



Voluntary Action Center

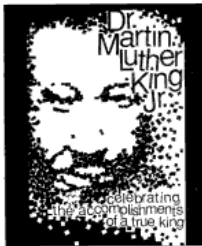
the Heart of Service in Boone County

NEWSLETTER



403A Vandiver Dr. 573.874.2273 www.vacmo.org Dec. 2010 - Jan. 2011

Columbia Values Diversity Celebration



The Columbia Values Diversity Celebration will take place on Thursday, January 13 at 7 a.m. at the Holiday Inn Expo Center. This annual breakfast celebrates the life and teaching of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. through an artistic program and student writings. The theme for this year's event is "Unity in Diversity!" The 14th annual Columbia Values Diversity Awards will be given to an individual and organization who have made significant impacts in the community by promoting appreciation of diversity and cultural understanding.

Tickets for the breakfast are \$14. Scholarships are available. For more information, to register or for accommodations for disability contact the Division of Human Services at 874-7488 or 874-7356 (TTY). Registration information is also available online at www.GoColumbiaMo.com.

Week of the Emotionally Healthy Child



January 23 through 29 is the Week of the Emotionally Healthy Child. The Children's Project, a coalition of human service agencies and educational institutions in Columbia, will be putting on a series of events during this week that will provide valuable information to parents, care providers and anyone else interested in learning about children's issues.

During this week Dr. Gerald Newmark, Ph.D. will be on hand. Dr. Newmark, author of *How to Raise Emotionally Healthy Children*, is an expert on promoting the emotional health of children and will provide great knowledge to the community on this topic. Watch VAC's newsletter and website in January for more information on events.

Save the Date—VAC Trivia Night



Voluntary Action Center will be hosting its first ever Trivia Night on Thursday, March 3, 2011 at the Knights of Columbus Hall. This event will help raise money to support VAC's numerous programs. Cost will be \$250 per table or \$25 per person.

Each round of trivia will feature an appetizer from a different restaurant here in Columbia. Mark your calendars now for March 3 and come enjoy food, trivia and fun! More information will be coming in 2011 so watch the newsletter and our website.

If you are interested in helping with this event please contact VAC at 449-6959.

Holiday Events

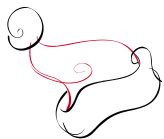
The Rotary Club of Columbia and Columbia Entertainment Company present a charity benefit dinner and show of Nunsensations! on December 2 and 3 at the Hampton Inn. Proceeds benefit several local charities including Voluntary Action Center. Tickets are \$45. For more information contact 875-1904 or stop by the Hampton Inn.



Santa's Splash and Dash is at the ARC on Friday, December 3 from 4-9:30 p.m. Parents, register your children for a fun night of Christmas crafts, swimming and food while you get your holiday shopping done. Cost is \$20 per child. For more information or to register contact Parks and Rec at 874-7460.

The Living Windows Festival will take place in Downtown Columbia on Friday, December 3 from 6-8 p.m. Come enjoy the festive décor of the season while shopping at your favorite downtown stores. For more information contact 442-6816.

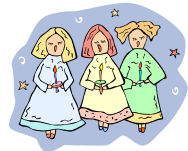
The Women's Symphony League will host the 27th annual Holiday Home Tour on December 4 and 5. Tickets are \$12 in advance and \$15 at the door. Proceeds benefit the Missouri Symphony Society and Women's Symphony League. For more information visit www.motheatre.org.



Call the North Pole and speak to Santa on Saturday, December 4. The Santa Hotline will operate from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m. Children between the ages of 3-10 can call 874-7473 or 874-6335 and speak with Santa, Mrs. Claus or the elves.

The City Kwanzaa Celebration is Saturday, December 4 at Douglass High School from 2-5 p.m. There will be community awards, entertainment and a holiday feast. For more information contact 874-7460.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Dickens will host a Victorian Christmas at Stephens College December 5-7 at 7:30 p.m. There will be holiday music, period dress and refreshments. Tickets are \$14. For more information contact the box office at 876-7199.



Access Arts Holiday Sale Fundraiser is Sunday, December 5 and December 12 from 1-5 p.m. at 1724 McAlester. All proceeds benefit outreach and scholarship programs. For more information contact 875-0275.

The Columbia Performing Arts Center Holiday Recital is Saturday, December 11 at 11 a.m. and 6 p.m. Proceeds from the recital benefit VAC and the Humane Society. Tickets are only \$5. For more information visit www.cpac-dance.com.

The 16th Annual First Night Columbia Celebration will take place in Downtown Columbia beginning at 4 p.m. on December 31. Tickets are \$8 for children 8 and under and \$10 for adults. For more information visit www.firstnightcolumbia.org.



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 6, 7, 13, or 14, 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 1129 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 Paxton Keeley Elementary and Barnes and Noble. Thank you for making a difference in the lives of so many children and families!

We are especially grateful to the Columbia Housing Authority for donating the use of the Blind Boone Center 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, Sarah Dawson, Billy Boyce, Bill Burnett and Larry Slate 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 27th annual Christmas Program.
You truly made a difference!**



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Visit www.vacmo.org for more information about VAC's programs, or to sign up for VAC's e-newsletter.



ATTENTION ALL VOLUNTEERS!!

The Santa Hotline on Saturday, December 4 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. needs volunteers to help with this fun event keeping the magic in Christmas for kids who call Santa. Answer calls in character as Santa, Mrs. Claus, an elf, etc. so parents can be “in the know”. There are two hour shifts available and if you can help contact 874-7499 or volunteer@GoColumbiaMo.com.

The Wardrobe Inc. at 715 Park Ave. welcomes organized volunteer groups of 4 – 6 men or women ages 16+ to manage and handle sales at the store on Saturday morning from 9:00 a.m. to noon. Call 573-999-7087 for scheduling information.

Daffodil Days of Boone County , a program of the American Cancer Society, will need volunteers to help with presales, coordination & planning of the event, wrap and package the daffodils and delivery drivers. The actual event will be March 14th but many volunteer jobs are needed beginning in January. If you can help contact Aaron Boone at aboone@relayonline.org or call 1-800-ACS-2345.

First Night Columbia is looking for volunteers to help with children’s activities, sell admission buttons, serve as ushers, and help with various other tasks. If you can lend some time contact volunteer@GoColumbiaMo.com or call 874-7499.

TreeKeepers and CARP are two environmental programs of the City. If you would like to be involved in either of these endeavors contact volunteer@GoColumbiaMo.com or call 874-7499. Training is provided for both of these projects in January.

Special Olympics/Adapted Basketball begins on November 29 and runs through March 22. Volunteers are needed Monday and Tuesday evenings at New Haven School from 6-8 p.m. Contact volunteer@gocolumbiamo.com or call 874-7499.

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.

Boone County Council on Aging needs volunteers for snow shoveling and other yard work for seniors living independently. Contact 443-1111 if you can lend a hand.

Preferred Hospice volunteers needed to fill many different roles within our organization helping terminally ill patients all over central Missouri. Contact Valen Kastens for more information at 499-4540 or vkastens.col@preferredhospice.com.

YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!



December 2010



<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thurs</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
			1 Mayor's Appreciation B'fast Interfaith Council	2 UW Campaign Celebration	3 Living Windows Festival	4 WSL Holiday Home Tours
5 WSL Holiday Home Tours	6 VAC Christmas Distribution begins	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14 UW Director's Mtg.	15	16 VAC Christmas Distribution ends	17	18 MU Graduation
19	20	21	22 VAC Closed	23 VAC Closed	24 VAC Closed	25 Christmas VAC Closed
26	27 VAC Closed	28 VAC Closed	29 VAC Closed	30 VAC Closed	31 First Night Columbia VAC Closed	



January 2011



<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thurs</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
						1
2	3 VAC Reopens	4	5 Columbia Volunteer Network Meeting	6	7	8
9	10	11 BCRAA	12 VAC Board Meeting	13 Columbia Values Diversity Celebration	14	15
16	17 MLK Jr. Day VAC Closed	18	19 Basic Needs Mtg. Point in Time Count	20	21 HERO Apps Mailed	22
23 /	24 /	25 Chamber QMB	26 Non-profit Consortium Interfaith Council	27	28	29
30	31					



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in Boone County

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403A Vandiver Dr.
Columbia, MO 65202**

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Christmas help is still available through Toys for Tots and the City's Parks and Rec program at the Armory. Toys for Tots applications are available at the VAC office. The Parks and Rec distribution will be at the Armory. For more information on this program contact 874-7460.



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 2011...

VAC Hero Awards
 Applications available in mailed January 21
 Nominations due February 18
 Hero Awards Reception April 12
 Homes for Computers in February
 Visit VAC's website at www.vacmo.org for more information on all of our events