



Voluntary Action Center

the heart of service in Boone County
403A Vandiver Drive, Columbia, MO 65202 | 573-874-2273
vac@vacmo.org



2019 Holiday Program



The beginning of September saw the start of both sponsor and client Holiday Program sign-ups. This annual program matches families with children 18 and under, adults with disabilities, and adults over 65 with individuals, families, businesses, or groups who wish to sponsor them for the holidays. In 2018 the VAC Holiday Program provided gifts and food for 951 households!

Our sponsors are the ones who make this program happen!

If you or your business, organization, group, school, or family wish to sponsor a family, call VAC at 573-874-2273 or email vac@vacmo.org. To sign up online visit our website, www.vacmo.org, and click the Holiday Program banner. After the sign-up period ends, we will match our sponsors with Holiday Program participants according to their requests and provide a wish list for those needing sponsorship. We request that you provide food for the holidays and at least one new gift per family member who is age 18 and under, is disabled, or is over 65. **This can be done in a variety of ways:**

I already work 40-60 hours a week to provide for my kids, but I struggle with extra expenses like birthdays and holidays. It would honestly help me feel amazing knowing my kids would get something they want for Christmas even if I can't afford it myself.

- **Purchase gifts and deliver them to our holiday distribution center** with a gift card for food or a monetary donation for VAC to write a food voucher for the family. Drop off dates for gifts and food will be December 9 or 10.
- **Purchase gift certificates at local grocery and department stores and bring them to VAC** by Wednesday, November 27. VAC will provide them to the family on their scheduled pick up day.
- **Provide VAC with a monetary donation** and we will write vouchers to local grocery and department stores to let the family do their own shopping. We recommend \$50-75 per person eligible for gifts and \$15 per each person in the family for food.

Volunteer for collection and distribution December 9 - 13!

If you would like to help, visit our website, www.vacmo.org, and click the Holiday Program banner to find an online link to sign up and be a part of this amazing program!



In our clients' words: Phyllis' husband died late last year and a month later her mother passed as well. Six months after that she visited VAC's office for help with a medical copay. "I didn't realize things could get so hard so fast," she said.

VAC is here to help when things get hard. When we do, with a copay, an ID, food, or in many other ways, our clients respond by saying things like: "You don't know what this means. Thank you." "Maybe I can get some sleep tonight with my anxiety quieted some now." "My kids are going to think I'm the best mom ever!" One visitor asked for a staff member's business card so she could look at it and remember that someone cares.

VAC staff hears these responses **because our community supports the help we provide** for those who are struggling – **when things get hard.**



Mark your calendar to join us for The Voice: Mid-Missouri!

Teams of 2-6 people will raise money for VAC with a goal of \$2,000 per team. The team that raises the most money will be crowned "The Voice: Mid-Missouri People's Choice Winner!" \$20 admission gives you food, two drink tickets, and helps your favorite team to win.

This year's Spotlight Sponsor is EquipmentShare and the Music Maker Sponsor is MeM

November 19 | 6:30 p.m. | Café Berlin

Contact Nick Foster for more information at dir@vacmo.org or 573-874-2273

VAC's 50th Birthday Party

It was a PARTY! All year, VAC has been celebrating 50 years of service to the Boone County community. On the evening of October 3 we gathered many of our friends to share food, play games, and even cut a birthday cake. A good time was had by all! Thanks to **Presenting Sponsor Influence & Co.** and our many other sponsors for helping to make this also a great fund raising event! Those sponsors are:

Supporting Sponsor: Central Bank of Boone County

Gold Balloon Sponsors: Ken & Pat Hutchinson, My Sister's Circus, Sara Maguire LeMone, Miller's Professional Imaging, Goliath Trucking

Red Balloon Sponsors: Family of Hazel Riback, Shari Hamilton, Cathy Scroggs, Todd & Anne Weyler, The Crossing, Lloyd Montgomery

White Balloon Sponsors: Rim & Judi Massey, Kelsey & Geoff Raymond, Shawn & Courtney Barnes, Sara Emily LeMone & Joel Mueller, Charles Sampson, AnnaBelle Events, Providence Bank, Nick Foster & Candace Kuby

Candle Sponsors: Melissa Carr, Susan Rippey, Hoot Design, First State Community Bank, Edward Jones/Sabrina Basinger



Ever wonder how the VAC programs you are donating to are going?

Here are statistics for some of the 2019 programs your donations have made possible:

Homes for Computers: 33 computers distributed benefiting 122 individuals

Air Conditioner Exchange: 67 new air conditioners distributed cooling 120 individuals

Summer Fans: 339 new/used fans distributed aiding over 938 individuals

Lunch in the Park: 2,209 lunches served and over 600 hours of volunteer time

Back-to-School Health Fair: 717 children received school supplies and health screenings;
almost 200 households received school supplies after the Fair

Warm Up Columbia: Over 1,000 individuals received warm winter clothing and over 5,000 items were donated.

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. Bridge Builders Society members 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 after the first of the year, that will offer recognition for their participation as well as the opportunity to be updated on critical VAC initiatives.



Bridge Builders Society

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



CoMoGives.com

From December 1-31, VAC will participate for the sixth year in an online donation campaign with 137 other local organizations - CoMoGives! When you donate this way, you help us to receive matching funds from the Community Foundation of Central Missouri. Such grants will be awarded to the nonprofit with the highest total of donations, the highest number of individual (non-repeated) donors, the highest number of donors under age 35, the nonprofit with the most donations \$250 and over, and other categories. Last year, CoMoGives raised over \$800,000 for local nonprofits with almost \$28,000 of that money directly donated to VAC!!

Visit www.comogives.com in December to be a part of this amazing donation opportunity!

Many thanks to our sponsor **D&H Drugstore** and to all those who collected coats, blankets, and other winter items for VAC to distribute during **Warm Up Columbia** this year. The distribution took place October 26 and over 530 people came to the Armory to participate! A number of our local partner agencies came by on the following Monday to pick up items for their clients. Altogether, we estimate that over 1,000 individuals were served through Warm Up Columbia. The need is great and VAC is grateful to be able to address the need with the support of our generous community. Thank you again!



Thanks to our Annual Partners!





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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!

**Holiday Sign-Up for Sponsors: Ongoing
Holiday Collection and Distribution:**

December 9 - 13

CoMoGives: December 1 - 31

Homes for Computers: January 13 - February 14

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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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