

The Volunteer Times

Volume 2, Issue 1

Johnson County Human Services & Aging

January–March 2009

Thank you for volunteering!

A new year has begun for the Johnson County Human Services & Aging Volunteer Services program. As valued volunteers, you continue to support the department's mission of providing essential safety net services to people in need, senior adults, persons with a disability, and low-income residents.

Our volunteer program currently has 850 active volunteers—and what a fantastic group you are! The influence that each of you has on the program is profound. One Meals on Wheels volunteer means that 10 to 12 homebound seniors will have a noonday meal. One North Central Multi-Service Center volunteer means that groceries will be distributed to clients who come in needing food for the month. One Valentine Stampede volunteer means that clients will have a smile on their face, knowing that someone took the time to create a simple but special card letting them know that someone was thinking about them and now have a few postage stamps to mail a letter or two to family or friends. The list goes on and on. Always remember that the time and energy

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Seeds That Feed the Need

Wanted: Big-Hearted Gardeners

By Jane Hurst and Cherie Asante
Roeland Park Community Center

The Roeland Park Community Center is looking for volunteers to help with a garden project that will provide vegetables for low-income residents of northeast Johnson County.

The garden, just established in 2008, is sustained through a partnership with Johnson County Human Services & Aging, Johnson County K-State Research and Extension, and the city of Roeland Park. It is planned and tended by volunteers working together to create a beautiful, flourishing garden that can provide fresh produce to families and individuals in need.

We are ready for round two! The ground has been tilled, and now we need *you*—or your community group—to help with planting, weeding, and harvesting.

If you are interested in digging in the dirt for a good cause, please call the Roeland Park Community Center at 913-826-3130.

Saturday, March 14, will be the first work day.

This is a great opportunity for
youth volunteers!

Roeland Park Community Center
4850 Rosewood Drive
Roeland Park 🌻

you give makes a great difference in someone's life each time you volunteer!

What is an appropriate way to say thank you to each of you? How I wish I could shake your hand after each of you perform your volunteer duty!☺ But that is not always possible. So, please accept heartfelt thanks from me and each of the program coordinators for giving of yourself so willingly to a great volunteer program that helps the vulnerable population in Johnson County. You truly are magical! ☀

Being Green

Shawnee Mission East High School Shoe Drive

We all have at least one pair of beat-up shoes that it's time to part with, but we don't want them to end up in the landfill. Here is your opportunity to donate your shoes to be reused or recycled. If your shoes are still in good enough shape, they will be distributed locally, nationally, or globally to people in need by the nonprofit group Soles4Souls. If they are too far gone to be reused, the soles will be ground up and recycled into new shoes!

To find a collection site near you, go to www.recycle-shoes-now.com. ☀

Spring Yard Clean-up for Clients!

Somewhere in the back of our minds lie those memories of warm spring days! Hopefully those memories will become reality soon!

Our HS/A clients are starting to request their yard work: leaves that are stuck behind bushes, limbs and twigs that have fallen in snow and wind, leftover weeds and dead plants that need to be pulled, flowers ready to be planted to freshen up a client's yard.

Please look for an e-mail coming your way to request your assistance for such a worthwhile cause. Groups, individuals, and families will be welcomed.

Start stretching your muscles and dig out your garden shoes. Winter will exit soon, and spring will usher itself in! ☀

Who's volunteering for HS/A?

Max Atwell!

Max Atwell chairs the Commission on Aging and volunteers for Catch-a-Ride and Meals on Wheels. He has been driving his own car at least twice a week for the Catch-A-Ride program for nine years, transporting people in Johnson County who have a disability, are elderly, or are facing a life change. He takes people to medical appointments and brings them home again. He takes people to get their hair fixed, to the bank, or to get their taxes done. He treats each person as a valued client of the Area Agency on Aging (AAA).

Max even drove one woman to her daughter's funeral. The loss was devastating, but Max was able to take the transportation concern away.

Max is also involved in countless activities in De Soto, and is fond of talking to members of the Kansas Legislature about keeping services for the aging, advocating against cuts in Medicaid.

This very kind man helps the AAA at least two days a week, displaying the qualities that give our agency a face in the community and empower so many. He embodies the goals and visions our agency strives to attain. ☀

Easter Egg Hunt

Volunteers are needed to help with the Roeland Park Community Center's 23rd annual Easter Egg hunt on Saturday, April 4th from 9:00 am – 11:30 am. The event will be held on the former Roeland Park Elementary School grounds, located at 5535 Juniper, Roeland Park, KS 66205.

Volunteers are needed to help with a craft project, face painting, balloons, collecting food for the community center food pantry, and distributing prizes. This event is for children age 10 and under.

To volunteer, please call Jane or Cherie at 913-826-3130.

Volunteer & Program Coordinators

Benita Webber – Volunteer Services Coordinator
715-8859 benita.webber@jocogov.org

Elvina Kroemer – Meals on Wheels
715-8892 elvina.kroemer@jocogov.org

Jane Hurst – Roeland Park Community Center
826-3130 jane.hurst@jocogov.org

Nan Frink – Blue Valley Multi-Service Center
897-3991 nan.frink@jocogov.org

Stevie Morris – Spring Hill Multi-Service Center
592-2304 stevie.morris@jocogov.org

Linda Rogers – Gardner Multi-Service Center
856-7934 linda.rogers@jocogov.org

Cindy Muehlberger – North Central Multi-Service Center
715-6650 cindy.muehlberger@jocogov.org

Jodi Hitchcock – De Soto Multi-Service Center
583-1152 jodi.hitchcock@jocogov.org

Barb Gerhard – Catch-a-Ride
715-8901 barbara.gerhard@jocogov.org

Karen Mitscher – SHICK
715-8855 karen.mitscher@jocogov.org

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION EVENT

SHAWNEE TOWN HALL

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 22, 6:00-8:00 P.M.

Save the Date! Invitations will arrive soon!

Roeland Park Community Center Easter Egg hunt

Location

Saturday, April 4, 10:00-11:30 A.M.

Congregate Meal Sites

De Soto – Maxine Klamm
32905 W. 84th St.

Gardner – Shari Elsen and Frances Hutton
128 E. Park St.

Lenexa – Steve Constance and Marcia Atkinson
13425 Walnut St.

Merriam/Shawnee – Rita Voss and Mary Avila
5701 Merriam Drive

Olathe – Marcia Jennings, Joan Giannola, and Diane Schoenfeldt
311 E. Park St.

Overland Park – Rita Halvordson, Evelyn Cline, and Susan LaRue
6300 W. 87th St.

Roeland Park – David Wood and Hazel Hoover
4850 Rosewood Drive

Spring Hill – Gloria Hicks
401 N. Madison St.

Blue Valley – Joe Gunter and Don Sears
6100 W. 127th St. Pick-up only!

Save the Date!

Please plan to attend the Volunteer Appreciation Event on Wednesday, April 22, from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. at the Shawnee Town Hall (same location as last year)!

Our theme this year is

“Our Volunteers Are Magical”

Invitations will be sent soon. You will receive your invitation as an e-mail if we have an e-mail address on file. If not, look for a printed copy of the invitation in your mailbox.

This will be a fun evening for all!



MARCH ORIENTATIONS

Tuesday, March 10 ▪ 2:00–3:30 p.m.

- Sunset Drive Office Building, Olathe

Wednesday, March 18 ▪ 10:00–11:30 a.m.

- Sunset Drive Office Building, Olathe

Thursday, March 26 ▪ 3:30–5:00 p.m.

- Roeland Park Community Center

LOCATIONS

Sunset Drive Office Building

11811 S. Sunset Drive, Olathe
I-35 to 119th Street; west to 119th Street; north on
Ridgeview Drive; west on Sunset Drive (first left).
Turn into parking lot and park in the east lot.

Roeland Park Community Center

4850 Rosewood Drive, Roeland Park

From Johnson Drive: North on Nall Avenue;
east (right) at 51st Street; north (left) on
Rosewood Drive; continue on Rosewood until you
come into the Community Center parking lot.

From I-35: Lamar exit; south to 51st Street; east
(left) on 51st Street; north (left) at Rosewood
Drive; continue on Rosewood until you come into
the Community Center parking lot.

Central Resource Library

9875 West 87th St. Parkway

Between I-35 and Antioch Road in Overland Park,
at the corner of Farley and 87th streets. We meet
in the Carmack Room, directly to your left when
you enter the building.

*April and May orientations dates will be posted
on our Web site, <http://hsa.jocogov.org/> when they
are scheduled.* ☀

Volunteer Update & Survey

Thank you to all who returned their surveys or completed the survey online through *Survey Monkey*. The response has been tremendous! The personal contact information will help us keep our records up-to-date. and your feedback is beneficial in keeping our volunteer program healthy and strong.

It's not too late to send in your printed survey. Unfortunately, all the online surveys are closed, but if you would like a printed version to complete, please let me know and I'll drop one in the mail. ☀

TV Converter Coupon Program

Thanks to everyone who sent TV converter coupons! Our clients are very appreciative of having the coupons available. ☀

TESTIMONIALS

I am a substitute Meals on Wheels volunteer and I deliver meals with my children: Justin, 5 years old; Samantha, 3 years old; and Jessica, 3 months old. Is it hard to get the route completed with everyone "helping"? Absolutely! Do some folks get their meals later than they are used to? Sure! But I know many people receive more than their meal that day, and the human contact means everything. My kids are so lucky to get the opportunity to see people need and accept help. It is a valuable lesson.

Gail Balling
Meals on Wheels volunteer

Newsletter Update

Please note that *The Volunteer Times* newsletter will now be distributed quarterly instead of monthly. I enjoy communicating with you very much, but my time for writing articles and stories is limited. I will be much timelier in getting the newsletter out by producing the newsletter four times a year!