



# Voluntary Action Center

the heart of service in Boone County

## NEWSLETTER



800 N. Providence Rd. 573.874.2273 www.vacmo.org Dec. 2009 - Jan. 2010

## Voluntary Action Center is Moving! New location: 403A Vandiver Drive Move date: January 18, 2010

Voluntary Action Center will be moving its operations on January 18. This location at 403A Vandiver Drive is on the bus line and is right next to the DMV (Department of Motor Vehicles). VAC's phone numbers and hours will remain the same, although some interruption in service may occur during the move in mid-January.



### Columbia Values Diversity Celebration

The 2010 Columbia Values Diversity Celebration will take place on Thursday, January 14 from 7:00 a.m. until 8:45 a.m.

The event is at the Holiday Inn Expo Center. The annual celebration honors people and organizations who promote appreciation of diversity and cultural understanding in our community. The program also features an original artistic performance.

Registration for the event is due by January 8. The cost is \$13 per person and \$11 for children under 12. Scholarships are available upon request. Please call the Division of Human Services at 874-7488 (V) or 874-7356 (TTY) for registration information.

### 2010 Census

The census is taken every 10 years. It affects political representation and the allocation of billions of dollars in government funding. Filling out your census form helps Columbia and Missouri.



IT'S IN OUR HANDS

The census questionnaire is quick and easy to complete. Questions asked are name, relationship, gender, age and date of birth, race and whether the respondent owns or rents his or her home. The Census Bureau does not release or share individual information for 72 years.

Please take time to participate in this important activity. For more information visit [www.census.gov/2010census](http://www.census.gov/2010census).

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# Holiday Events

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Come to the District on Friday, December 4 for the Living Windows festival! From 6-8 p.m. stroll the streets of the District and take in the moving window displays in downtown stores. Enjoy holiday lights and shopping at this fun event!

Shelter Insurance will present its 44th annual Christmas tree lighting ceremony at 6 p.m. on December 4th. This free, public event will begin with seasonal music. After the tree lighting ceremony, Santa Claus and his helpers will appear with small gifts for the youngsters.

The Santa Hotline will be open on Saturday, December 5 from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m. Children can call and speak with Santa, Mrs. Claus or an elf. Call 874-7473 or 874-6335 that day only.

The City Kwanzaa Celebration will take place on Saturday, December 5 from 2 p.m. until 5 p.m. at Douglass High School. This is a free event with community awards, entertainment and a holiday feast!

The Women's Symphony League Home Holiday Tour will take place Saturday, December 5 and Sunday, December 6. Tickets are \$12 in advance and can be purchased at the Missouri Theatre Center for the Arts.

Stephens College presents "Dickens Victorian Christmas" December 6-8 at 7:30 p.m. in the Historic Senior Hall Parlors. This event features holiday music, refreshments and fun! Call (573) 876-7199 for more information.



MUMC Concert Series has three holiday offerings this season. On Sunday, December 6 they will present Handel's Messiah-Christmas Highlights at Jesse Hall. Saturday, December 12 will feature a Christmas Celebration and Messiah Sing-a-long with the Columbia Civic Orchestra at the Missouri Theatre. On Saturday, December 19 come to MUMC for Organ Music You Won't Hear in Church. Contact (573) 443-3111 for more information.

Santa's Splash and Dash is Friday, December 11 from 4-9:30 p.m. at the ARC Water Zone. Children will make crafts, swim, enjoy movies and eat snacks while you get your holiday shopping done. The cost is \$20 for first child and \$15 for each additional. Contact (573) 874-7460 for more information.

The Maplewood Barn Theatre presents "A Boone County Christmas" on Saturday, December 12 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Sunday, December 13 from 12 to 4 p.m. Come join the Maplewood Barn Theater Players for this annual holiday open house.



First Night 2010 will be celebrated on Thursday, December 31 in the District and at Stephens College. Festivities begin at 6:30 p.m. and end with a Grand Finale fireworks display in the Boone County Courthouse Square at midnight. Admission buttons are \$8 for ages 8 and up. The price is \$10 at the door.





# 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 7, 8, 14, or 15, 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.

## 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 1148 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 Callaway Bank, and Paxton Keeley Elementary. Thank you for making a difference in the lives of so many children and families!

We are especially grateful to Central Missouri Community Action 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 26th annual Christmas Program.  
You truly made a difference!**



## 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 VAC office to pick up an application. Applications are due December 9. Distribution will occur on December 18 and 19.

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# ATTENTION ALL VOLUNTEERS!!

**Mustard Seed Fair Trade:** volunteers are needed to help in the store, run the register, assist customers, organize merchandise and educate others about Fair Trade. Shifts are usually three hours once a week. Contact Jessica Canfield at 449-6166 or [info@mustardseedfairtrade.org](mailto:info@mustardseedfairtrade.org).

**Happy Tails Animal Sanctuary:** foster dogs and cats. Training is provided, and commitment is usually for 4-8 weeks. Call Susan or Jim, 445-1680

**Columbia Regional Hospital:** help as a mail courier, gift shop retailer, registration escort, or waiting room assistant. Contact Kay Perry Wheeler, 875-9218 or [perryka@health.missouri.edu](mailto:perryka@health.missouri.edu).

**Columbia Housing Authority:** help children with homework or recreational activities, train adults on computer skills, help with the food pantry, or assist seniors and the disabled with light housekeeping. Call 443-2556.

**Hospice Compassus:** be a caring volunteer for the hospice program. Contact Dale Willis, 443-8360 or [dale.willis@hospicecom.com](mailto:dale.willis@hospicecom.com).

**Preferred Hospice:** help terminally ill patients in central Missouri. Contact Terra Eavenson, 499-4540 or [teavenson.col@preferredhospice.com](mailto:teavenson.col@preferredhospice.com).

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

**Boone County Council on Aging:** rake leaves for seniors. Contact [bcca03@centurytel.net](mailto:bcca03@centurytel.net) or 443-1111.

**RSVP of Boone County:** RSVP and Boone County Council on Aging are sponsoring a training on volunteering with older adults. Two different sessions are available on December 2 from 1:30 -2:30 p.m. at Columbia Area Senior Center or December 10 from 6-7 p.m. at Lenoir Woods. Call 443-1111 for more information or to register.

**The Wardrobe:** help sort and hang clothing and other items. Contact Carol Smith, 442-3260.

**Bienstar Familiar:** child-care volunteers are needed one Monday evening each month at the health department. E-mail [volunteer@gocolumbiamo.com](mailto:volunteer@gocolumbiamo.com).

**Columbia Hospitality Corps:** volunteers are needed at the Lake of the Woods Visitors Center. E-mail [volunteer@gocolumbiamo.com](mailto:volunteer@gocolumbiamo.com).

**First Night Columbia:** volunteers are needed on New Year's Eve to sell buttons, usher, help with children's activities and serve as an ambassador. Contact [volunteer@GoColumbiaMo.org](mailto:volunteer@GoColumbiaMo.org) or 874-7499.

**Salvation Army:** bell ringers are needed for various shifts. Call 442-3229 for more information or to sign up.

**The Wardrobe:** help sort and hang clothing and other items. Contact Carol Smith at 442-3260.



# December 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> United Way Campaign Wrap Up	<b>2</b> Interfaith Meeting	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> Living Windows Festival	<b>5</b> WSL Holiday Home Tours
<b>6</b> WSL Holiday Home Tours	<b>7</b> VAC Christmas Distribution begins	<b>8</b> United Way Executive Director Meeting	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> Hanukkah Begins	<b>12</b>
<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> VAC Christmas Distribution ends	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> VAC Closed	<b>23</b> VAC Closed	<b>24</b> VAC Closed	<b>25</b> Christmas VAC Closed	<b>26</b>
<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> VAC Closed	<b>29</b> VAC Closed	<b>30</b> VAC Closed	<b>31</b> First Night Columbia VAC Closed		



# January 2010



<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thurs</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
					<b>1</b> VAC Closed	<b>2</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> VAC Reopens	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> Columbia Volunteer Network Meeting	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> BCRAA	<b>13</b> VAC Board Meeting	<b>14</b> Columbia Values Diversity Celebration	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> MLK Jr. Day VAC Moving Day!!!	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>24</b> /	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> Chamber QMB	<b>27</b> Basic Needs Meeting Interfaith Meeting	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>31</b>						



**Voluntary  
Action Center**

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in Boone County

**Voluntary Action Center  
800 North Providence, Suite 220  
Columbia, MO 65203**

Nonprofit Organization  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
Columbia, MO. 65201  
Permit No. 141

**VOLUNTARY ACTION CENTER**

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Admin. Assistant: Amy Myers**



The Helping Hand Catalog of Volunteer Opportunities and Directory of Community Services are great resources! Helping Hand Catalogs are free and available at VAC's office. The Directory costs \$20 and may be purchased at the VAC office. Call or stop by VAC's office to get one of these resources on agencies and volunteering!



**End of Year Giving**



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!**

**Coming in 2010...**

VAC Hero Awards  
Applications available in mid-January  
Nominations due February 22  
Hero Awards Reception April 20

Homes for Computers  
February (more details in next newsletter)

Visit VAC's website at [www.vacmo.org](http://www.vacmo.org) for more information on all of our events