



Voluntary Action Center

the Heart of Service in Boone County

NEWSLETTER



403A Vandiver Dr. 573.874.2273 www.vacmo.org February-March 2011

Voluntary Action Center, Columbia Daily Tribune and Landmark Bank present the 10th Annual Hero Awards



Nominations are now being accepted for the 10th annual Hero Awards. Awards will be presented in seven categories this year in a ceremony to be held on Tuesday, April 12 at Stoney Creek Inn. Nominations are due by Friday, February 18, and nominations from last year may also be updated for re-consideration in 2011. Those honored in each category will also have a \$400 donation made to their organization.

For more information on the Hero Awards, call VAC at 449-6959 or email HeroAwards2011@gmail.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

Homes for Computers sign up is continuing through February 14 at the VAC office. Current VAC clients who have children in Columbia Public Schools can enter the drawing. Families who received a computer in the past are not eligible. Winners will be notified after February 15 and computers will be handed out February 26.

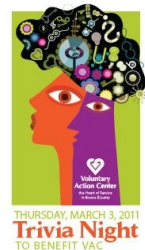
Special thanks to the City of Columbia for furnishing the computers, Gary Kespohl for providing discounted modems and the Downtown Optimist Club for the space for distribution.

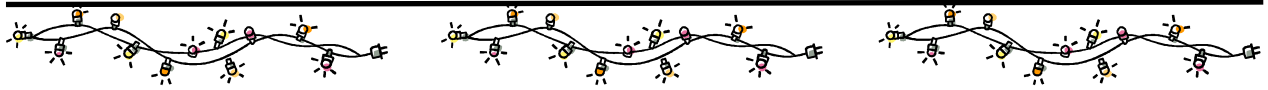
VAC Trivia Night

Get your team together now for VAC's first Trivia Night, Thursday, March 3 at the Knights of Columbus Hall. Doors open at 5 p.m. and trivia starts at 6 p.m.

Guests will enjoy delicious appetizers from area restaurants while they compete to be the Trivia Night champions.

Cost is \$30 per person or \$200 for a table of eight. Registration forms are available at www.vacmo.org. All proceeds benefit VAC and its numerous programs. For more information call 449-6959.

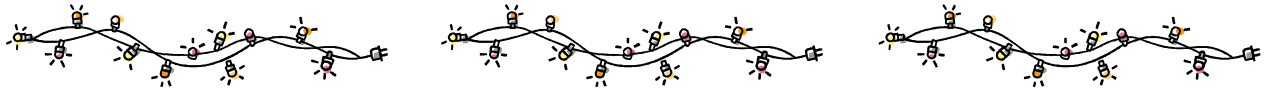




2010 Christmas Statistics

1,175 families were sponsored by

- ◆ 188 individuals and groups from 34 churches
- ◆ 229 groups from businesses, schools, universities, colleges, hospitals, service groups and other local organizations
- ◆ 196 individuals and their families



Sample Thank You Cards from Families

Thank you so much for taking the time to care about others. You really made our Christmas much better.

My family and I are grateful. I believe when others help people in need that it comes back around. It might be happiness which is the best gift of all.

I cannot thank you enough. As we all know with everything going on in the world it is hard to get by with two incomes, let alone one as a single parent. I have tried to teach my children that Christmas is not about who has the most presents. It is about being thankful that we are all together as a family and that our home is filled with love and joy. It is hard to teach children this when they are so young and not feel like you are letting them down. I really cannot thank your family enough for helping us this Christmas.

Thank you for making our Christmas more jolly this year!



Thank you to all the volunteers that spent their time to make our Christmas more joyful, and to our sponsors for all their donations. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

Thank you very much for the blessings you have given us this Christmas season. Without your help we wouldn't have been able to have much of a Christmas. We will pay it forward as you have done for us this holiday season.

This was our first time signing up for the Christmas program, so when we got our letter my heart soared. With three bouncing, growing boys I'm always on the move but feel like I have nothing to give them but love. Thank you for helping us in more ways than you know.

I just wanted to let you know how much this means to our family. I got laid off and cannot give my children a good Christmas. I hope to one day be in a position to do the same for a family in need. I hope God blesses you tenfold because you are angels. Thank you!

Thank You, Christmas Volunteers!



VAC's 27th 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 1175 families in 2010 and we could not do it without them. Special thanks to Bob Duncan, Susan McQuilkin, David Finke, Lena Kiessling, Jon Nevel, Mary Patton, Donna Murray, Annette and Larry Barnes, 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 Columbia Housing Authority 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!

May the spirit of Christmas be always with you. May God bless you always.
Thank you so much for giving my children an unforgettable Christmas.

Words can't express my gratitude to you this holiday season. As a single mom I struggle to pay bills all year long and with the extra expenses this time of year it breaks my heart I can't give my kids a great Christmas. Thank you for the opportunity to give them the Christmas they deserve. You are an angel.

Thank you for putting smiles on my children's faces this Christmas. We will have presents under the tree thanks to you!

I'm so thankful for people like you who find it in their heart to do things for people in need. May God bless you for your kind heart and generosity. We appreciate your willingness to give.



I cannot tell you how much this means. We have had a house fire, a death and a job loss this year. We are trying to recover and though our basic needs are met, extras are not an option. I hope one day to return this generosity! Bless you and your family!

Agency Spotlight



Junior Achievement, founded in 1919, is the world's largest organization dedicated to educating students in grades K-12 about entrepreneurship, work readiness and financial

literacy through experiential, hands-on programs. JA currently has 24 programs designed for students at every grade level, Kindergarten through 12th grade, reaching over 9 million students per year worldwide. JA programs are taught by volunteers in inner cities, suburbs, and rural areas throughout the United States of America and in 122 countries around the world.

Junior Achievement of Mississippi Valley covers portions of eastern Missouri and southwestern Illinois, including Columbia. Junior Achievement of Mississippi Valley, Inc. has successfully provided JA programs for the children in the St. Louis Metropolitan area since 1943. It is the 4th largest JA office in the United States. Guided by a volunteer board of directors comprised of sixty dedicated business, civic and educational leaders and assisted by over 7,500 adult volunteers, JAMVI served over 131,000 students in nearly 800 schools throughout its territory during the 2009-2010 school year. A non-profit organization, Junior Achievement of Mississippi Valley, Inc. is supported by funds from foundations, area businesses and individuals.

Junior Achievement works with volunteers, business partners, policy makers and educational institutions to equip youth with the skills they need to survive in an ever complex and changing global economy. JA wants to ensure students in Columbia know "who's who" in the area, the companies and businesses that exist for potential future careers, as well as have the tools necessary to pursue their entrepreneurial ambitions. JA is helping students succeed in school and in life, ensuring a vibrant and sustainable community in Columbia.

This year, JA programs are taking place at Benton Elementary, Blue Ridge Elementary, Fairview Elementary, Two Mile Prairie Elementary, Midway Heights Elementary, Rock Bridge Elementary, Russell Elementary, Shepard Elementary, West Junior High, Oakland Junior High, Jefferson Junior High, Rock Bridge High School and Hickman High School. JA has recruited an advisory board here in Columbia and is working toward offering these programs in even more Columbia Schools this academic year. JA is looking for volunteers to help take these programs into the school. To learn more about Junior Achievement or how to volunteer, contact Meredith Knopp at mknopp@jastl.org or call (636) 728-0707 x 201.

Save the Date: April 28, 2011
Courtyard by Marriott 5 –7 p.m.
Are you smarter than a JA 5th Grader?
Come find out at this JA fundraiser!

Community Events

Meals on Wheels annual Big Wheels fundraiser will take place February 3 through 11. For \$10 you can get a delicious lunch delivered to your office and help a great cause. For more information or to register visit www.mealsonwheelscolumbia.org.



Boone Hospital and the Boone Hospital Foundation present the 11th annual Heart Fair on Thursday, February 17 at the Hampton Inn. Free health screenings will be provided including blood pressure checks, full cholesterol panel, blood glucose and body mass index. Registration is recommended but not required. Register by calling 815-6400.

The first ever Black History Month Talent Show will be held on Thursday, February 17 at 6:30 p.m. in the Douglass High School Gym. Come out and see singers, dancers, rappers and more. This event is free and open to the public. For more information call 874-7460.

Ronald McDonald House will host its annual gala on Thursday, February 17 at the Holiday Inn Executive Center. Join them for a Sweet Adventure! The evening begins at 6:00 p.m. and tickets are \$75 per person. For more information or to register visit www.rmhcmidmo.org.



Boys and Girls Club presents the 6th annual Rootin' Tootin' Chili Cook-off on Saturday, February 19 at the Holiday Inn Expo Center. Tickets are \$10 in advance and \$12 at the door. For more information visit www.rtchilicookoff.com or call 823-6638.

Come share a precious moment with the special women in your life at the Women's Recognition Awards on Thursday, March 17 at 6:30 p.m. at The Armory. This is a free event. For more information call 874-7460.

All aboard for the Hobo Joe Train Show on Saturday, March 19 from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m. at Paquin Towers. Come see a wide variety of trains, photos and movies about rail travel. For more information on this free event contact 874-7460.



The Missouri Restaurant Association presents the annual Taste of Mid-Missouri event on Monday, March 21 at the University Club from 5:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Proceeds from this fun event provide scholarships for Hotel and Restaurant Management students. VAC will be selling tickets to this event, and \$2 of each ticket sold by VAC will come back to the agency. For tickets contact VAC at 449-6959.

The Voluntary Action Center Newsletter is published bimonthly by the Voluntary Action Center
403A Vandiver Dr., Columbia, MO 65202. Vol. 14 Issue 1 February-March 2011
Visit www.vacmo.org for more information about VAC's programs, or to sign up for VAC's e-newsletter.



ATTENTION ALL VOLUNTEERS!!

Missouri United Methodist Church will be hosting a “cold weather shelter” from January 2 through February 28th at 204 S. 9th. Volunteer groups are needed to help with a variety of activities and there are three shifts available from 8:30p.m. to 7:30 a.m. Contact Keith Vessell at 443-3111 or Keith.Vessell@moumc to help those in need during the coldest time of the year.

Asian Affairs Center at MU is inviting you to participate in their Conversation Partner Program which pairs you with visiting government officials, scholars and undergraduate students from Asia. If you are interested in meeting some interesting people, learn about other countries and share your culture contact Tuyana Chimitova at the center at 882-6902 or visit asia.missouri.edu.

True North is seeking volunteers who want to make a difference in the lives of victims of domestic and sexual violence. Volunteer areas include hospital advocacy, crisis advocacy and childcare. The next training will be Feb.26th & March 1st. For more information or to register contact Kelsie at kelsie@socket.net or 875-0503.

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.

Family Counseling Center of Missouri needs help with data entry/office work, outcomes development and indoor maintenance. Contact Shauna at 443-2204 or skammerich@fccmo.org to help.

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.

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!



February
2011



<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thurs</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
		1	2 Groundhog Day Not-for-Profit consortium	3 MOW Big Wheels Fundraiser Begins	4	5
6	7	8 BCRAA Mtg.	9 VAC Board Mtg. UW Building High Performance Bds.	10	11	12 Rootin' Tootin' Chili Cookoff
13	14 Valentine's Day VAC Computer Deadline	15	16 Basic Needs Coalition	17 Ronald McDonald House Gala	18 Hero Applications Due	19
20	21 President's Day VAC Closed	22	23 Interfaith Council	24	25	26 VAC Computer Distribution
27	28					



March
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 Trivia Night True/False Film Fest	4 True/False Film Fest	5 True/False Film Fest
6 True/False Film Fest	7	8 BCRAA Mtg. UW ED Mtg.	9 VAC Board Mtg.	10	11	12
13	14	15 QMB & Business Showcase	16 Basic Needs Coalition	17 St. Patrick's Day	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27 MU Spring Break Week	28	29	30 Interfaith Council	31		



**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

**VOLUNTARY ACTION CENTER
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**
President: Alex George
Vice President: Shawn Barnes
Secretary: Andrea Benna
Treasurer: Rick Ravenhill
Past President: John Dean

Jason Becking
Billy Borgmeyer
Leigh Britt
Will Chann
Lynn Cole
Brian Cottle
Ryenne DeSpain
Lea Evans
Bob Fischer
Susan Gowin
Shatenita Horton
Gwen Jones
Raymond Massey
Suzanne McDavid
Dianne Orton
Jolene Schulz
Cathy Scroggs
Andrea Shelton
Scott Sutherland
Lin Teasley
Llona C. Weiss

STAFF

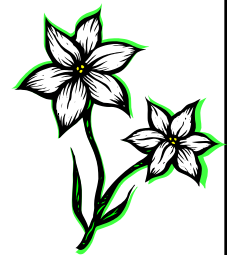
Executive Dir.: Cindy Mustard
Project Director: Marissa Todd
Finance Admin.: Amy Myers
Social Services Specialists: Ron
Schmidt & Christina Montgomery
Admin Assistant: Judi Bloss



VAC is tabulating the number of volunteers who donated their time to any agency, church, school, group, or organization in Boone County in 2010. 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. 22, 2011. Please e-mail this information to Cindy Mustard at cindymustard2@gmail.com or call our office at 449-6959.

Coming this spring...

- ◆ **Clean Up Columbia, April 9**
- ◆ **Hero Awards, April 12**
- ◆ **Earth Day Festival, April 17**
- ◆ **ATHENA Banquet, April 21**
- ◆ **10th Annual Spring Into Action, May 24**



The Directory of Community Services has been updated and will be available for sale in the coming months. Cost will be \$25. Contact VAC at 449-6959 if you are interested in purchasing a new directory.