



# Voluntary Action Center

the Heart of Service in Boone County

## NEWSLETTER



403A Vandiver Dr. 573-874-2273 www.vacmo.org October-November 2010

### Voluntary Action Center 27th Annual Adopt-a-Family Christmas Program



Voluntary Action Center is gearing up for its annual Christmas program. Last year, the Columbia community helped make the holidays brighter for 1,187 families in Boone County. VAC is looking for sponsors for this year's families, who will sign up for the program beginning October 9. Local agencies will also refer families to VAC.

Sponsors are asked to provide at least one new gift per child in the home and food for the holiday meal. Instead of having a holiday party at the office or in your organization, why not share some holiday cheer with those in need and adopt a family? To sponsor a family just call the VAC office at 449-6959 or email Marissa, the Christmas Coordinator, at [projdir@vacmo.org](mailto:projdir@vacmo.org), and let us know what size family you want to adopt. Families and sponsors will be matched at the end of October after sign up is complete. Gifts will be dropped off in December on the 6, 7, 13 or 14. Thank you to the many individuals, families, churches, businesses and other organizations who help make this program possible through their generosity!

### Volunteers Needed!

The VAC Christmas Program would not be successful without the hundreds of volunteers who help sign up families and distribute gifts. Volunteers are needed for both October and December. October volunteers will help families complete their wish list that is later sent to sponsors for shopping. This year sign up is at the Blind Boone Center. December volunteers assist in the collection and distribution of gifts at Trinity Presbyterian Church.



Many shifts are available below. If you would like to volunteer and help make the holidays brighter for Boone County families, contact Marissa at 449-6959 or [projdir@vacmo.org](mailto:projdir@vacmo.org).

**October dates:** October 11, 12, 14, 15, 18, 19 & 21 (8:30 a.m.—10 a.m., 10 a.m.—Noon); October 20 (5:30 p.m.—8:30 p.m.)

**December dates:** December 6, 7, 13 & 14 (8:30 a.m.—4:30 p.m., 2 hr shifts); December 8 & 15 (8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., 2 hr shifts); December 10 & 16 (8 a.m.—4:30 p.m., 2 hr shifts).

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## VAC News

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### Directory of Community Services

Voluntary Action Center is working on updating the Directory of Community Services for publication early in 2011. If your agency was previously listed, you should have received an email from VAC with your 2008 listing. Please update this and send it in as soon as possible. If you are a new agency and wish to be included, please contact VAC for an entry form. VAC is also looking for updates on hotlines and support groups.

The deadline for inclusion in the 2011 Directory of Community Services is October 31. VAC will publish the new version in late January or February. Copies will be available for purchase at the VAC office once they are printed. For more information on the Directory contact VAC at 874-2273.

### Warm Up Columbia



Voluntary Action Center and Kathy Hull are ready to Warm Up Columbia on Saturday, October 16. Hundreds of coats, blankets, hats and other cold weather items have been collected by area churches and groups. Items will be distributed to the public from 9 a.m. until noon on Saturday, October 16. Distribution will take place at The Armory, 701 East Ash. All items are given out on a first come, first serve basis. Commerce Bank will be collecting items at its branches, so you still have time to donate too!

Volunteers are needed to help with the sorting of items on Friday, October 15 in the morning and afternoon. If you are available, please contact Cindy at 449-6959 or [cindymustard2@gmail.com](mailto:cindymustard2@gmail.com).



### Summer Program Recap

Voluntary Action Center had a very busy summer! Three of our major programs occur during the summer months and all served more clients than in 2009.

The Health Department and VAC provided lunch and educational activities to over 4,400 children during the 10th annual Lunch in the Park program. Although the summer was extremely warm and the program was shortened by one week, more children were served this year than last year. VAC looks forward to continuing this collaboration in 2011.

VAC helped cool down Columbia from May to August with our Fan Program. A record number of 336 fans were distributed to families with children, the elderly and disabled during the summer months.

Finally, VAC ended its summer programs with its school supply distribution. VAC partnered with Healthcare USA to distribute school supplies at the back to school health fair in early August. VAC continued to hand out supplies at our office throughout August and helped 1,125 children start the year off with the tools they need for success. Thank you to all the volunteers and donors who helped make these summer programs a success!

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# VAC Christmas Program Information

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## Sponsor Information

Sponsors are asked to provide food for Christmas dinner and at least one new gift for each person age 18 or younger, elderly or disabled. We suggest you plan for \$50 per person for gifts and \$10 per person for food. There are many ways to participate:

- ★ Purchase the food and gifts yourself, wrap the new gifts, and deliver them to our holiday distribution center on your assigned date in December.
- ★ Purchase gift certificates to grocery and department stores, mail or bring them to VAC, and we will give them to the family to do their own shopping.
- ★ Provide VAC with a donation and we will write vouchers for the family to shop at Target and Hy-Vee. The vouchers we write can list specifically what may be purchased. They also prohibit the purchase of alcohol or tobacco products.
- ★ Shop for the gifts and give VAC a donation to write a voucher for the food. Bring the gifts and donation to the distribution center. This is the most popular option.
- ★ If you cannot afford to sponsor a whole family but would like to participate, just send a donation and we will combine it with other donations to provide for a family.
- ★ Be creative! Have a food drive, collect cleaning and laundry supplies, have a mitten tree, or buy some new toys or books and bring them to our distribution center. We will give them to someone who needs them!

**Call VAC at 449-6959 to sign up for a family!**

## Client Sign Up

Sign up will be at the Blind Boone Center at 301 N. Providence Rd. Only families with children under 18 years of age may sign up.

Dates: Saturday, October 9 (full-time working parents only) 9 a.m.

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday October 11, 12, 14, 15, 18, 19 & 21 (9 a.m.).

Wednesday October 13 & 20 (full time working parents only) 6 p.m.

80 numbers will be handed out 30 minutes prior to sign up. All households must have:

1. ID for all people in the home
2. Proof of all income
3. Proof of address
4. Gift ideas and clothing sizes

## Sponsor Drop Off

Deliver to: Trinity Presbyterian Church -  
1600 W. Rollins Rd.

One of the following dates will be assigned to each sponsor:

December 6, 7, 13, 14

Please deliver on your assigned date  
or call VAC to change.

## Client Pick Up

Recipients will be notified by mail around December 1 to pick up at a specified time on either  
December 9 or 16.

Please pick up at your assigned time  
or call VAC to change.

Pickup At: Trinity Presbyterian Church -  
1600 W. Rollins. Rd.

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## Fall Events

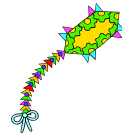
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The Roots 'N Blues 'N BBQ festival will take place October 1 and 2 in downtown Columbia. The festival features food, a sanctioned BBQ contest and nationally known musicians. Tickets are available in advance for a discount. For more information visit [www.rootsnbluesnbbq.com](http://www.rootsnbluesnbbq.com).



The Hartsburg Pumpkin Festival is October 9 and 10 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Come check out the craft vendors, petting zoo, food booths and pumpkins during this family friendly festival.

One Sky-One World, a kite flying event, is Sunday, October 10. Join other kite enthusiasts from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. in Cosmo Bethel Park. For more information contact 874-7460.



EPIC, a Chamber of Commerce committee, is putting on a Non-Profit Fair on Wednesday, October 13 from 4-7 p.m. at the Youzeum. This free event gives people an opportunity to learn more about the non-profits in Columbia. For more information contact Emily at 817-9115.

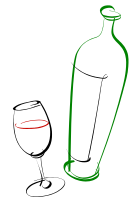


Citizen Jane Film Festival is October 15-17. This festival supports and celebrates work of women filmmakers. Passes are available for as little as \$60. For more information visit [www.stephens.edu/citizenjane](http://www.stephens.edu/citizenjane).

Hope Chest for Kids will hold the Walk Me Home 5K event on Saturday, October 16 in Columbia. This event is sponsored by the National Foster Parent Association and is designed to raise awareness of foster care issues. For more information on this event visit [www.walkmehome.org](http://www.walkmehome.org).

Columbia Youth Service Day is Saturday, October 16 from 10 a.m. until Noon. Youth volunteers will help with projects such as Hinkson Stream Clean Up, graffiti removal and Plant the Promise. For more information or to participate contact Ryan Worley at 443-2556 x 1284 or [rworley@columbiaha.com](mailto:rworley@columbiaha.com).

RAIN's 16th annual Wine and Art gala will take place Thursday, October 21 from 5:30-7:30 p.m. at Orr Street Gallery. For more information contact 875-8687 or email [info@missourirain.org](mailto:info@missourirain.org)



Mid-Missouri Access to Justice is holding a trivia night fundraiser on Thursday, October 28 at the Knights of Columbus Hall. Appetizers and beer will be served starting at 6:30 p.m. and the fun starts at 7 p.m. For more information contact [midmoaccesstojustice@centurytel.net](mailto:midmoaccesstojustice@centurytel.net).



PLA, an arm of the Assistance League of Mid-Missouri, is having its third annual Purse Passion event on Thursday, October 28 at The Market Place. Come out from 5:30-7:30 p.m. and enjoy great food while bidding on fashionable purses for a good cause. Tickets are \$20. For more information contact Brenda Baker at 875-0503.

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## Fall Events

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Come to the Boone County Fairgrounds Saturday, October 30 from Noon-5 p.m. for the Energy Efficiency Expo. This free event will educate participants about energy efficient lighting, heating, landscaping and other topics.

The annual Boone Hospital Foundation gala is Friday, November 5 at 6 p.m. at the Holiday Inn Executive Center. Proceeds of the event will benefit the Foundation's Know Your Numbers mobile health unit campaign. Tickets are \$100. For more information contact Barb at 815-2800 or bad5549@bjc.org.



Boys and Girls Town annual Diamond Night Gala is Saturday, November 6 at 6 p.m. at the Tiger Hotel. Tickets are \$75. For more information contact Christina at 874-8686 or Christina.bursch@greatcircle.org.

The MU School of Social Work invites you to Helmet Heroes, a helmet art auction and wine reception to benefit a graduate scholarship in Military Social Work. The event is Thursday, November 11 at the Orr Street Gallery. Tickets are \$50 per person. For more information visit [ssw.missouri.edu](http://ssw.missouri.edu).

The King's Daughters Festival will kick off Friday, November 12 with a gala and preview shopping. The festival will be open on Saturday, November 13 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday, November 14 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tickets are \$3 in advance and \$6 at the door. For more information visit [www.kdholidayfestival.com](http://www.kdholidayfestival.com).



Homelessness Awareness Week is November 14-20. As part of this week the community is invited to a screening of the documentary "Have You Seen Clem...A True Story...Sorta" at RagTag on Tuesday, November 16. Proceeds from this event will benefit the Day Center. For more information visit [www.masw.org/HMIS](http://www.masw.org/HMIS).



Lutheran Family and Children's Services Festival of Trees will be Friday and Saturday November 19 and 20. High Tea is November 19 from 4-6 p.m. and the Growing Hope Gala is November 20 at 5:30 p.m. Both events take place at the Holiday Inn Executive Center. High Tea tickets are \$25 and Gala tickets are \$75. For more information or to purchase tickets visit [www.lfcsmo.org/events/columbia](http://www.lfcsmo.org/events/columbia).

The Columbia Values Diversity Celebration Planning Committee is seeking submissions for its Student Writing Booklet that is distributed at the celebration. Students grade 4-12 are invited to submit an original poem, essay or other work. The theme is "Unity in Diversity." Deadline for submissions is November 30. For more information contact 874-7488 or [ocs@gocolumbiamo.com](mailto:ocs@gocolumbiamo.com).

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The Voluntary Action Center Newsletter is published bimonthly by the Voluntary Action Center  
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Visit [www.vacmo.org](http://www.vacmo.org) for more information about VAC's programs, or to sign up for VAC's e-newsletter.

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# ATTENTION ALL VOLUNTEERS!!

True North (formerly The Shelter) 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 (Ex parte and hotline), and childcare. The next training is scheduled for the beginning of October. Contact Kelsie at 573-875-0503 or [kelsiet@socket.net](mailto:kelsiet@socket.net) for more information.

Hope Chest for Kids is holding a 5K Walk on October 16 at Stephens Lake. Volunteers and teams of walkers are needed to participate. If you are interested contact Terrie Foltz at [Terrie.Foltz@gmail.com](mailto:Terrie.Foltz@gmail.com).

The Hinkson Clean Sweep is Saturday, October 16 from 10 a.m. to noon. The stream clean up will be held in several locations throughout Columbia and is a great volunteer opportunity for individuals or large groups. Register online at [www.gocolumbiamo.com/volunteer](http://www.gocolumbiamo.com/volunteer).

Tiger Night of Fun will be held at the Hearn Fieldhouse on Sunday, October 31 from 5-7 p.m. Groups are needed to bring a game or activity for kids up to 6th grade. Individuals are also needed to host activities with Parks and Rec. For more information visit [www.gocolumbiamo.com/volunteer](http://www.gocolumbiamo.com/volunteer).

CASA is looking for volunteers aged 21 and older who are willing to be an advocate for a child in foster care. Contact Terrie at 442-4670 or [heartofmissouricasa@hotmail.com](mailto:heartofmissouricasa@hotmail.com) to make a difference. Training will be provided.

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](mailto: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](mailto:lstole@rainbowhousecolumbia.org).

Boone County Council on Aging needs volunteers for lawn mowing 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](mailto:vkastens.col@preferredhospice.com).

## YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

## October 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> Roots 'n Blues 'n BBQ	<b>2</b> Roots 'n Blues 'n BBQ
<b>3</b> Crop Walk	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> Columbia Volunteer Network VAC Board Mtg.	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> Artrageous Friday	<b>9</b> VAC Christmas Signup (Working Parents)
<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> VAC Christmas Signup	<b>12</b> VAC Christmas Signup BCRAA Mtg.	<b>13</b> VAC Christmas Signup (Working Parents)	<b>14</b> VAC Christmas Signup CPS Hall of Fame	<b>15</b> VAC Christmas Signup Citizen Jane Fest.	<b>16</b> Warm Up Columbia Citizen Jane Fest.
<b>17</b> Citizen Jane Fest.	<b>18</b> VAC Christmas Signup	<b>19</b> VAC Christmas Signup	<b>20</b> VAC Christmas Signup (Working Parents)	<b>21</b> VAC Christmas Signup	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> MU Homecoming Make a Difference Day
<b>24</b> Halloween <b>31</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> Not for Profit Consortium	<b>28</b> Purse Passion Access to Justice Trivia Night	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> Energy Efficiency Expo

## November 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> QMB Election Day	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> Boone Hospital Foundation Gala	<b>6</b> BGTM Diamond Night Gala
<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> BCRAA Mtg.	<b>10</b> VAC Board Mtg.	<b>11</b> Veteran's Day VAC Closed Helmets for Heroes	<b>12</b> School of Social Work Summit	<b>13</b> King's Daughters Festival
<b>14</b> King's Daughters Festival	<b>15</b> U.W. Live United Week	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> Basic Needs	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> LCFS Fest. of Trees	<b>20</b> LCFS Fest. of Trees Alpha Phi Omega Thanksgiving
<b>21</b> Jaycees Holiday Parade	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> Thanksgiving VAC Closed	<b>26</b> VAC Closed	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>				



**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

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Project Director: Marissa Todd  
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Social Services Specialists: Ron  
Schmidt & Christina Montgomery  
Admin. Assistant: Mallory Langston

**Coming Soon...**



- Living Windows Festival, December 3
- First Night Columbia, December 31
- Columbia Values Diversity Celebration, January 13

**Good News!!!**

Columbia was named one of America’s 100 Best Communities for Young People. Congratulations to all those who make this community great for our young people!

Columbia was also named the 8th best “small city” in the United States to work or open a business by Forbes magazine. Thanks to the business community for making Columbia great!

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.

