



Voluntary Action Center

the Heart of Service in Boone County

NEWSLETTER



403A Vandiver Dr. (573) 874-2273 www.vacmo.org Dec. 2011 - Jan. 2012



Now that all of the VAC Christmas Program families have been sponsored, how else can you help?



1. Monetary Donations

Sometimes sponsors find they have taken on more than they can handle and/or they have family emergencies and are unable to purchase gifts at the last minute. Monetary donations help us provide for our clients in these situations. We use the money to write vouchers to area stores for gifts and food. You can bring or send cash or a check to the VAC office, which is located at 403A Vandiver Dr.

2. Toys Or Other Gift items

We use donated gifts to supplement a family's gifts or to provide gifts when a sponsor is not able to bring gifts as planned. Please bring these items to Trinity Presbyterian Church (1600 West Rollins) on December 5 or 6 between 8:30 a.m. and 4:00 p.m.

3. Gift Cards (Mall/Walmart/Movie Theaters/Etc.)

These are very good for filling in gifts for teenagers. Gift cards can be brought to the VAC office, which is located at 403A Vandiver Dr.

4. Book Drives

New books are great gifts for all ages. These can be brought to Trinity Presbyterian Church (1600 West Rollins) on December 5 or 6 between 8:30 a.m. and 4:00 p.m.

5. Volunteer In December!

Volunteers are needed in December to assist with the collection and distribution of gifts at Trinity Presbyterian Church (1600 West Rollins). Dates/shifts include:

- December 5, 6, 12, and 13 (8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., two-hour shifts)
- December 7 and 14 (8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., two-hour shifts)
- December 8 and 15 (8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., two-hour shifts)

For more information about how you can help make the holidays brighter for Boone County families, contact the VAC office at 874-2273 or vac@vacmo.org.

**Thanks To Dillard's For Making Christmas A Little Bit Brighter
For 11 Local Families By Donating Christmas Decorations**



**Christmas Assistance Is Still
Available Through Toys For Tots**

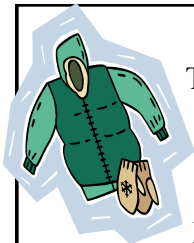
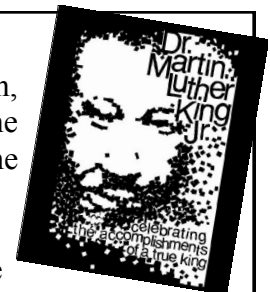
If a family has not already signed up for one of the other area Christmas Programs, they may still sign up for Toys For Tots at the VAC office, which is located at 403A Vandiver Drive. Call 874-2273 for more information.

2012 Columbia Values Diversity Celebration

Register now for the 19th Annual Columbia Values Diversity Celebration, scheduled for Thursday, January 12, 2012 from 7:00 to 8:45 a.m. at the Holiday Inn Select Expo Center. Pre-registration is required and the deadline is 5 p.m., Jan. 6, 2012.

The cost is \$14 per person. Scholarships are available upon request. Call the Division of Human Services at 874-7488 for registration information. A registration form also is available on the City of Columbia's web site at www.GoColumbiaMo.com.

The theme of this year's celebration is, "One Community, Many Stories." A breakfast and live music will be followed by the presentation of the 15th Annual Columbia Values Diversity Awards.



7th Annual Warm Up Columbia A Success

Thanks to the Voluntary Action Center's (VAC's) partnership with Kathy Hull, Commerce Bank, local churches, and other community members, over 350 low-income persons received over 2,500 coats, blankets, stocking caps, gloves, mittens, and scarves on October 22 at the Armory. Thanks to everyone for their participation this year.

**Honoring A Heart For Service:
Celebrating The Career
Of Cindy Mustard**

Approximately 175 people gathered on Thursday, October 27 at the Tiger Hotel in Columbia to honor the career of Cindy Mustard, who recently retired as the Executive Director of the Voluntary Action Center (VAC) after 20 years of service to the agency and to the community. All proceeds from this event were donated in Cindy's honor to the VAC Youth Enrichment Fund and the newly renamed Cindy Mustard Endowment Fund.

Since Cindy took its helm over 20 years ago, VAC added the following special programs:

- Youth Enrichment Fund
- Homes For Computers
- Lunch in the Park
- Christmas in July
- Back to School Health Fair
- Warm Up Columbia
- Hero Awards

...in addition to VAC's two major annual fundraising events, Spring Into Action and Trivia Night.



*Above:
Alex George,
VAC Board
President,
and
Cindy Mustard*

*Right:
Cindy and
her heart of
service cake*

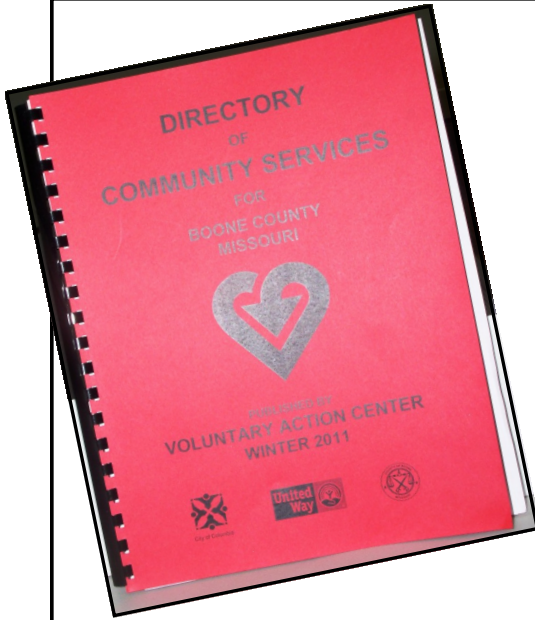


Veterans United™
Foundation

**Veterans United Home Loans Presents
The Voluntary Action Center's
2nd Annual Trivia Night**
Thursday, February 16 at the Knights of Columbus Hall
For more information, contact the VAC office
at 874-2273 or vac@vacmo.org.



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



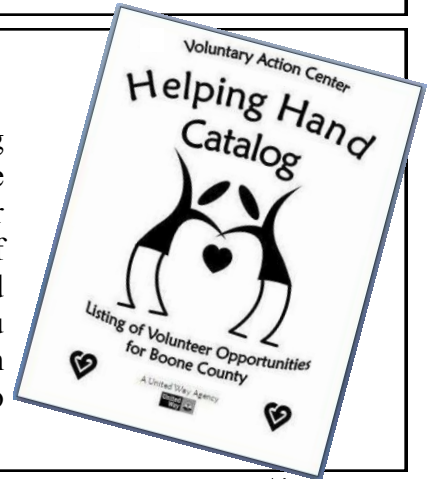
The Directory Of Community Services

Every three years, the Voluntary Action Center (VAC) compiles and prints the “Directory of Community Services for Boone County.” This is a valuable resource directory of all social service organizations, support groups, and hotlines in Boone County. It is widely used by businesses, social service agencies, schools, churches, and other organizations throughout Boone County. VAC just updated the directory in Spring of 2011.

To cover its costs, VAC only charges \$25 per directory. To purchase one or more, you may contact the VAC office at 874-2273 or vac@vacmo.org. In addition, you may come by the office at 403A Vandiver Drive to purchase your directories.

Helping Hand Catalogs

The Voluntary Action Center (VAC) developed the “Helping Hand Catalog” to help individuals, families, and groups decide where to volunteer their time by listing 200+ volunteer opportunities in our community. Often the most difficult part of volunteering is getting started. VAC makes the “Helping Hand Catalog” available at no cost. To get one or more copies, you may contact the VAC office at 874-2273 or vac@vacmo.org. In addition, you may come by the office at 403A Vandiver Drive to get your free copies.



<http://www.vacmo.org>

Volunteers — Find Your Opportunity/Share Your Opportunities

If you are looking for volunteer opportunities, go to www.vacmo.org and click on the "Volunteers Find Your Opportunity" button to find everything you need to get started.

If you want to list your volunteer needs, go to www.vacmo.org and click on the "Organizations Share Your Opportunities" button.

End Of The Year Giving — Supporting VAC

Charitable donations make the Voluntary Action Center (VAC) possible. As a donor, you help VAC serve our community in numerous ways, and make a real difference in the lives of local people. All donations to VAC stay in Boone County, serving people in need. VAC is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit agency. Donations to VAC are tax-deductible.



EXPERIENCE THE JOY

VOLUNTEER

Voluntary Action Center will need volunteers in December to assist in the collection and distribution of gifts at Trinity Presbyterian Church. Dates/shifts include: Dec. 5, 6, 12, and 13 (8:30 to 4:30) in two hour shifts; Dec. 7 and 8 (8:30 to 12:30) in two hour shifts; Dec. 8 and 15 (8:00 to 4:30) in two hour shifts. If you want to help make the holidays

brighter, contact Amelia at 874-2273 or hol@vacmo.org.

Boone County Council on Aging needs volunteers to rake leaves. If you have an hour or two a month, consider volunteering to rake leaves for a low-income senior. Contact 443-1111 or email amadi.swartz@booneaging.org.

Columbia Second Chance is looking for volunteers to help with dogs and cats at their Adoption Center located 12 miles west of Columbia on exit 111, Highway 179. The agency is open Fridays and Sundays from 1-5 and Saturdays 12-5. The only requirement is a love for animals. Training is provided. Call 573-445-5598 or 660-882-5050 or email columbiasecondchance@hotmail.com for more information.

City of Columbia needs help for the Adopt-A-Spot Beautification program. They need bed evaluators with horticulture knowledge to provide praise and suggestions to adopters, as well as plumbing assistants to turn water meters off in the fall and on in the spring and assist in trouble shooting. These jobs can be split among two to four volunteers. Contact volunteer@gocolumbiamo.com for more information.

Community Recreation program of Parks & Recreation needs volunteers to be keyboard/piano instructors and to help with the City-Wide Flag Line, Sho-Me Sho-Stoppers Hip Hop Dance Club and the Reflections Poetry Society. If you are interested in any of these programs contact volunteer@gocolumbiamo.com.

Phoenix Programs needs a volunteer Recreation Coordinator to assist with recreational activities of adult male program participants. Times are weekday lunch hours and Saturday afternoons. If interested contact Judy Prevo at 875-8880 or jprevo@phoenixprogramsinc.org.

Rainbow House needs volunteers to help in their office with filing, answering phones, etc. If you have some time to spare call Connie Stith at 474-6600.

Ronald McDonald House Charities is currently recruiting for event volunteers to assist with a variety of fundraising events throughout the year. If you enjoy the fast paced environment of special events and receive satisfaction from helping a worthy organization contact Summer Collins at 443-7666 or summer@rmhcmidmo.org. Volunteer groups are also needed to hold snack/supply drives for the residents of Ronald McDonald House. Contact Jennifer if you can help in this manner.





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403A Vandiver Dr.
Columbia, MO 65202**

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

Return Service Requested

VAC BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President: Alex George
Vice President: Shawn Barnes
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Treasurer: Rick Ravenhill
Past President: John Dean
Jason Becking
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Lynn Cole
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Susan Gowin
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Gwen Jones
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Rev. Raymond Massey
Suzanne McDavid
Kaileigh McGinley
Dianne Orton
Hillary Pfeffer
Cathy Scroggs
Emily Smith
Scott Sutherland
Lin Teasley
Llona Weiss

VAC STAFF

Executive Director: Nick Foster
Project Director: Ron Schmidt
Finance Administrator: Amy Myers
Social Services Specialists: Christina
Montgomery and Logan Park
Administrative Assistant: Judi Bloss

Looking Ahead...

- ♦ **VAC Trivia Night: 2/16**
- ♦ **Hero Awards: 4/10**
- ♦ **VAC Spring Into Action: 5/22**



Keeping Up With VAC On The World Wide Web

Want to keep up-to-date with the happenings at the Voluntary Action Center (VAC)? You can sign up for our e-newsletter (<http://www.vacmo.org/index.php/page/newsletter-sign-up>), LIKE us on Facebook (<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Voluntary-Action-Center/45203766941>), follow us on Twitter (<http://twitter.com/#!/vacmo>), or look us up on our website at www.vacmo.org.



Join the conversation and be the first to know about new programs, events, and other exciting things happening at VAC.