



VOLUME 20, ISSUE 1  
January - March 2017

# Voluntary Action Center

the heart of service in Boone County

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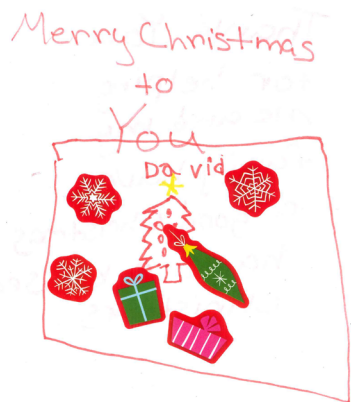
vac@vacmo.org



## Holiday Program



For the 33rd year, our community rallied to help neighbors in need through VAC's Holiday Program. With your support, we provided gifts and food for 3,230 individuals in 943 households! Families with children as well as elderly and disabled persons were helped to have a wonderful season through the generosity of organizations, offices, churches, schools, businesses, and individuals who sponsored them for the holidays. We thank everyone who helped! And our clients are thankful as well. Here are some of their words:



Thank you for the holiday gifts and gift cards! We are fortunate that you considered us during the holidays. We used the gift cards to get a ham that we cooked for Christmas dinner (and) decorations for our tree. Thanks again for helping us to enjoy a great Christmas and with bringing on the New Year.

I am raising my 5 yr old granddaughter due to my daughter, her mother, passing away in 2015 due to cancer. It has been a hard year but her and my son can find happiness again because of your generosity!

**Your sponsorship has helped me out this year and given my son a great Christmas. I hope that when I am finished with school and start my career that I will be able to sponsor a family like you.**

*Hello Wonderful Strangers...We make enough to pay rent with one check and bills with the other and are not complaining/happy to be able to do that but don't have much left over after that so... please accept our deepest and most sincere Thank You!*

TO WHOEVER YOU ARE, THANK YOU FOR MANY BLESSINGS YOU HAVE BROUGHT TO MY GIRLS AND MYSELF. YOU HAVE GIVEN MYSELF HOPE FOR A BETTER YEAR.

Every year it is a great undertaking to create a holiday for our kids that is filled with joy and stress free. It has always been our hope that they don't grasp how little money we have. This is most important during this time of year and it would not be possible this year without you.

*I did not know how I was going to provide for 3 kids this Xmas but because of you it was possible to see my kids smile.*

I had a hard time signing up for the program...and believe it or not I was only going to ask for things the kids really needed [on the client wish list]. I honestly think they would be happy with just a warm coat, some gloves and a new pair of shoes that are free from holes. I'm embarrassed to say that they didn't have some of those things before this program, and that's the reason I pushed myself to sign up. So for my burden-bearing, forever-caring friend...a very happy, hug-filled, heartfelt thanks go out to you folks! I promise I will NEVER forget your unselfish acts. This has been a challenging time, and I appreciate you so much so THANK YOU THANK YOU!

Voluntary Action Center's Annual -----

# Trivia Night!

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Friday, February 24, 2017 • Doors: 5:30 Trivia Begins: 6:30  
At the Knights of Columbus Hall, 2525 N. Stadium

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\$200/8-person table or \$30/person to play! Prizes will be awarded to the best decorated table. We will have dollar games and a raffle!

A light buffet will open at 5:45 p.m. and snacks will be available throughout the evening.

Beer and soda will be provided. Guests are free to bring their own additional beverages.

Register Online at [Eventbrite.com](https://www.eventbrite.com/search?search=VAC+Trivia+Night+2017); search for VAC Trivia Night 2017.



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## Homes for Computers



**Voluntary Action Center's Homes for Computers program** provides reformatted computers donated by the City of Columbia to Columbia families with children in grades K-12. VAC partners with the City of Columbia and the Downtown Optimist Club to put on this program. In 2016, 40 families received a computer, and to date, 483 computers have been given through this program.

Computer distribution takes place at the Downtown Optimist "Friend of Youth" building (1201 Grand Ave.) on **Saturday, February 18, 2017**. At that time, recipients receive training on Internet safety for both children and adults.

Free introductory computer courses are also available on a regular basis at the Daniel Boone Regional Library to help families become more familiar with basic hardware and software components of their computers.

This program will distribute only computers donated by the City of Columbia. VAC is not able to accept other computer donations at this time. Families who have received a computer from VAC in the past are not eligible to receive another.

# Bridge Builders Society

Getting from here to there is sometimes hindered by unanticipated obstacles. A short span of support can make all the difference in making progress along life's road.

**The Bridge Builders Society** will provide a way over the divide between need and stability for many who live in our community.

Bridge Builders Society members are VAC contributors who make our work possible, who participate in carrying out our mission: To help low-income individuals and families bridge the gaps between crisis and stability and improve quality of life in Boone County.

Society members will receive an invitation to a special event that will offer recognition for their participation as well as the opportunity to be updated on critical VAC initiatives.

**Become a Member of the Bridge Builders Society by donating in 2017. You will be an important partner in meeting the real, critical needs of VAC clients - every day!**

Membership Levels	Quarterly	Annually
Vanguard	1875	7500+
Innovator	1250	5000+
Trailblazer	750	3000+
Pioneer	250	1000+
Visionary	125	500+



**Bridge Builders Society**

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You shop. Amazon gives.

Amazon will donate **0.5%** of the price of your eligible AmazonSmile purchases to Voluntary Action Center whenever you shop on AmazonSmile.

AmazonSmile is the same Amazon you know. Same products, same prices, same service but with the ability to support VAC.

**Start your shopping at [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com)**



VAC now accepts vehicle donations through the **CARS** vehicle donation program. Visit [vacmo.org](https://vacmo.org) for more information.

**DON'T  
TRADE IT,  
DONATE IT**

It's easy, and you may qualify for a tax deduction.

**Donate your car today!**



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403A Vandiver Dr.  
Columbia, MO 65202

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To learn more about how you can support VAC's services for low-income families in Boone County, contact Executive Director Nick Foster at **[dir@vacmo.org](mailto:dir@vacmo.org)**. From donations of money or food or hygiene products to volunteering with our programs, you can help us to make a difference in the lives of many. You can donate online at **[vacmo.org/donations](http://vacmo.org/donations)**.

### MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

**Trivia Night:** February 24  
**Hero Awards:** April 24  
**Bridge Builders Event:** March 21  
**Spring Into Action:** May (date TBA)

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