



Voluntary Action Center

the Heart of Service in Boone County

NEWSLETTER



403A Vandiver Dr. (573) 874-2273 www.vacmo.org October-November 2011



Cindy Mustard To Retire

After more than 20 years, Cindy Mustard has decided to hand over her title of Executive Director of the Voluntary Action Center (VAC). She will definitely be missed by the local social services community.

Cindy, a Hickman High School and University of Missouri graduate, worked for several different social service agencies plus Camp Fire Boys and Girls from 1969 to 1988 in Kansas City. She worked for the local American Cancer Society for three years before starting at VAC in 1991. Since Cindy took its helm over 20 years ago, VAC has added the following special programs:

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

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

Cindy has devoted countless hours to providing assistance to low-income residents of Boone County, as well as fostering a strong sense of volunteerism throughout the community. According to her, the VAC Executive Director position has been her dream job.

After retiring in mid-October, Cindy plans to stay involved with the community by continuing to serve on boards for other organizations that promote volunteerism. This will not be the last we hear of Cindy Mustard within the community. We wish her the best in her retirement.

Honoring a Heart for Service: Celebrating the Career of Cindy Mustard
Thursday, October 27 ♥ 5:30 p.m. ♥ The Tiger Hotel ♥ \$50 per ticket

All proceeds will be donated in Cindy's honor to the VAC Youth Enrichment Fund and the newly created Cindy Mustard Endowment Fund. For more information, please contact the VAC office at 874-2273.



Nick Foster Named Executive Director

Nick Foster has been named Executive Director of the Voluntary Action Center (VAC). Foster will replace Cindy Mustard, who will retire on September 30 after spending 20 years as Executive Director of the agency.

“We are absolutely delighted to welcome Nick as the new Executive Director of VAC,” George says. “From a field of strong candidates, Nick stood out as bringing a wealth of nonprofit experience to the role, which will allow him to pick up Cindy Mustard’s mantle and continue to grow and develop VAC’s mission to provide services to families and individuals in need.”

Foster, who will assume full-time duties on Tuesday, October 4, most recently was executive director of Habitat for Humanity of Morgan County, Indiana. He moved to Columbia in 2010 when his wife, Candace Kuby, took a faculty position as an assistant professor of early childhood education at the University of Missouri.

“I’m very excited about the opportunity to serve the Columbia and Boone County communities in this new position,” says Foster. “The Voluntary Action Center has a stellar reputation for doing good work, addressing a variety of needs for low-income people.

“Like many others, I am grateful for the dedicated, capable leadership of Cindy Mustard, a gift that is impossible to quantify. The years ahead promise great opportunity for making this an even better place to live for all our citizens, and I look forward to joining the excellent VAC staff in order to be part of it.”

Foster grew up in Birmingham, Alabama and lived also in Louisville, Kentucky and Knoxville, Tennessee before moving back to Alabama as the pastor for University Baptist Church in Montevallo, Alabama. He later served Passport, Inc. in Birmingham as a camp coordinator and project director. He was also executive director for the Alabama Poverty Project, a research and education organization, located in Birmingham. An ordained minister, Foster also is known as a storyteller, speaking in a variety of settings nationwide. He has two grown sons who live in Alabama.

“As the nonprofit world continues to come to terms with the on-going economic situation, the Board looks forward to working with Nick to help steer VAC through the unprecedented challenges that lie ahead of us,” says George. “He has the vision, and the passion, and a heart for service that will be needed to keep the Voluntary Action Center at the forefront of the on-going fight against poverty in Boone County.”



Warm Up Columbia

The Voluntary Action Center (VAC) and Kathy Hull are ready to Warm Up Columbia on **Saturday, October 22**. 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 8:30 a.m. until noon at The Armory (701 East Ash). All items are given out on a first come, first serve basis.

New and gently used coats, blankets, stocking caps, gloves, mittens, and scarves may be dropped off at any of Commerce Bank’s eight Columbia locations (October 3 – 14) or at VAC’s office (until October 14), which is located at 403A Vandiver Drive (next door to the Department of Motor Vehicles’ License Office).

King's Daughters Holiday Festival — November 11 to 13
— Columbia Expo Center



Retro Wingding

- Friday, November 11 from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m.
- Entertainment (band, ballroom dancers, belly-dancers, surprises), heavy hors d'oeuvres, silent auction, holiday shopping, cash bar, etc.
- Tickets: \$30 a person or \$50 a couple

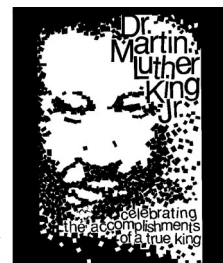
Festival

- Saturday, November 12 from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
- Sunday, November 13 from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
- Tickets: \$3 in advance or \$6 at the door (children five and under are free)

For more information, go to <http://www.kdholidayfestival.com>.

Columbia Values Diversity Award Nominations

Two Columbia Values Diversity Awards will be presented at the 19th Annual Columbia Values Diversity Celebration on **Thursday, January 12**, recognizing people whose work in our community exemplifies the life and teachings of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. One will go to an individual/family and the other to an organization/group. **The deadline for nominations is Tuesday, November 29.** Nomination forms are available by calling 874-7488 or at www.GoColumbiaMo.com (Go Word: GoDiversityCelebration).



Student Writings Program — Grades 4-12

The Columbia Values Diversity Celebration Planning Committee is seeking student writings which reflect the spirit of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.. Our theme this year is "One Community, Many Stories." Students in grades 4-12 are invited to submit an original essay, poem, song, or rap. Submission information and guidelines are available through Columbia Public Schools' 4th through 12th grade teachers and principals grades 4-12 or at www.GoColumbiaMo.com (Go Word: GoDiversityCelebration). **The deadline for submitting an entry is Friday, November 11, 2011.**

2011 Festival Of Trees

High Tea: Wednesday, November 30, 4 to 6 p.m.

Growing Hope Gala: Thursday, December 1, 5:30 p.m.

Both events will be held at the Holiday Inn Executive Center. Call 815-9955 for reservations.



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

Sponsors Needed For VAC's 28th Annual Christmas Program



With the holidays fast approaching, it is once again time to prepare for our annual Christmas Program. Our objective is to match needy families with individuals, families, businesses, or groups who wish to sponsor them for the Christmas holiday. Last year, with the help of many generous sponsors, 1,175 families were assisted through our program!

If you or your business, organization, group, school, or family wishes to sponsor any size family from one to 10, please call the Voluntary Action Center (VAC) at 874-2273. We will match you with a family (or individual) and provide you with a description of the family (or individual) and gift ideas.

We know how hectic the holidays can become and we want to make this an enjoyable and easy project for you, and at the same time make it very worthwhile. If you choose to sponsor a family, we request that you provide the makings for the holiday meal and at least one new gift per family member who is under the age of 18, elderly, or has a disability. This can be done in a variety of ways:

- Purchase the food and gifts yourself, and deliver them to our holiday distribution center in December. Your drop-off date will be either December 5, 6, 12, or 13.
- Purchase the gifts yourself, and deliver them to our holiday distribution center with a gift card for food or a donation for VAC to write a food voucher for the family. This is the most popular option.
- Purchase gift certificates at local grocery and department stores and bring them to VAC before November 18. VAC will deliver them to the family.
- Provide VAC with a monetary donation and we will write vouchers to a local grocery and department store to let the family do their own shopping. On the average, a \$60 donation will sponsor one person for Christmas with food and gifts.



Christmas Program Volunteers Needed

The Voluntary Action Center's (VAC's) Christmas Program would not be successful without the hundreds of volunteers who help. Volunteers are still needed in December to assist in the collection and distribution of gifts at Trinity Presbyterian Church. 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)

If you would like to volunteer and help make the holidays brighter for Boone County families, contact Amelia at 874-2273 or hol@vacmo.org.

VAC's New And Improved Christmas Program Sign Up Procedures Already Underway



The Voluntary Action Center's (VAC's) 2011 Christmas Program sign up period has begun. VAC is excited to announce new sign up procedures that will make the process much easier for the clients to sign up.

Eligibility:

- Resident of Boone County
- Income eligible to receive VAC services
- Must have children 18 years old or younger living in the household

Signup Dates, Times, and Location:

- Now through Wednesday, October 19 during VAC's normal business hours (9:00 a.m. to noon and 1:00 to 4:00 p.m.)
- Wednesday, October 19 from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m.
- Saturdays, October 1 and October 15 from 7:30 to 9:30 a.m.
- Thursday, October 20 from 9:00 a.m. to noon (final day of signup)
- All signups will take place at the VAC office (403A Vandiver Dr. – near the corner of Providence Rd. and Vandiver Dr. – right next to the Department of Motor Vehicles' License Office)

Random Selection System:

(there is no advantage to turning in your application earlier than later)

- All completed eligible application packets will be accepted
- An accepted application does NOT guarantee sponsorship

Items Needed at Signup:

- Completed and legible Christmas Program application packet
- Proof of your current, physical Boone County address
 - I.D.'s or leases will NOT be accepted
 - a recent bill, piece of mail, or printout from DFS/SSA with your name and current physical address will be accepted
- Identification for all people living at the address (originals only – no copies)
 - Driver's license, State I.D., print out from DFS/SSA with all members listed, social security cards, or insurance cards will be accepted
- Proof of all income for everyone living at the address
 - check stubs, unemployment/child support/retirement/pension letters, and printouts from DFS/SSA are required

All of the appropriate guidelines and forms can be found at www.vacmo.org.

For more information, please contact the VAC office at 874-2273.

EXPERIENCE THE JOY

VOLUNTEER

The **Voluntary Action Center** needs volunteers on Friday, October 21 to help set up for the annual **Warm Up Columbia** event. This will be at the Armory at 7th and Ash. Shift times are 9:00 a.m. to noon and 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. Volunteers will sort blankets, coats, hats, gloves, and other cold weather items. Call Nick Foster at 449-6959 or

dir@vacmo.org to help make a difference.

Boone Hospital Home Care & Hospice is in need of adults to donate their time to help with families needing hospice care. Training will be provided. Contact Sarah Wies at 815-5250 or ssw8045@bjc.org for more information.

The **Salvation Army** of Columbia needs many **“Bell Ringers”** from November 11 to December 24. If you have the time to volunteer with this traditional holiday event, call the Salvation Army at 442-3229.

Tiger Night of Fun will be held on Halloween, Monday, October 31, at the Hearnes Center Fieldhouse. Groups are invited to bring a game or activity for kids 6th grade and younger. Individuals are also needed to help with the games provided by the Columbia Parks and Recreation Department. Contact volunteer@gocolumbiamo.com to help with a safe and fun alternative to trick or treating.

The **City of Columbia’s Community Recreation program** needs volunteers to be keyboard/piano instructors as well as helpers 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 .

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

Hinkson Clean Sweep will be held on Saturday, October 8. Individuals and groups of all sizes and types can pick up litter in Columbia’s streams. This is an ideal volunteer opportunity for families. Contact volunteer@gocolumbiamo.com to help with this annual event.

Preferred Hospice Volunteers needs to fill many different roles within its organization helping terminally ill patients in central Missouri. Contact Valen Kastens for more information at 499-4540 or vkastens.col@preferredhospice.com

Hospice Advantage of Columbia is looking for volunteers to be friendly visitors, provide companionship, assist caregivers, or join the Compassionate Care Team. Volunteers are also needed for general office work. Training is provided for all positions. For more information, call 442-9104 or email afirman@hospiceadvantage.com.



October 2011

Sun



Mon

Tue

Wed

Thurs

Fri



Sat

							1
•Crop Walk	2	3	4	5	6	•Mature Living Festival	8
9	•Columbus Day	10	•BCRAA Mtg.	11	•VAC Bd. Mtg.	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	•Basic Needs Coalition Mtg.	19	•Last day of Christmas Sign Up •MEM Micro Business Fair
20	21	22	23	•1st Presbyterian Church Mission Fair	24	25	•Interfaith Mtg.
26	27	28	29	30	•Honoring a Heart for Service: Celebrating the Career of Cindy Mustard	31	31
	•Halloween						

November 2011

Sun



Mon

Tue

Wed

Thurs

Fri



Sat

		1		2		3		5	
6	7	•BCRAA Mtg.	8	•VAC Bd. Mtg.	9	•World Café: Achievement Gap	•Veterans Day •VAC Closed •King's Daughters Wingding	11	•King's Daughters Festival
12	13	14	15	•Basic Needs Coalition Mtg.	16	•Day Center Task Force Mtg.	17	18	•Alpha Phi Alpha Thanksgiving
19	20	21	22	23	•Thanks-giving •VAC Closed •Salvation Army Thanks-giving Meal	24	•VAC Closed	25	26
27	28	29	•Interfaith Mtg. •Festival of Trees	30					



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403A Vandiver Dr.
Columbia, MO 65202**

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

Return Service Requested

VAC BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- President: Alex George
- Vice President: Shawn Barnes
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- Past President: John Dean
- Jason Becking
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- Meghan Buchert
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- Lea Evans
- Bob Fisher
- Susan Gowin
- Shatenita Horton
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- Kaileigh McGinley
- Dianne Orton
- Hillary Pfeffer
- Cathy Scroggs
- Emily Smith
- Scott Sutherland
- Lin Teasley
- Llona Weiss

VAC STAFF

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

Looking Ahead...

- ♦ **Living Windows Display: 12/2**
- ♦ **First Night Columbia: 12/31**
- ♦ **Columbia Values Diversity
Celebration: 1/12**



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.

