org).



## Martin Luther King Jr. Day: A Day On...Not a Day Off!

On January 19, 2009, Americans will celebrate and honor the life and work of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Instead of being just another day off from school or work, the aim is to make the holiday a day ON, where people come together to strengthen their communities, bridge social barriers, and move our nation closer to what Dr. King envisioned. Coretta Scott King once said, "The greatest birthday gift my husband could receive is if people of all racial and ethnic backgrounds celebrated the holiday by performing acts of kindness through service to others." Visit [www.mlkday.org](http://www.mlkday.org) for more information.



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# HOLIDAY HAPPENINGS



The **Living Windows Festival** will be held in downtown Columbia on Friday, Dec. 5 from 6 - 8 p.m.

The **City Kwanzaa Celebration** will be held at Douglass High School from 2-5 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 6, and includes awards, entertainment and a feast.

The **Women's Symphony League Holiday House Tour** will be Saturday, Dec. 6 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., and on Sunday, Dec. 7 from 12 to 4 p.m. For information or tickets, call 875-0600.

**Santa Hotline** Children ages 3-10 can call the North Pole at 874-7473 or 874-6335 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Dec. 6 ONLY to speak with Santa, Mrs. Claus, or one of the elves.

Sing along with **Handel's Messiah**, performed by the Columbia Chorale and Civic Orchestra, at Missouri United Methodist Church on Saturday, Dec. 6, at 7 p.m.

A holiday concert by **Missouri Symphony Society's Youth, Orchestra, Junior Strings, & Children's Choir** will be held Sunday Dec. 7 at 7 p.m. at the Missouri Theater. Tickets are \$5.



A **Victorian Christmas at Stephens College** will be at 7:30 p.m. Sunday-Tuesday, Dec. 7-9. Call 876-7199 for tickets (\$14) or details about this authentic recreation of a Christmas celebration hosted by Mr. & Mrs. Charles Dickens, including music, a period dance, refreshments, and games.

The **Salvation Army Christmas Program Distribution** will take place by appointment only on Dec. 9, 10, 11 and 15 at the Salvation Army office at 1108 E. Ash. Call 442-3229 for information.

**Services for Independent Living Trivia Night 2008** will be held Friday, Dec. 12 from 7-9:30 p.m. Call Becky at 874-1646 for information.



The **Columbia Community Band Winter Concert** will be on Sunday, Dec. 14 at 7 p.m., at the Rock Bridge High School Auditorium.

**A Stylish Holiday Fashion Show** benefiting Boone County Council on Aging will be held on Sunday, Dec. 14 at 2:00. Call Jessica at 443-1111 for information.

The **Holiday Lights and Sights Tour** will be on Monday, Dec. 22 from 6:15-7:30 p.m. and 7:45-9:00 p.m. Meet at the ARC for a tour of Columbia's best decorated yards and neighborhoods. Call 874-7460 to register; tickets are \$5 for adults, or \$3 for kids 12 & under.

**First Night 2009 Boone Hospital 5K Run/Walk** will start at Flat Branch Park, Dec. 31 at 4 p.m. Register at [firstnight.missouri.org](http://firstnight.missouri.org).

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## Save the Date!

**Officer Molly Bowden Memorial Blood Drive**, Jan. 9 from 11 a.m.-7 p.m. at Grace Bible Church.

**Columbia Values Diversity Breakfast** on Thursday, Jan. 15, 2009 from 7-8:45 a.m. at the Holiday Inn Select Expo Center. For information, call 874-7488.

**MU Volunteer Recruitment Fair** on Wednesday, Jan. 28, 2009 in the Stotler Lounge on the first floor of MU's Memorial Union. Contact the Office of Service Learning at 884-5700 for information.





# VAC CHRISTMAS PROGRAM



## Join in the Spirit of Giving

While we have found sponsors for all of our Christmas families, it is not too late to donate additional items, which will be used to supplement gifts as the need arises. Please drop off any items you collect on December 8, 9, 15, or 16, between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. at Trinity Presbyterian Church, 1600 West Rollins Rd.



### Items still needed for the Christmas Program:

- ★ Cash Donations which we will convert to vouchers or gift certificates.
- ★ Gift Certificates to Columbia Mall, music or shoe stores, or movie theaters.
- ★ Restaurant or grocery store gift certificates.
- ★ Board games, art & craft kits, crayons, markers, Legos, etc.
- ★ Sports items, watches, cameras.
- ★ Books, coloring books, activity books, sticker books, or puzzles.
- ★ Hats, gloves, mittens, sweat shirts, or coats.
- ★ Powdered cleaning supplies, paper products, blankets, or towels.

## Our Thanks to YOU!

VAC's Christmas Program would not be possible without the involvement of generous and caring people in this community. This year, we were able to connect 1187 needy families with generous individuals, groups, businesses, and churches to sponsor them for the holidays. We were also able to supplement gifts where necessary and assist families with last minute emergencies due to groups who coordinated special gift drives, such as the Knit Wits, Paxton Keeley and Mill Creek Elementary Schools, Antique 1-Fortnightly, Home Depot, MU Records Management, Bank of Missouri, Courtyard by Marriott, and Square D. Thank you for making a difference in the lives of so many children and families!

We are especially grateful to Affiliated Court Services for donating their office space for VAC to use for family registration and to Trinity Presbyterian Church for the use of their building during gift collection and distribution. Thanks also to Bob Duncan, David Finke, Lena Kiessling, Susan McQuilkin, Lea Evans, Billy Boyce, Bill Burnett, Larry Slate, and Image Technologies for assisting in special ways.

Finally, we are so thankful for all of the incredible volunteers who helped us throughout this Christmas season. We could not have done it without their energy, dedication and enthusiasm!

**Thanks to each of you who helped with VAC's 25th annual Christmas Program. You truly made a difference!**

Everyone is welcome to join VAC as we celebrate the 25th year of our Christmas Program with a ribbon cutting and light refreshments on Monday, December 8 at 5:00 p.m. at Trinity Presbyterian Church!



## Christmas Help is Still Available



For those who did not sign up with VAC, Christmas assistance is still available through the Toys For Tots program. To sign up, stop by the Navy ROTC office at 105 Crowder Hall on the MU campus to fill out an application before December 12. The gifts will be distributed on December 20. Call (573) 882-6693 with any questions.

The Voluntary Action Center Newsletter is published bimonthly by the Voluntary Action Center 800 N. Providence, Suite 220, Columbia, MO 65203. Vol. 11 Issue 6 December 2008 – January 2009

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# VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

**Central MO Humane Society:** walk dogs, help in the office or the cat room. Call Heather, 443-3893.

**First Night 2009:** help sell buttons and merchandise, assist with children's activities or serve as an usher in 2-3 hour shifts. Contact Debra, 874-7499 or [volunteer@GoColumbiaMo.com](mailto:volunteer@GoColumbiaMo.com).

**Stand By Me:** mentor students in grades 3-5 at West Boulevard School one hour per week between 7:30 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. Contact Zona Burk, 214-3670, ext. 79014 or [zburk@columbia.k12.mo.us](mailto:zburk@columbia.k12.mo.us).

**MU Veterinary Medial Teaching Hospital:** greet and assist clients and their pets in the reception area. Shifts are available Mon-Thurs from 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Contact Flo Nelson, 882-7821.

**TreeKeepers:** attend the tree management training classes on Jan. 22, 24, and 27 at the ARC. Volunteers are then asked to share 36 hours on park tree projects on Saturday mornings. Contact Debra, 874-7499 or [volunteer@GoColumbiaMo.com](mailto:volunteer@GoColumbiaMo.com).

**The Moving Ahead Program:** tutor and mentor children in grades K-7 on M-Th at the Blind Boone Center from 4 to 6 p.m. Contact Carroll, 443-2556 ext. 1273 or [carroll@columbiaha.com](mailto:carroll@columbiaha.com).

**Columbia's Largest Workout:** on New Year's Day at the ARC, from 9 a.m. to noon, experienced fitness leaders are needed to lead 10 and 30 minute activities, including spinning, power walking, basketball, aerobics, running, cheerleading, jazzercise, yoga or stretching, cardio and strength activities. Contact 874-7499 or [volunteer@GoColumbiaMo.com](mailto:volunteer@GoColumbiaMo.com).

**MarineParents.com:** unpack and sort donations for care packages to be sent to deployed marines around the world, Thursdays, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Contact Nikki, [nikki@marinparents.com](mailto:nikki@marinparents.com) or 449-2003.

**Salvation Army:** ring bells during December or help with their Christmas Program Toy Shop. Contact Cindy Chapman, 442-3229 or [cynthia\\_chapman@usc.salvationarmy.org](mailto:cynthia_chapman@usc.salvationarmy.org).

**Youzeum:** help with fundraising, events, gift shop, tours, exhibit demonstrators and more. Call Tia Felts, 886-2006 or visit [www.youzeum.org](http://www.youzeum.org) for an application.

**American Red Cross:** volunteer for disaster teams, Armed Forces emergency services, and health & safety programs. Contact 445-9411 or [information@redcross-boone.org](mailto:information@redcross-boone.org).

**The Intersection:** commit one hour a week to work with children, tutor, or teach classes in such subjects as dance, art, cooking, and sewing. Call Dana Battison, 817-0089.

**Boone County Council on Aging:** assist seniors living in their homes with yard work, raking, and mowing. Call Susan, 443-1111.

**Preferred Hospice:** help with clerical work or provide companionship to a hospice patient. Contact Terra, 1-866-852-3310 or [twelch.col@preferredhospice.com](mailto:twelch.col@preferredhospice.com).

**Rainbow House Emergency Shelter:** help with daily activities and general care of the children, light office work, outreach, special yard/home projects and home and general maintenance. Contact Lori Stoll, 474-6600 or [lstoll@rainbowhousecolumbia.org](mailto:lstoll@rainbowhousecolumbia.org).

**Ronald McDonald House:** host snack drives, provide meals, or spend a weekday deep cleaning guestrooms. Contact Jennifer, 443-7666 or [jennifermiller@socket.net](mailto:jennifermiller@socket.net).

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

**The Wardrobe:** unpack, sort and hang clothing on Mon & Sat from 9 a.m. – noon. Call 442-3260.

## YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!





# DECEMBER 2008



<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thurs</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> Interfaith Council Mtg	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> Living Windows Festival	<b>6</b> Symphony League Tours Kwanzaa Celebration Santa Hotline MUMC Handel's Messiah
<b>7</b> Symphony League Tours Victorian Christmas MO Symphony Society Youth Concert	<b>8</b> VAC Christmas 25th Anniv. Ribbon Cutting & Distribution begins	<b>9</b> United Way Executive Directors Mtg	<b>10</b> Salvation Army distribution begins	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>14</b> Columbia Community Band Winter Concert	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> VAC Christmas Distribution Ends	<b>19</b> MU Graduation	<b>20</b> MU Graduation Toys for Tots Distribution
<b>21</b> Winter Solstice	<b>22</b> First day of Hanukkah Holiday Lights & Sights Tour VAC Closes at Noon	<b>23</b> VAC Closed	<b>24</b> VAC Closed	<b>25</b> Christmas Day VAC Closed	<b>26</b> First day of Kwanzaa VAC Closed	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> VAC Closed	<b>30</b> VAC Closed	<b>31</b> First Night 2009 VAC Closed			



# JANUARY 2009



<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thurs</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
				<b>1</b> New Year's Day VAC Closed	<b>2</b> VAC Closed	<b>3</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> VAC Opens Schools Open	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> Columbia Volunteer Network Mtg	<b>8</b> Youth Enrichment Committee Mtg	<b>9</b> Memorial Blood Drive Diversity Breakfast Reg. Deadline	<b>10</b>
<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> VAC Board Mtg	<b>15</b> Columbia Values Diversity Breakfast	<b>16</b> —	<b>17</b>
<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> M. L. King Jr. Day Schools Closed VAC Closed	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> Basic Needs Mtg	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> HERO Applications Mailed	<b>24</b>
<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> Chamber QMB	<b>28</b> Interfaith Council Mtg MU Volunteer Fair	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>

**VOLUNTARY ACTION CENTER  
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Crystal Hubbard – Admin. Assistant  
Lea Evans – Christmas Volunteer Coord.



The **Helping Hand Catalog of Volunteer Opportunities** (free) and the **Directory of Community Services in Boone County** (\$20.00) are available at VAC. If you want information about volunteering or social service agencies, call 874-2273 or stop by VAC for a catalog or directory.

**Coming up in 2009...**

**VAC HERO Awards**

HERO Award Nomination Deadline – Feb. 20

Hero Awards Reception – April 21



**VAC Homes for Computers**

Look for information on our website or in the February/March newsletter

**True/False Film Festival**

Feb 27, 28 and March 1



**End of the Year Giving?**

**Consider Making a Donation to VAC!**

VAC is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit social service agency. We rely on donations from the community to support the work we do throughout the year. If you would like to make a donation of cash, stocks, or mutual funds, call us at 874-2273. Donations will make it possible for us to continue helping low-income families and individuals with basic and emergency items such as prescriptions, food, hygiene items, shelter, transportation, and clothing.

**Thank you for your contribution – we appreciate your support!**

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