



T H E H E A R T L I N E

T A K I N G T H E P U L S E
COVERING VOLUNTEERISM AND SERVICE THROUGHOUT THE COMMONWEALTH

This Quarter: Governor's Volunteer Awards (cover) - Every 1 Reads (cover) - Midwinter Training (page 3) - Alan Taylor (page 3) - Disabilities Corner (page 4) - Value of a Volunteer's Time (page 5) - New Opportunities School for Women (page 5) - UNITE/SERV Corps Collaboration (page 10) Robina Spencer (page 10) - Great Kids Summit (page 11)

2nd Quarter 2007/Governor's Awards Edition

2006 GOVERNOR'S VOLUNTEER AWARDS

Outstanding Service Honored at Annual Ceremony



The Kentucky Commission on Community Volunteerism and Service announced the winners of the 2006 Governor's Volunteer Awards. An awards presentation ceremony was

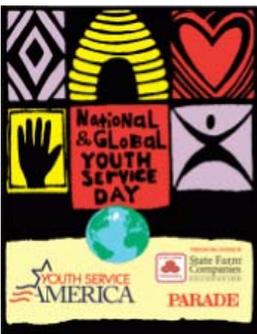
held at the state Capitol in Frankfort on Monday, April 16. CHFS Undersecretary for Families and Children Tom Emberton Jr. presented the awards.

A panel of judges with volunteer and community service backgrounds chose 15 winners in 11 categories.

"The volunteers we honor today put to rest the notion that only large-scale efforts and epic movements can change the world," Undersecretary Emberton said. "So many of the world's problems, in fact, are solved every day by individuals and groups, like these, who recognize a need and take the initiative to fill it."

Turn to pages 6-9 to see pictures and description of this year's recipients.

NATIONAL AND GLOBAL YOUTH SERVICE DAY



Millions of young people around the world tackled important community issues in observance of the 2007 National & Global Youth Service Day April 20-22, the largest community service event in the world.

American youth created and implemented service projects focusing on disaster relief, literacy, health and hunger issues and improving the environment.

This annual event is designated by Youth Service America as a time to highlight community service projects undertaken by volunteers younger than 25.

Kentucky Child Now! coordinated activities in Kentucky for National & Global Youth Service Day. For more information, visit the KCN Web site, www.kychildnow.org/newsite/nysd/.

AMERICORPS PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT

Jefferson County Public Schools Every 1 Reads
AmeriCorps Program



Jefferson County Public Schools (JCPS) is the largest, most diverse school district in Kentucky, with 97,000 students and 13,000 full-

time employees. The JCPS student population has unique socio-economic challenges as a result of a 78 percent increase in the homeless population and a 2.6 percent increase in the number of students receiving free and reduced-price meals since 2003.

To meet the special needs of all JCPS students and help them achieve grade-level reading proficiency, in 2003 Greater Louisville Inc., JCPS and Metro Louisville jointly launched an ambitious reading initiative called Every 1 Reads (E1R). This community-wide effort aims to have every child in JCPS reading at grade level by 2008.

Spring 2006 student achievement data showed revealed that 15 percent of third-grade students and 10 percent of sixth-grade students read below grade level. In Fall 2006, JCPS sponsored an AmeriCorps program to provide tutoring to struggling students in 10 low-performing elementary and middle schools.

The 10 AmeriCorps E1R program members each serve one school and work directly with the school Family Resource and/or Youth Services Center coordinators. Each members works with 10 students at a time, delivering a total of 250 tutoring hours each week.

State and district assessment data, along with teacher recommendations, are used to identify students for entry to and release from the program.



The goal for E1R members is to help 200 students each year advance from the novice reading level. JCPS provides

(continued on page 11)

Corporation for
**NATIONAL &
 COMMUNITY
 SERVICE**



Throughout the newsletter are small bits for your enjoyment. Keep an eye out for them.



The happy dancing man is always accompanied by a "funny." Lighten your mood a little with a short joke.



The thinking man is followed by wise witty words from many sources. Allow him to engage your mind.



This icon is accompanied by a brain teaser. Go ahead, see if you can catch the solution.



This icon indicates that interesting statistics follow. It also begs the question: are all things number? From the philosophy of Pythagoras who said, "all things are number."

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WHO WE ARE

KCCVS COMMISSIONERS

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 John Curtis – Administrative Assistant
 Melissa Newton – Training Officer
 Shannon Ramsey – Media & Publications Specialist
 Andrea Sieloff, RSM – Program Officer
 Lanny Taulbee – Disabilities Coordinator
 Marzelle Wurtsmith – Financial Officer

KCCVS MISSION

To promote all Kentuckians working together to meet actual community needs in a way that fosters personal, family and community pride and an enduring ethic of volunteerism and service.

DID YOU KNOW?

Brought to you by www.hookedonfacts.com

- Strawberries have more Vitamin C than oranges.
- An ounce of platinum can be stretched 10,000 feet.
- China has more English speakers than the United States.
- U.S. Presidents Adams, Jefferson, and Monroe all died on the 4th of July.
- Fingernails grow nearly 4 times faster than toenails.
- Rubberbands last longer when refrigerated.
- A toothpick is the object most often choked on by Americans.
- A Koala Bear sleeps 22 hours of every day.
- More than 100 pizza box-related patents have been issued since 1976.
- A person swallows approximately 295 times while eating dinner.

Editor: Shannon Ramsey

2007 AMERICORPS MIDWINTER TRAINING



Taking a step away from the norm, the KCCVS supported three events instead of its traditional Midwinter Training for AmeriCorps members. In February, 12 AmeriCorps members with the Getting Things Done for

Kentucky's Homeless program attended a Sustainable Building Conference in Lexington. KCCVS covered travel and conference expenses, allowing those members, who serve as construction assistants, to increase their building knowledge and their ability to assist in disaster recovery. Topics addressed included What is Green Building and Why We Should Care; Integrative Design; Building Envelope; Insulation; Venting Issues; Green Building Programs and others. We would like to thank Josie Kirker and the Homeless and Housing Coalition for making this event possible.

Also in February, the KCCVS partnered with Kentucky Child Now to host a one-day Youth Service Institute. Kentucky Child Now is coordinating activities in Kentucky for National & Global Youth Service Day April 20-22. This annual event has been designated by Youth Service America as the time to highlight the many community service projects undertaken by volunteers younger than 25. The purpose of the one-day training event was to give adults and youth basic skills to plan, implement and reflect upon a service project in their community. This event was attended by AmeriCorps members from the Kentucky Youth Leadership Corps, The Learning Corps, SERV Corps and Getting Things Done for Kentucky's Homeless. We would like to thank Jennifer Watson, Stephanie Reynolds and Carolyn Hudman for their efforts in making this a wonderful event.



Finally, in March, KCCVS partnered with the Franklin County Chapter of the Red Cross and the United Way of Frankfort to host a one-day Disaster Preparedness Conference. This one-day training event included sessions on weather spotting, basic family preparedness, preparing for a flu pandemic, emergency shelter set up and operations and a panel discussion covering a variety of topics related to disaster preparedness. During the lunch break, participants were invited to tour the Red Cross Emergency Response Vehicle (ERV) and the Frankfort Fire Department's HumV fire truck. The Red Cross also hosted a blood drive during the conference. We would like to thank Rose Johnson and Paula Rutledge from the Red

Cross and Rafyna Naquib of the United Way for their expertise and hard work.

All three events were coordinated to provide the Kentucky AmeriCorps members with meaningful learning experiences. Member evaluations indicate all three events were a huge success.

Submitted by Melissa Newton



"To give without reward, or any notice, has a special quality of its own."

- Anne Morrow Lindbergh, American pilot and writer (1906-2001)

COMMISSIONER SPOTLIGHT

Alan Taylor



All his life, Alan Taylor has called Kentucky home. Born and raised in Owensboro, Taylor graduated from Brescia University with a bachelor's degree in marketing. He moved to Henderson in 1977 and has lived there ever since. "I've become a fixture in Henderson County," he jokes.

Taylor was the owner and manager of Personal Safety Equipment Co., Inc. for more than 28 years before selling the company in December 2005. This past November he opened a restaurant, the Downtown Sandwich Shoppe, one of 10 small business operations he has started in his life. He also teaches a small business ownership class at the local community college. Taylor does not believe in retirement and plans to work as long as he can.

Appointed to the commission in 2002, Taylor is a long-time advocate of KCCVS and AmeriCorps in Kentucky. Taylor believes in the value of residents working to strengthen their communities.

His ambition and positive attitude have made him a wonderful asset to the commission. Taylor has served on numerous committees and even hosted a commission meeting in Henderson, making all the local arrangements himself. He admits that one reason he wanted to host the commission meeting was to share with his fellow commissioners what he considers the best barbeque in Kentucky. Owensboro consistently ranks on most lists of great U.S. barbecue towns.

He and his wife of 37 years, Amy, have two children and three grandchildren. Taylor enjoys classical music and desires to leave the world better than when he arrived. He wants to be remembered as someone who truly worked hard to make life better for others.

The KCCVS appreciates his dedication and commitment to the commission and hopes to keep him around for many more years to come. Maybe he can even cater our next meeting.

Things to Ponder

- How come abbreviated is such a long word?
- If the #2 pencil is the most popular, why is it still #2?
- Why is phonics not spelled the way it sounds?
- Why do they call it rush hour if no one is moving?
- Is there another word for synonym?
- Where do forest rangers go to “get away from it all”?

DISABILITIES CORNER

Currency Issues for the Visually Impaired



Whether it's political ideology or sibling rivalry, differing opinions are a fact of life. Even among disability groups and organizations, assessing needs, setting priorities and identifying solutions can often put similar organizations on different sides of a debate. One of the latest issues to draw public attention is a proposal to redesign U.S. paper

currency to make it more user-friendly to people who are blind or have other visual impairments.

U. S. banknotes currently are all the same size and texture, making it nearly impossible for people with visual impairments to distinguish one denomination from another without assistance. People who are blind or visually impaired are taught to fold each dollar-value bill in a particular way for later identification after someone else identifies the bill's value for them. The visually impaired then must rely both upon the honesty of whomever identifies the value of their folding money and their own bill-folding skills and ability to remember which bill assumes which folded shape. Coins, of course, don't pose that dilemma as their varied sizes make them readily distinguishable from each other.

Three to 10 million people in the U.S. conceivably would benefit from a change in the size, shape, texture or other tactile distinctions in domestic banknotes.

These figures don't include the estimated tens of millions of Americans who are beginning to experience sight loss as they age. According to the American Council of the Blind, senior citizens often are not included in estimates of the visually impaired, although they often experience difficulty distinguishing bill denominations in low-light situations.

More than 180 countries have paper currency, but only U.S. bills are all the same size, shape and color. Changes to U.S. paper currently also would require modifications to most money-dispensing machines, like ATMs, bill changers and counters and vending machines. Possible changes to the paper currency to enhance distinctions for the visually impaired could range from raised watermarks, Braille markers, various paper sizes, shapes and colors, or even raised geometric shapes imprinted on designated corners of each currency type. Estimated costs to implement such changes vary widely.

In a lawsuit filed in 2002, the American Council of the Blind argued that the Department of the Treasury is in violation of federal law by failing to issue paper currency that is easily distinguishable by touch, color or size. On November 28, 2006, U.S. District Judge James Robertson ruled in the council's favor. However, the Bush administration is appealing that ruling, arguing that the judge erred in concluding that people who are visually impaired are denied “meaningful access” to money by the same-sized bills because portable currency readers exist to help distinguish the bills. The government also said people with visual impairments can use credit and debit cards instead of cash.

Portable currency readers cost about \$300, pricing them out of reach for many visually impaired people. Some who have used currency readers claim they are unreliable and difficult to use – bills must be inserted a certain way, tattered or folded bills often will not read properly and the devices often can't read old bills or newly redesigned bills.

Not all businesses accept credit and debit cards and not all visually impaired people are able to or wish to obtain these cards for many reasons, including the risk of identity theft.

While the ACB has worked to bring this issue to the forefront through court action, another advocacy organization, the National Federation of the Blind, has taken a different approach. The NFB believes that the ability to obtain employment and receive an earned income is just as important for the visually impaired as the ability to distinguish the denominations of paper currency. Around 70 percent of Americans who are blind or visually impaired are either unemployed or under-employed. The NFB believes the calculated costs associated with redesigning paper currency would be more beneficial to this population if the funding was applied to improving education, training and employment opportunities.

While opinions and viewpoints may differ on this and other issues affecting people with disabilities, it's important to keep an open mind regarding accommodations for people with disabilities and to keep an ongoing dialogue about these issues always focuses on fairness and equality as established in our laws and the Constitution.

Submitted by Lanny Taulbee



61.2 million or **26.7 percent** of adults volunteered in 2006.

- Bureau of Labor Statistics, “Volunteering in the United States, 2006,” report released January 2007, www.bls.gov/news.release/volun.nr0.htm

66 percent of **Kentucky** adults volunteered in 2006 – a 10 percent increase since 1996.

- Kentucky Long-Term Policy Research Center's book, *Visioning Kentucky's Future: Measures and Milestones 2006*, www.kltprc.net/books/2006/trends.pdf (page 34)

JOIN HANDS DAY

May 5, 2007

Connecting youth and adults in neighborhood volunteering is the unique focus of Join Hands Day. This volunteer day is designed to create friendships across generations as a way to break down age barriers. Adult groups invite youth organizations and youth groups invite adult organizations to become project partners for the day. Often, these groups or individuals form long-term relationships.



First observed in 2000, Join Hands Day is a national day of service where youths and adults work as equal partners to plan and carry out local volunteer projects to benefit their neighborhoods.

On Saturday, May 5, thousands of young people and adults across America will partner in volunteer projects to improve their communities and help neighbors in need as part of Join Hands Day.

More than 1,000 Join Hands Day projects were registered in the U.S. and Hungary in 2006. Projects included a variety of activities from raising funds to help family whose house was destroyed by fire and cleaning a state park nature center to making May Day baskets with seniors and delivering Meals on Wheels.

Join Hands Day is sponsored by America's fraternal benefit societies and is held annually on the first Saturday in May. For more information, go to the Join Hands Day Web site, www.joinhandsday.org, or call (630) 522-6322, ext. 116.

VALUE OF A VOLUNTEER'S TIME

The estimated value of a volunteer's time is **\$18.77** per hour for 2006, according to the Independent Sector, an advocacy group for volunteers and community service groups.

This number, up from 2006's estimate of \$18.04, gives charitable organizations a tool to help quantify the immense contributions volunteers make.

"The true value of volunteer time is the vital role that they play in helping millions of charitable organizations and communities across the country," said Diana Aviv, president and CEO of Independent Sector. "Volunteering is about giving, contributing, and helping others. The new estimate helps put into perspective the enormous contributions provided by our nation's volunteers."

The hourly value of volunteer time is based on the average hourly wage of all non-management, non-agricultural workers as determined by the Bureau of Labor Statistics, with a 12 percent increase to estimate for fringe benefits.

Learn more about the value of volunteer time at www.independentsector.org.



From www.discoveryschool.com/brainboosters

What do all of the following words or phrases have in common?

1. one-time
2. delegates
3. Camelot
4. paramedic
5. avocado
6. inoperative
7. ecumenical
8. misused
9. not on a bet
10. coverage

HINT: Think patterns. *Answer on page 11.*

NEW OPPORTUNITIES SCHOOL FOR WOMEN

On Saturday, Feb. 24 I attended the New Opportunity School for Women winter class graduation in Berea.



The school's founder, Jane Stephenson, received a 2005 Governor's Volunteer Award for Lifetime Achievement. Kim Gabbard is the executive director. Together, and with the assistance of administrative staff and a network of caring people, they work to change lives in just three weeks.

Inspirational, stirring and inspiring only begin to describe the feelings I experienced at this special event. Twice each year, 14 women are chosen for admission to the intensive three-week school term where they acquire skills and find support and help to overcome often severe and complex challenges in their lives.

Graduates spoke about the bonds of sisterhood forged at New Opportunity School. One woman wrote a poem that described her past life and hopes for the future. Using dirt as a symbol, the poem acknowledges that one can rise above discouragement and criticism to create a life filled with meaning and purpose, hope and success.

Only Dirt

by Opal Charlene Greene

"You're nothing, you'll never be anything, you're no good, In fact, you're only dirt," they say,
Well, "What is dirt?" I say,
Only dirt is full of minerals and nutrients,
Only dirt feeds the world from seeds planted in it,
Only dirt is a "nourisher" of life,
Only dirt is needed by all to survive,
"I am Dirt," they say?

Learn more about the New Opportunity for Women School at www.nosw.org.

Submitted by Eileen Cackowski, KCCVS Director

2006 GOVERNOR'S VOLUNTEER AWARD RECIPIENTS

MAKE A DIFFERENCE DAY TRAVELING AWARD

Each year the KCCVS sponsors a food drive in observance of Make A Difference Day. As part of this observance, employees of the Cabinet for Health and Family Services' nine community-based service regions compete to collect the most food and capture the special Traveling Award, which remains with the winning region for one year and travels to reside with each consecutive winning region.

Two Rivers Service Region



For Make A Difference Day 2006, the Two Rivers Service Region collected more than 20,000 ounces of food – nearly half the total collected by all participating regional offices combined and about 5,000 ounces more than the total collected

by the runner-up. Thanks to this impressive effort, food banks in the Two Rivers region will be able to feed more than 2,600 Kentuckians. Counties in the Two Rivers region are: Allen, Barren, Butler, Daviess, Edmonson, Hancock, Hart, Henderson, Logan, McLean, Metcalfe, Monroe, Ohio, Simpson, Union, Warren and Webster. Service Region Administrator James Toler accepted the award.

BUSINESS GROUP AWARD

The Group Award recognizes a group that has made a substantial impact on local quality of life through innovation, volunteer hours and number of volunteers committed to local service. One non-profit organization, including schools, labor unions and civic organizations, and one business may be selected for this award.

HSBC of London, Kentucky - London/Laurel County



In the past 18 months, volunteers at HSBC financial services have donated more than \$210,000 and almost 5,000 hours of service to their community.

They raised money to help young people

attend the Kentucky State Police's celebrated Trooper Island Camp, where children who may not otherwise have a chance to go to camp enjoy experiences promoting self esteem, physical fitness and academic success. The HSBC volunteers also helped support many community events and other worthy causes. Cynthia Walker, who nominated HSBC, said she is honored to work for a corporation that believes in the value of giving back to the community.

CHALLENGE ADULT AWARD

The Challenge Award recognizes individuals who have overcome significant personal obstacles in order to engage in volunteer service. These obstacles may include anything from physical and/or mental challenges to significant time constraints. One youth and one adult may be selected in this category.

Judy Hamilton - Jackson/Breathitt County



Despite injuries and pain from a serious automobile accident, Judy Hamilton volunteers daily with the Jackson City School Family Resource and Youth Services Center. The mother of three also fills

the role of surrogate mother to all 400 children served by the center, enthusiastically responding to the needs of children and families who seek help from the FRYSC. When students needed costumes for an international cultures project, Judy seized the opportunity to help, making costumes by hand. One of her designs even received an award for authenticity. Judy also has served in various other school-based councils, committees and parent-teacher organizations. She was nominated by Deborah Clemons.

DIRECTOR OF VOLUNTEERS AWARD

The Director of Volunteers Award recognizes paid staff who exemplify good management skills in volunteer training, risk management, screening, recognition, evaluation and retention of volunteers.

Janet Druen - Elizabethtown/Hardin County



Janet Druen's love of volunteering began in childhood and forms the basis for her approach to her role as district coordinator of volunteers for Hardin County Schools. Janet began

volunteering in 1987 when she was one of just seven volunteers in the entire school district. She began a recruitment campaign that soon expanded the school district's volunteer ranks to about 250 individuals. As district coordinator, Janet now oversees a volunteer force that numbers about 5,000. Currently serving her second term as president of the Kentucky Coalition of School Volunteer Organizations, Janet helps provide needed support to her volunteers with regular workshops and annual volunteer achievement recognition. She was nominated by Patrick Avery.

2006 GOVERNOR'S VOLUNTEER AWARD RECIPIENTS

FAITH-BASED GROUP AWARD

KCCVS created a special award category this year to recognize a group and an individual who volunteer through faith-based community organizations.

Lighthouse Rescue Mission/Scottie and Patty Sumner -
London/Laurel County



In August 2005, Scottie Sumner and his wife Patty sold their house and built the Lighthouse Rescue Mission, a Christ-centered ministry for women struggling to overcome alcoholism, substance abuse and other life-controlling problems. The mission serves 10 to 12 women at a time and provides an array of services at no cost to its clients. The Sumners take a whole-family approach to their service ministry, providing help and support to residents and their families and extended communities. The mission operates exclusively on donations. Along with the three Ds - deliverance, dedication and discipleship – women at the mission also benefit from an unlimited supply of love. The KCCVS received six separate nominations for Scottie and Patty – a first in Governor's Awards history! Nominators were Joel and Charmaine Catron, Jennifer Smith, Amy Morgan, Alexandria Fryman and Anna Fischlein.

FAITH-BASED INDIVIDUAL AWARD

Joy Daniel - Ashland/Boyd County



Joy Daniel is the coordinator for Two Hearts Pregnancy Center's Joy Room, a repository and distribution center for expectant mothers in Ashland. Joy launders donated clothing, paints

furnishings and repair items so they'll look and function as close to brand new as possible. She is active in her church, teaching Sunday School and working in other children's ministries, taking charge of Wednesday evening meals, volunteering at the church office, heading up the Social Concerns Committee and more. Beyond all this, she mentors teenage girls, taking them to church and generally making sure they have food and clothing, school supplies and other things they may need. Joy was nominated by Rebecca Clere.

IMPACT ADULT AWARD

The Impact Award recognizes individuals whose service has made the greatest difference as demonstrated by lives and/or community conditions improved or changed for the better. One youth and one adult may be selected in this category.

Norma Patton - Mt. Sterling/Montgomery County



A volunteer in Montgomery, Bath and Bourbon counties, Norma Patton gives her time to the State Health Insurance Assistance Program, helping senior citizens navigate the often complex federal Medicare system. During the past year, Norma personally helped more than 1,400 seniors through one-on-one counseling and group presentations. If clients cannot come to

her, she goes to them. Norma spends all the time necessary to help each client. As a member of the Kentucky Senior Medicare Patrol program she helps others learn to detect and report Medicare fraud and abuse. She is a valued member of the Retired and Senior Volunteer Program and makes weekly visits to local nursing home residents. Norma also volunteers at a local elementary school and a health clinic for low-income and uninsured individuals. She was nominated by Angela Zeek.

IMPACT YOUTH AWARD

Elizabeth "Hayley" Franklin - Carrollton/
Carroll County



Elizabeth Hayley Franklin hasn't missed a day of school this year – or any year since first grade. An honor student, this Carroll County High School junior is involved in her school's Youth Council; Pep Club; 4-H; Future Business Leaders of America; PKOM, a mentoring program for freshman; Students Against Drunk Driving; YES youth empowerment committee; Prom

Committee; Student Council; National Honor Society and the school paper. Outside of school, Haley is active in her community. She's a member of Girl Scouts and participates in Project Winterization for the elderly, the annual Ohio River clean sweep, March of Dimes Walk America and the Polar Bear Plunge benefiting Special Olympics. Hayley supports the American Cancer Society Relay for Life; Salvation Army Red Kettle campaign; Dr. Seuss Birthday Bash to promote family reading; drug and alcohol abuse prevention campaigns and community holiday gift drives. She's a youth member of the city council and emceeds local pageants, among other service endeavors. Hayley was nominated by Tracey Reynolds.

2006 GOVERNOR'S VOLUNTEER AWARD RECIPIENTS

INNOVATION ADULT AWARD

The Innovation Award recognizes individuals who have met a community need in ways that are both effective and extraordinary. Nominees must have demonstrated an exceptional ability, talent or idea he or she has committed to community service. One youth and one adult may be selected in this category.

Heather Bivens - Lawrenceburg/Anderson County



Heather Bivens is one of the founders of Helping Hands, Healing Hearts, a non-profit group that provides handmade blankets and stuffed animals for law enforcement agencies to give to children at the scenes of crimes and accidents or in other traumatic circumstances. Last year, Heather and the members of her organization distributed 400 blankets to the Kentucky State Police to provide comfort and reassurance to children in crisis. She also finds time to organize food, cash and toy and gift drives to help less fortunate families during the holidays. Heather was nominated by Alice Blackwell.

INNOVATION YOUTH AWARD

Cameron Lile - Hardyville/Hart County



An eighth grader at Barren County Middle School, 14-year-old Cameron Lile established a Jarrett's Joy Cart program in her hometown. Jarrett's Joy Cart is a program launched by a former patient at UK Children's Hospital that brings new toys to hospitalized children. Cameron mobilized teachers, students and her fellow Beta Club members to collect more than 1,000 toys this past holiday season for children in the hospital. Cameron is involved as a member and leader in many school and community organizations, including Junior Beta Club, 4-H, Family Community and Career Leaders of America and the Chamber of Commerce Leaders of the Future. Somehow, she finds also time and energy to participate in intramural sports. Cameron was nominated by Brenda Chaney.

From www.lotsofjokes.com



Innkeeper: The room is \$15. a night. It's \$5 if you make your own bed.

Guest: I'll make my own bed.

Innkeeper: Good. I'll get you some nails and wood.

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD (TIE)

The Lifetime Achievement Award honors a long-term commitment to volunteerism and community service at a variety of levels. Nominees should have made a substantial and sustained impact in the community as a result of their service efforts. More than one individual may be selected.

Rosan Medaris - Russell Springs/Russell County



Rosan has been volunteering for 34 years, more than half her life. Since retiring nine years ago, she has been volunteering full time. She recently returned from her third mission trip to Mississippi and has also taken eight mission trips to Belize. Rosan volunteers faithfully with Russell Hospital Auxiliary, Russell Springs Elementary School, Russell County Extension Service, Hospice of Lake Cumberland, Russell County Public Library, Russell County Habitat for Humanity and United Methodist Church. It is impossible to count or even estimate the number of people served and the lives touched by Rosan's service to her community. She was nominated by Christina Johnson.

C.J. "Mac" Heidrich - Ft. Wright/Kenton County



For the last 48 years, Mac has been a valued member of the Redwood Rehabilitation Center family, volunteering hundreds of hours each year. The center is a non-profit organization helping children and adults with multiple and severe disabilities achieve independence. He first became involved in 1959 when he enrolled his son in the Redwood Early Childhood Program and now is involved in almost every aspect of the Redwood organization, including serving on the board of trustees and the Facility Management Committee. He helps with fundraising, volunteering at all the center's special events and helping in the kitchen every week. He also keeps an eye out for things that need to be repaired and it's difficult to estimate how much money Redwood has been able to dedicate to other needs as a result of Mac's handman skills. Mac helps out as the on-site construction supervisor for a 3,800-square-foot addition to the children's therapy services center currently being built. He was nominated by Barbara Howard.



"What we have done for ourselves alone dies with us; what we have done for others and the world remains and is immortal."

— Albert Pike, American lawyer, journalist and soldier (1809-1891)

2006 GOVERNOR'S VOLUNTEER AWARD RECIPIENTS

NATIONAL SERVICE GROUP AWARD

*The National Service Award recognizes an individual and/or group that has demonstrated outstanding volunteer service over and beyond the requirements of their designated program, such as AmeriCorps, AmeriCorps *VISTA, AmeriCorps*NCCC or Senior Service Corps.*

Members of The Learning Corps - Owensboro/
Daviss County



The Learning Corps AmeriCorps program helps elementary and middle school students in five West Kentucky counties improve their reading skills. In addition

to school activities, TLC members collected more than 14,000 cans of food for Make A Difference Day- enough to provide 20,080 meals to the less fortunate in the region. They also collected 479 pairs of gloves and mittens and 30 hats which were distributed to children and families. TLC members collected nearly 400,000 metal can pull-tabs as a fundraiser for the Ronald McDonald House in Louisville and sponsored needy children through local Angel Tree campaigns. They also collected money, food, clothes and toys for a group of siblings who tragically lost their mother just before the holidays. TLC's community service extends far beyond the demands and requirements of their service program and truly demonstrates the best of the human spirit in responding to unmet needs. They were nominated by Shannon Bailes.

NATIONAL SERVICE INDIVIDUAL AWARD

Fred Griffin - Henderson/Henderson County



Fred Griffin logs more than 3,000 service hours each year. He has given of his time and talent as a member of the Audubon Area Retired and Senior Volunteer Program. He serves as a volunteer with the

Owensboro Medical Health Care systems delivering papers, making charts and staffing the information desk. Sometimes he makes the 30-minute, one-way trip twice in one day to man different shifts. He often volunteers at night and on weekends and his service has helped skilled nursing staff maintain a high level of quality patient care by freeing them from paperwork and other tasks Fred attends to. He was nominated by Sondra Mattingly.

NON-PROFIT GROUP AWARD

The Group Award recognizes a group that has made a substantial impact on local quality of life through innovation, volunteer hours and number of volunteers committed to local service. One non-profit organization, including schools, labor unions and civic organizations, and one business may be selected for this award.

The Honor Guard of Man O' War Post 8 - Lexington/
Fayette County



The Honor Guard of Man O' War Post 8, The American Legion, is dedicated to ensuring that Kentuckians who wore the uniform of our nation's military are laid to rest with all due

and proper respect and honor. In recent years, the legion has lost a significant number of veterans trained and available to perform military burial rites, and few have emerged to take their places. They provide military burial rites for area veterans and their families, consisting of a rifle salute, the playing of Taps by a live bugler and the ceremonial folding and presentation to the family of the American flag. When requested, members of the honor guard even serve as pall bearers. Braving all weather conditions, the honor guard "falls out" whenever the call is issued to pay last respects to a fallen brother or sister in arms. They were nominated by John Kalbfleisch.

VOLUNTEER SUPPORT AWARD

The Volunteer Support Award recognizes the historical record of an enterprise or organization in supporting volunteerism through policies and practices. The supported volunteers may be employees or members of the business or corporation. The nomination must be able to demonstrate ongoing community or statewide impact.

Toyota Motor Manufacturing, Kentucky, Inc. -
Georgetown/Scott County



Since July 1, 2005, Toyota employees have volunteered 46,000 service hours to their state and communities through the corporation's Volunteer in Place program. Toyota has a longstanding

tradition as a good corporate neighbor that gives back to its

(continued on page 10)

host communities. Some of the volunteer efforts Toyota employees participated in during this award cycle include: 2005 Toyota National Public Lands Day; Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure; Toyota Bike the Bluegrass event; and Junior Achievement Bowl-A-Thon. Toyota also puts its money where its mouth is by matching its employees' volunteerism with corporate philanthropy. Since July 2005, Toyota Motor Manufacturing of Kentucky has donated more than \$3.2 million to various organizations across the state. TMMK was nominated by William Taylor.

UNITE/SERV CORPS COLLABORATION

Southeastern Kentucky traditionally has been recognized as having a high percentage of adults and students with low literacy achievement. Compounding this issue are data indicating that drug use among students and adults is increasing in this region.

Armed with this information, in 2003 Congressman Hal Rogers brought to the fifth Congressional District an initiative called Operation UNITE, a federally-funded program focusing on enforcement, intervention and education. In the fall of 2005, Gary L. Perkins and Danny Godbey, UNITE school liaisons and Nancy Thames with the EKV Student Services Consortium, collaborated on a grant proposal to place 20 AmeriCorps members in high-risk schools in Southeastern Kentucky, calling the program SERV Corps (Service Educators Recruiting Volunteers). In August 2005, this grant was funded by the Corporation for National and Community Service through the Kentucky Commission on Community Volunteerism and Service. SERV Corps began providing services to schools in September 2006.

SERV Corps members received training in literacy support strategies for at-risk students and drug education. This drug education curriculum, Too Good for Drugs, includes 10 lessons for third- and fourth-grade students, touching on topics such as goal setting, harmful effects of drugs and character education. Lessons provide students with strategies to avoid peer pressure to use drugs. Eastern Kentucky University College of Education staff provided the literacy training and Operation UNITE school liaisons taught the drug education sessions. SERV Corps members learned to make connections between the drug education program and other academic areas, including literacy. Each SERV Corps member will actively recruit volunteers from the community and other organizations to help continue and expand the impact of this initiative.

As of December 2006, more than 500 students had received extra help in reading and more than 1,000 students in 20 schools received drug education lessons. The goal is to provide assistance each year to more than 2,000 students in high-need areas. SERV Corps members also will work with schools to establish UNITE Clubs to provide a support network for students who pledge to stay drug and alcohol free. Club members will have the chance to demonstrate their leadership skills as they encourage

fellow students to avoid the problems associated with alcohol, tobacco and other drugs.

An annual Uniting to Serve Conference in May brings together students from all over the fifth Congressional District to network, hear motivational speakers and attend sessions in school leadership. Last year, more than 300 students and adults participated. This collaborative effort will target many of the most critical human service needs in Southeastern Kentucky and the impact will be felt for many years to come.

Submitted by Gary L. Perkins

EARN REWARDS FOR VOLUNTEERING



"The Power of One," the latest campaign by CMT's (Country Music Television) pro-social initiative, CMT One Country, urges viewers to get involved in their own community through civic participation and

volunteerism. CMT One Country celebrates volunteers for continued service by offering the opportunity to win rewards from CMT. Volunteers who register just 4 hours of service through their web site per month become eligible for a monthly drawing. The prize package includes a \$100 coupon for purchases at www.Shop.CMT.com, CMT merchandise, an MP3 player and a year long subscription to URGE (the new digital download service from MTV Networks) and a \$250 donation to the charity of your choice. For more information about CMT One Country and earning rewards for the good work that you already do, visit www.CMTOneCountry.com.

ROBINA SPENCER



Robina Spencer exemplifies the tremendous benefits baby boomers can bring to communities as AmeriCorps*VISTA volunteers.

Spencer, a retired nurse, was recruited for the AmeriCorps*VISTA program by the Green River District Health Department to help strengthen and expand the local Medical Reserve Corps (MRC). Her efforts not only have significantly increased the number of MRC volunteers and enhances services to immigrant and low-income residents, but also helped the Green River District MRC secure a \$10,000 capacity-building grant from the National Association of County and City Health Officials. Spencer also received a \$1,000 award to fund special training.

The Green River MRC is actively engaged in promoting emergency preparedness and health literacy among community residents. She and her volunteers have become familiar faces at area health fairs and neighborhood association meetings where they distribute information and offer presentations to help residents be prepared when disasters strike.

Submitted by Dale Tucker

Spotlight on Every 1 Reads (continued from cover page)

members comprehensive, ongoing training in literacy, intervention techniques and community volunteerism.

"I can honestly say that in the beginning, I was doing this just to pass time until graduate school began," said E1R member Erica Gray. "Now, after being in the school atmosphere and being with students consistently, I have more will and determination to continue my education and be better. So far, it has been a great experience. I never knew how much weight the title AmeriCorps member carried. Now, when people ask what I do and I tell them, they are fascinated."

To date, E1R members have recruited 68 community volunteers and have a goal to recruit 100 volunteers each year. As part of AmeriCorps' emphasis on community strengthening, members will serve this summer at a variety of local service agencies like the Neighborhood Places, where they will provide summer literacy tutoring.

E1R member Jonathan Kempf said, "AmeriCorps is about true civic responsibility. It's about playing an active role and not simply talking about what needs to be done. AmeriCorps is about taking initiative by helping real people and making real change. AmeriCorps members are standing up and stepping forward."

For more information about the JCPS Every 1 Reads AmeriCorps program, please contact the program director, Patricia Pointer at (502) 485-3025.

Submitted by Patricia Pointer

NATIONAL VOLUNTEERISM CONFERENCE

July 16-18, 2007

In July, thousands of volunteer and service leaders will convene in historic Philadelphia to explore The Power of We, theme of this year's National Conference on Volunteering and Service.

The conference is a one-of-a kind opportunity for volunteer and service managers to improve the effectiveness of their organizations.

The 2007 conference theme declares the power of collective action to solve problems – a hallmark of America's character since its founding. As the volunteer management sector strives to achieve a goal to add 10 million volunteers by 2010 and raise the quality of volunteering overall, this event offers valuable information, networking and skills development opportunities that should not be missed.

Convened by the Points of Light Foundation and the Corporation for National and Community Service, the conference is a great occasion to meet with peers from around the nation and hear from experts who can help improve the effectiveness of volunteer programs.

Learn more about the conference at www.volunteeringandservice.org.

NONPROFIT MANAGEMENT DEGREE PROGRAM

The Mandel Center for Nonprofit Organizations at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, Ohio, offers a master's degree and a certificate in the study of nonprofit management. Scholarships are available for AmeriCorps alumni.

For more information about the Mandel Center, visit their Web site at www.case.edu/mandelcenter. For more information about the AmeriCorps scholarship, visit www.case.edu/mandelcenter/grad/finance/ameriCorps/.



Answer to Brain Teaser from page 5

All ten words have alternating consonants and vowels.

GREAT KIDS SUMMIT

June 28-30, 2007



Kentucky Child Now (KCN) will host more than 500 Kentucky youth, youth workers, health professionals, educators and community groups at the June 28-30 4th Annual Great Kids Summit at Louisville's Galt House East. The summit is designed to bring youth and adults together to build success and create positive change in Kentucky.

The theme of this year's summit is **Learn Today. Earn Tomorrow!** To compliment the theme, KCN has scheduled an exciting line-up of speakers which include: **Rupert Boneham**, America's favorite contestant from the hit CBS reality show *Survivor* and **Liz Murray**, a young woman who found her way out of poverty and homelessness and into Harvard University. Both have inspiring stories to tell.

The summit also will feature marketable skills workshops; a three-hour Community Youth Development Institute session based on Stephen Sroka, Ph.D.'s *Keeping Kids Safe and Healthy in a Toxic Society* or LaMarr Shields' Youth Leadership Academy. Other summit highlights include: 24 interactive workshops to choose from, the 7th Annual Destiny Awards, the 3rd Annual Creative Youth Expo and a Youth Pathways to Success College sweatshirt giveaway.

Great Kids Summit three-day registration includes general sessions with four renowned speakers, choice of institute sessions, workshops, awards ceremony, some meals, conference materials and a summit T-shirt. Adult registration is \$175 and includes EILA credits. Registration for youth ages 13-24 registration is \$100.

KCN also offers a one-day summit registration option at a reduced price (adults \$100/youth \$50) on any of the three conference days.

For detailed registration and scholarship information, visit the Kentucky Child Now Web site, www.kychildnow.org or call (502) 227-7722.

Submitted by Carolyn Hudman, Kentucky Child Now!

WHAT'S ON OUR CALENDAR?

MAY/JUNE/JULY

2007

May 3 – National Day of Prayer

May 5 – Join Hands Day

May 13 – Mother's Day

May 19 – Armed Forces Day

May 28 – Memorial Day (observed)

June 6 – D-Day

June 14 – Flag Day

June 17 – Father's Day

June 21 – Summer Solstice, first day of summer

July 4 – Independence Day

July 6 – President George W. Bush's birthday

July 16-18 – National Conference on Volunteering and Service

July 26 – Anniversary of the Signing of American's with Disabilities Act

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NEXT EDITION:

- Commissioner Spotlight: Marlene Duffy
- Program Spotlight: Louisville Metro AmeriCorps Program
- Clay County Read-A-Thon
- 2007-08 Kentucky AmeriCorps Programs



Kentucky is a place where spirits are free to soar and big dreams can be fulfilled. We relish competition and cherish our champions for their willingness to push beyond conventional boundaries to reach new heights of success.



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