



# Voluntary Action Center

the Heart of Service in Boone County

## NEWSLETTER



403A Vandiver Dr.

573.874.2273

[www.vacmo.org](http://www.vacmo.org)

February-March 2010

### Voluntary Action Center and the Columbia Daily Tribune present the 9th Annual Hero Awards



VAC and the Columbia Daily Tribune are pleased to present the 9th Annual Hero Awards on April 20 at Stoney Creek Inn. These awards are given to outstanding volunteers in the community. This year the awards will recognize seven exceptional volunteers in four new categories and the three original categories. Nomination forms can be submitted online at [columbiatribune.com](http://columbiatribune.com). Nomination forms are also available at VAC's office. The deadline for nominations is Monday, February 22. For more information, contact Cindy Mustard at 449-6959 or visit [www.columbiatribune.com](http://www.columbiatribune.com).

#### Seven Hero Awards will be presented:

- ◆ Outstanding Volunteer in Education or Literacy
- ◆ Outstanding Community Protection Volunteer
- ◆ Outstanding Healthcare Volunteer
- ◆ Outstanding Lifetime Achievement (presented by Landmark Bank)
- ◆ Individual Volunteer of the Year
- ◆ Group Volunteer of the Year
- ◆ Youth Volunteer of the Year (Individual or Group)

#### Homes for Computers



Voluntary Action Center partnered with the City of Columbia and the Downtown Optimist Club to provide Homes for Computers again this year. Applications were taken during the month of January. Lucky recipients of the computers will be notified the first week of February and the distribution will take place on Saturday, February 20. Special thanks to the City of Columbia for donating the computers, the Optimist Club for use of its building for distribution and Gary Kespohl and Central Missouri Computer Center for the modems.

#### VAC has moved!

VAC has moved to its new location at 403A Vandiver Drive, right next to the driver's license office. We will have an open house on Wednesday, March 3 from 4-5 p.m. so please stop by and visit!

Special thanks to Landmark Bank and the United Way for furniture donations. A big thank you to the Live United team from Truman VA Hospital for helping with the move. The team, organized by Stephen Gaither, included Bob Van Arsdale, Sallie Houser-Hanfelder, Patty Komula, Nathan Witt, Amy Pulliam, Stephen Roberts and Beverly Hagenhoff.

---

## 2009 Christmas Statistics

1,187 families were sponsored by

- ♦ 202 individuals and groups from 40 churches
- ♦ 232 groups from businesses, schools, universities, colleges, hospitals, service groups and other local organizations
- ♦ 173 individuals and their families

---

## Sample Thank You Cards from Families

To the family that made it happen – thank you for making my family's Christmas come true. The smiles on their faces when they opened their gifts were wonderful!

My family would like to thank you for the brightness you will bring into our home this Christmas. As hard working parents, we struggle day to day to support our family. It brings tears to my eyes and touches my heart knowing the children will have a great Christmas because of the grace you have given. It goes to show how great complete strangers can be.

I want to thank you so much! You are all wonderful people to reach out and think of the less fortunate. I am so grateful for this.

Thank you so very much for helping us make the best possible Christmas for our children! It is kind, caring, wonderful people like you that make the world go around! Please know that when we get on our feet we will remember the blessings that God has given us and pass them on. Remember it is not the gift that matters, it's that people whom I have never met cared enough to go to all this trouble to make sure our family had a happy holiday.



I was at a loss for words when I sat to write this note. If it weren't for this Christmas program, I would not be able to give my children any kind of Christmas. Thank you very much. You really are such a blessing and I thank your generosity.

We just want to let you know what a blessing you are for our family. I am a single mother who is barely making ends meet. I knew I would not be able to buy my daughter much of anything for Christmas. That just broke my heart. My daughter's Parent as Teacher gave me information about the Christmas program so I went after work and stood in line with everyone. It was unbelievable how many people needed help, including me. We can't thank you enough for sponsoring us. We deeply appreciate you and your family for helping less fortunate families. God will shine on you and your family for being so giving and caring for other people.

---

## Thank You, Christmas Volunteers!



VAC's 26th annual Christmas program was a huge success, thanks to the numerous volunteers who gave their time and talents in October and December. These volunteers helped make Christmas brighter for 1187 families in 2009 and we could not do it without them. Special thanks to Bob Duncan, Susan McQuilkin, David Finke, Lena Kiessling, Jon Nevel, Karen Rogers, Donna Murray, Annette Hayes, Callaway Bank, Bill Burnett, Billy Boyce, Larry Slates and the many other volunteers who worked with the staff to bring Christmas cheer to so many Boone County families.

With so many families to register and sponsor, our office space is inadequate, so VAC would like to thank Trinity Presbyterian Church and Central Missouri Community Action for generously donating use of their facilities for Christmas distribution and signup, respectively.

VAC's program finds sponsors not only for families with children, but also for elderly and disabled individuals that may be unable to pick up their gifts at our distribution center. VAC would like to thank Our Lady of Lourdes Parish, ACT, BCCA, Boone County Family Resources, CMAAA, Meals on Wheels, New Horizons and Refugee and Immigration Services for delivering the Christmas presents and food to these individuals.

Thanks to ALL our volunteers. We could not do it without you!

---

## Census 2010 - Make sure to get counted!

The Census is here! Beginning this month every doorstep in the United States will receive the Census Bureau's 10-question form. It is very important to complete and return this form. Census data is used for a variety of purposes including:

- ◆ to redraw the Congressional and state legislative districts
- ◆ to assist Congress with distribution of billions of dollars each year
- ◆ to assist states with distributing tax revenue between cities and counties
- ◆ to help companies identify new markets for facilities and stores
- ◆ to allocate road funding
- ◆ to determine where to build schools, fire stations and other government facilities
- ◆ and numerous others!

The Census Bureau, the City of Columbia and Boone County ask everyone to participate. Being counted will help us achieve an accurate population count and ensure the city, county and state receive funding to provide many services. Census data is confidential and your information is not shared with anyone, including other federal agencies or law enforcement entities. Please make every effort to be counted and fill out the Census form when it arrives.



IT'S IN OUR HANDS

---

## Agency Events

---



Mid-Missouri Access to Justice Project will be sponsoring Pro Se Divorce Clinics for Boone and Callaway County residents. These clinics will take place at the Boone County Courthouse in the Fourth Floor Training Room. All trainings begin at 3 p.m. on the following Tuesdays: February 2, March 2, April 6, May 4 and June 8. For more information or to register call 874-2292.

Meals On Wheels 15th Annual "Big Wheels" Fundraiser will take place February 4, 5, 8, 9, 10, 11 and 12. For only \$10, you can enjoy a delicious boxed lunch prepared by MU Hotel and Restaurant Management Department. For more information or to register contact 886-7554, [mowheels@gmail.com](mailto:mowheels@gmail.com) or visit [www.meals.columbia.missouri.org](http://www.meals.columbia.missouri.org).



The 5th Annual Rootin' Tootin' Chili Cookoff benefitting Boys and Girls Club is Saturday, February 13 at the Holiday Inn Select Expo Center. Come sample chili from 55 teams and enjoy live music from the Fried Crowdaddies and The Kansas City Street Band. Tickets are \$10 in advance and \$12 at the door. Tickets are available at several locations including Callaway Bank, Bass Pro Shops and Boys and Girls Club. For more information contact 874-1697.

Ronald McDonald House Charities annual gala, the Big Top Ball, is Thursday, February 18 at the Holiday Inn Select Expo Center. The festivities begin at 5:30 p.m. with entertainment, games and a silent auction, with dinner and program to follow at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$75. Register online at [www.rmhcolumbia.org](http://www.rmhcolumbia.org) or call 817-1747 for more information.



Gather a team and sign up to participate in Bowl for Kids Sake, benefitting Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Missouri. This year's bowl is scheduled for March 19 and 20 at Town and Country Lanes. Teams can register online at [www.bigsofcentralmo.org](http://www.bigsofcentralmo.org). For more information call 874-3677.

Rainbow House presents the 2010 Masquerade Ball on Saturday, March 20 at 7:30 p.m. at the University Club. The ball features live music by the Fried Crowdaddies and an auction. Masks and tickets can be purchased at Elly's Couture, Keeping Good Company and McAdams' Ltd. For more information contact Rachel at 474-6600.



**Important United Way Dates:**



**Thursday, February 4: Allocation Meeting for Proposals**

**Friday, March 19: United Way Proposals Due**

Is your agency having an event? If so, send the details to [projdir@vacmo.org](mailto:projdir@vacmo.org). The event will be put on the VAC calendar published in this newsletter.

---

## Community Events

---



### Black History Month Activities:

- ◆ Discussion about President Barack Obama's First Year of Presidency; Wednesday, February 10, 6:30-8 p.m. at the Armory. Come discuss and share thoughts about how President Obama's first year has gone.
- ◆ Gospel Explosion & Soul Food Dinner Musical Celebration; Sunday, February 28, 3 p.m. at St. Luke UMC. Come and enjoy lots of great gospel music and a soul food feast!
- ◆ Columbia Black History Exhibit: Organizations, schools, agencies, etc. call to reserve the exhibit for your site. Groups can view the presentation at your site on weekdays in February. Contact Bill at 874-6379.

The Columbia Chamber of Commerce and State Farm Insurance present the Mayor's Breakfast on Friday, February 5 at 7:30 a.m. Join fellow citizens at the Courtyard by Marriott to thank Mayor Hindman and the members of City Council for their service to the community. Cost is \$15. Visit [www.columbiamochamber.com](http://www.columbiamochamber.com) or call 817-9114 to register.



Metro Rotary is hosting Trivia Night on Friday, February 12. Doors open at 5:45 with a dinner buffet at 6 p.m. and trivia beginning at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$35 per person or \$250 for a table of eight. Proceeds benefit Metro Rotary charitable causes, including Voluntary Action Center. Call Marcia Machens at 424-7889 for tickets.



### Women's History Month Activities:

- ◆ Precious Moments/Women's Recognition Awards; Thursday, March 18, 6:30 p.m. at the Armory. Share a precious moment with that special woman in your life to show her how important she is to you.
- ◆ 3 on 3 Women's Basketball Tournament; March 8-11 at Douglass High School Gym. Register for this event by February 26. Price is \$30 per team. Call 874-6378 for information.
- ◆ Women's History Exhibit: Organizations, schools, agencies, etc. call to reserve the exhibit for your site. Groups can view the presentation at your site on weekdays in March. Call Bill at 874-6379.

All aboard for the free Train Show on Saturday, March 20 at Paquin Tower. This event runs from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.



Grab your flashlight and basket for the second annual Flashlight Easter Egg Hunt on Thursday, March 25 at Stephens Lake Park. Cost is \$7. Call 874-7460 to register.

The Voluntary Action Center Newsletter is published bimonthly by the Voluntary Action Center  
403A Vandiver Dr., Columbia, MO 65202. Vol. 13 Issue 1 February-March 2010  
Visit [www.vacmo.org](http://www.vacmo.org) for more information about VAC's programs, or to sign up for VAC's e-newsletter.

---



# ATTENTION ALL VOLUNTEERS!!

Central Missouri Community Action needs volunteers to assist in transferring and assigning files to a paperless computer system. Call 442-6837 ext. 25 or email Megan-Lee@showmeaction.org.

Columbia Aquatic Restoration Project volunteer classes will be held from 6 to 8:30 p.m. March 1, 8 and 15 at the Activity and Recreation Center. After the class, participants are asked to share at least 18 hours of service on aquatic projects in area parks. Contact volunteer@gocolumbiamo.com.

Columbia Housing Authority needs volunteers to help children with homework or activities, train adults on computers, help with the food pantry and assist seniors and the disabled with housekeeping. Call 443-2556.

Family Counseling Center needs volunteers to help with office work, yard work, repairs and curriculum development. Call 443-2204 or email skammerich@fccmo.org.

Mustard Seed Fair Trade needs volunteers to run the register, assist customers and organize merchandise. Call 449-6166 or email info@mustardseedfairtrade.org.

Rainbow House Emergency Shelter needs volunteers to help with activities and child care, office work, outreach, home projects and maintenance. Contact Lori at 474-6600 or email lstole@rainbowhousecolumbia.org.

Ronald McDonald House Charities seeks volunteers for a variety of duties, including event, family room and house volunteers, video production and editing. For more information call 443-7666 or email jennifermiller@socket.net.

St. Francis House needs volunteers to interact with residents, help prepare meals and other activities at the shelter. Call Ruth at 443-1927 or Steve at 875-4913.

Stand By Me: Sharing the Journey seeks mentors for third-, fourth- and fifth-graders at West Boulevard Elementary School for one hour a week. Call 214-3670 or email zburk@columbia.k12.mo.us.

Literacy Action Corps needs volunteers to teach adults to read and teach English as a second language. Training will be provided February 20 and 27 at First Baptist Church. Call 442-4280 or email lacolumbia@yahoo.com.

True/False Film Festival still needs 200 additional volunteers for the fantastic annual film festival on February 25-28. Visit [www.truefalse.org/volunteernow](http://www.truefalse.org/volunteernow).

## YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!



## February 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>	<b>2</b> Groundhog Day	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> UW Allocation Mtg. MOW Big Wheels begins	<b>5</b> Mayor's Breakfast	<b>6</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> BCRA Mtg.	<b>10</b> VAC Board Mtg.	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> Metro Rotary Trivia Night	<b>13</b> Polar Bear Plunge Rootin' Tootin' Chili Cookoff
<b>14</b> Valentine's Day	<b>15</b> Presidents' Day VAC Closed Schools Closed	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> Ronald McDonald House Big Top Ball	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> Homes for Computers Distribution
<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> HERO applications due	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> Interfaith Council Basic Needs Mtg.	<b>25</b> True/False Film Festival	<b>26</b> True/False Film Festival	<b>27</b> True/False Film Festival
<b>28</b> True/False Film Festival						



## March 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>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> VAC Open House	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> BCRA Mtg. UW Exec. Dir. Mtg.	<b>10</b> VAC Board Mtg.	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>14</b> Daylight Savings Begins	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> Taste of Mid- Missouri	<b>17</b> St. Patrick's Day	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> Bowl for Kids Sake UW Proposals Due	<b>20</b> Bowl for Kids Sake Rainbow House Masquerade Ball
<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> Basic Needs Mtg.	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b> Palm Sunday	<b>29</b> MU Spring Break Begins	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> Interfaith Council			



**Voluntary  
Action Center**  
the Heart of Service  
in Boone County

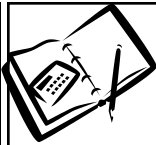
**Voluntary Action Center  
403A Vandiver Dr.  
Columbia, MO 65202**

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

Return Service Requested

**VOLUNTARY ACTION CENTER  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**  
President: John Dean  
Vice President: Alex George  
Secretary: Lynn Cole  
Treasurer: Bob Duncan  
Past President: Cathy Scroggs  
Steve Alexander  
Shawn Barnes  
Jason Becking  
Andrea Benna  
Billy Borgmeyer  
Leigh Britt  
Brian Cottle  
Kim England  
Lea Evans  
Susan Gowin  
Jackie Hawks  
Gwen Jones  
Raymond Massey  
Suzanne McDavid  
Mark Monroe  
Rick Ravenhill  
Molly Read  
Jolene Schulz  
Andrea Shelton  
Andrew Spaedy  
Scott Southerland

**STAFF**  
Executive Dir.: Cindy Mustard  
Project Director: Marissa Todd  
Finance Admin.: Nancy Duncan  
Social Services Specialists: Ron Schmidt  
& Christina Montgomery  
Admin. Assistant: Amy Myers



VAC is tabulating the number of volunteers who donated their time to any agency, church, school, group, or organization in Boone County in 2009. We would appreciate if you would help us by telling us the number of volunteers along with the total sum of hours donated to your group or agency by Feb. 19, 2010. Please e-mail this information to Cindy Mustard at [dir@vamo.org](mailto:dir@vamo.org) or call our office at 874-2273.

**Mark Your Calendar**



- ◆ Service Learning Fair, April 7
- ◆ National Volunteer Week, April 19-23
- ◆ Hero Awards Reception, April 20
- ◆ National Youth Service Days, April 23-25
- ◆ Clean Up Columbia, April 24
- ◆ Earth Day Volunteer Fair, April 25
- ◆ Spring Into Action, May 25

Looking for a volunteer opportunity? Pick up a Helping Hand catalog! With over 200 agencies listed, there are opportunities for all interests. This free resource is available at VAC's office so call or stop by today.

