



Voluntary Action Center

the heart of service in Boone County

403A Vandiver Drive, Columbia, MO 65202 | 573-874-2273

vac@vacmo.org



Christmas in July will be held for the 28th year on Thursday, July 11. This summer event provides a Christmas-themed picnic for people facing hardships and gives children the opportunity to meet with Santa. We anticipate welcoming over 350 people this year!

Raffle tickets are available until July 17, with all proceeds supporting VAC services, and are available for purchase online at www.vacmo.org/donations/christmas-in-july.

Raffles include amazing prizes from: Hermann Hill, Drury Inn, Six Flags, Les Bourgeois Winery, Columbia Entertainment Company, G&D Steakhouse, Lowe's Home Improvement Store, Skylark Bookshop, My Sister's Circus, The Axe House, KC Royals, MU Athletics, The Missouri Symphony, and the Women's Symphony League.

Thanks to our Presenting Sponsor:



Back to School Health Fair

**Saturday, July 27th from 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Derby Ridge Elementary School**

The Back to School Health Fair provides access to free health screenings, school supplies, backpacks, resources from other agencies, and more all in one place for families with school aged children in Boone County.

Last year over 800 children attended the Fair. **It costs \$8.75** to provide school supplies and a backpack for each child. **If you would like to donate** school supplies, backpacks, or money for VAC to purchase these items please contact Olivia Little, the Program Coordinator, at 573-874-2273 or sw3@vacmo.org.



Common items needed:

- Colored pencils (12)
- Crayons (24)
- Dry erase markers
- Earbuds
- Glue Sticks
- Backpacks
- #2 Pencils (8)
- Pens (red and blue)
- Highlighters
- Scissors
- Washable markers (10)
- Large erasers
- Loose-leaf paper (wide and college ruled)
- 1 Subject Spiral notebooks (wide and college ruled)
- Composition notebooks (wide and college ruled)

If you would like to sign up to **volunteer** for shifts to help during the day of the Fair, please visit www.vacmo.org/programs/school-supplies for more information.

A Note from Nick:

The Big 5-0! Voluntary Action Center got its start in 1969 as the Volunteer Information Center, to encourage volunteerism in the community. When VAC folks began to think about how to best take note of the passage of 50 years since, we talked about a logo - and a "tag line." What does this year really mean? We settled on **"50 Years of Service."** You see, we are marking more than an anniversary, more than the passing of time; we are celebrating all that has taken place within those 50 years at VAC, the many services we have provided, and the many lives we have touched, the difference we have made for people. I recommend that you mark **the early evening of October 3** on your calendar for a special celebration. More details are coming, of course, but plans are in the works to gather that day to symbolically place a milestone noting VAC's Fifty Years of Service since 1969. **It's going to be a party!** Because there is much to celebrate! You have had a big part in helping your neighbors. And our service continues.

Lunch in the Park

June 3rd - August 2nd
Monday - Friday
11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Lunches are being provided again this summer at Douglass Park for children 18 and under, a great service for some families who struggle to provide a nutritious meal for their children when school is not in session. **Thank You** to all of our volunteers who help serve lunch and provide activities for the kids!



Sponsored by The Health Department, Voluntary Action Center, and City of Columbia Parks & Recreation.



VAC's Holiday Program



Holiday Sign Up is just around the corner and we are in need of **sponsors** and **volunteers!**

To become a sponsor for our families, please call our office **beginning September 3**, 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Sign up will be available **on our website**-www.vacmo.org-soon.

In 2018 the VAC Holiday Program provided gifts and food for 951 households, which included around 2,000 children. Without our generous sponsors, this would not be possible. YOU are the ones who make it happen! Business groups, church groups, families, and even individuals all have the opportunity to participate.

Consider being a vital part of this rewarding program!

If you are not able to sponsor, please consider volunteering to help us in the office with typing up family's wishlists, or you can help at the church during drop off and pick up times.

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.
-2018 Holiday Program Client

For more information on the event please contact the program coordinator, Christy Lowe at 573-874-2273

Summer Fan Program

May 1 - Aug 30



Voluntary Action Center, along with KOMU Fan Club and Lowe's Home Improvement Store, is once again distributing new and gently used fans to people struggling in the summer heat and live at a permanent Boone County residence and meet eligibility requirements for VAC services.

Qualified clients may receive a new fan every other year. The fans are provided solely through the donation of fans or funds to purchase new fans. This year's program has already provided around 200 fans for our neighbors in need!

Fans can be donated at the VAC office or at Lowe's.

Financial donations can be made at the VAC office or at www.vacmo.org/donations/.

Upcoming Events:



The Voice is VAC's annual karaoke competition fundraiser. Teams of 2-6 people will compete to raise money and each sing 2 songs, all with the goal of being crowned The Voice: Mid-Missouri People's Choice Winner!

Last year's event raised over \$3,500! Don't miss out on this evening of fun, music, and support for our neighbors in need.

Stay tuned to VAC news for this year's event; dates are coming soon!

Warm Up Columbia



This annual event provides hundreds of coats, jackets, blankets, hats, gloves, scarves, and socks to individuals and families in need of winter clothing items.

**Items will be distributed to the public
November 2019 at
The Armory (701 East Ash Street)**

Please note that all family members must be present to receive winter clothing items.

If your business or organization would like to host a coat/hat/blanket drive or volunteer (help is needed the day of the event and the two days prior), please contact Olivia Little at 573-874-2273 or email sw3@vacmo.org.



Thanks to our Annual Partners!





Voluntary Action Center
403A Vandiver Dr
Columbia, MO 65202

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Permit No. 141

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To learn more about how you can support VAC's services for those facing hardships 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!

Fan Program: May 1 - August 30
A/C Exchange Program: May 7 - August 29
Christmas in July: July 11
Back to School Health Fair: July 27
Holiday Program Sponsor/Client Sign up: Sept 3 - Oct 12
50th Anniversary Celebration: October 3

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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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