



Voluntary Action Center

the heart of service in Boone County

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Holiday Program



For the 35th year, our community rallied to help neighbors in need through VAC's Holiday Program. With your support, we provided gifts and food for over 3,200 individuals in 951 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:

You are being our angel during this holiday season! We are very grateful for this representation of love and care for others that you don't know. Thank you very much for all the gifts. I'm sure that my kids will be surprised. I pray for you to be blessed. I hope one day to be able to help others as you do. Have a blessed Christmas and thank you so much!

WE WOULD LIKE TO TRULY THANK YOU FOR HELPING US HAVE CHRISTMAS THIS YEAR. EVERY YEAR I SAVE PART OF MY CHECK OUT UNTIL I GET ALL MY CHILDREN'S GIFTS BUT THIS YEAR I HAVE NOT BEEN WORKING DUE TO A ROUGH PREGNANCY. THANK YOU ISN'T EVEN ENOUGH TO SHOW HOW GRATEFUL I AM. I KNOW MY CHILDREN WILL BE AS WELL.



Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!
Everything you have done for my family this year is a real blessing to us. I have been a stay-at-home mom for a year because we couldn't afford child care and it's just been hard with one income. I want to thank you from the bottom of my heart for your kindness.

My kids and I would like to thank you for taking the time and energy out of your days to bless my kids with Christmas! The world needs more folks like you in it. You have made Christmas possible for us in every way. I am looking forward to seeing their faces on Christmas light up as this time of the year is hard for us. They are the only family I have left. In the upcoming year I hope God blesses you in every way and I hope you have a blessed Christmas as well.
MERRY CHRISTMAS! Thanks so much for all you do!

I am a single student mom that's trying to make ends meet. You all have really helped my family so much this year. Thank you! I have high hopes that I too, one day, will be able to help families that are in my position because I understand how it is to struggle and try to decide whether I spend money on the utilities or presents for my kids. I am so happy that you have taken the stress out of my Christmas. My boys and I really appreciate the help. May God bless you.

My little lady and I feel blessed to have you! It means more than you know to me to be blessed this Christmas. We just moved here from Florida due to the hurricanes. We had to completely start over after we lost everything we had. Thank you from the bottom of my heart! May you and your family have a very blessed Christmas!

Thank you! I appreciate your kindness. I am a single parent of three and was raising my kids in a hotel until recently. We finally got our own place but all of my money goes towards our housing and my children's needs. Money has been very tight and this is literally saving me. My kids are at the age that they understand who Santa is and I was very worried on how I was going to provide for them. Again, thank you for taking your time and money to make a blessing for a family you don't even know.

Voluntary Action Center's Annual -----
Trivia Night!

Friday, February 22, 2019 • Doors: 5:30 Trivia Begins: 6:30
At the Knights of Columbus Hall, 2525 N. Stadium

\$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 by following the link at www.vacmo.org/donations/trivia-night/

Sponsored by:



Homes for Computers



Staffing and security issues limit this program's ability to distribute City computers only. VAC is unable to accept other computer donations at this time.

To find out how to recycle old computers and monitors, search the City's "Waste Wizard" by downloading the COMO Recycle and Trash app or visiting CoMo.gov/Utilities/SolidWaste.

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 2018, 40 families received a computer, and to date, over 650 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 23, 2019. 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.

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 in March 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 2019. You will be an important partner in meeting the real, critical needs of VAC clients - every day!

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



Bridge Builders Society

Thanks to everyone who donated to VAC through CoMoGives in 2018!

Thanks to the generosity of our donors, VAC received donations totalling \$27,966 from 84 individuals and finishing in fifth place for highest overall amount raised. Additionally, VAC received a challenge grant of \$500 from the Community Foundation.

CoMoGives raised a total of \$802,674.06 on behalf of 122 Columbia area nonprofits. Way to go Columbia!



Are you looking for volunteer opportunities?

Stop by the VAC office and pick up a copy of our Helping Hands catalog. This catalog lists volunteer opportunities and contact information for more than 160 Boone County organizations.

If you are interested in more direct contact with the people VAC services check out **VACorps**. We are currently looking for volunteers to serve as a Lobby Greeter in our office and help with other light duties as needed. A job description and application can be found at vacmo.org/services/volunteer-services/

On January 31 VAC participated in Project Homeless Connect at the Family Impact Center. PHC is a bi-annual event that serves as a single access point for homeless individuals and families to receive a variety of health and human services. Services this year included legal assistance, child care assistance, haircuts, medical checkups, mental health screenings, substance abuse screenings, Medicaid and Social Security applications, HIV/AIDS testing, veterinary assistance for pets, transportation assistance, meals, and more. 163 individuals attended the event.



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403A Vandiver Dr.
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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**. 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**.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

Trivia Night: February 22
Bridge Builders Reception: March 12
Quarterly Membership Breakfast: April 10
50th Anniversary Celebration: Fall 2019

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

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