

The Heart Line: Taking the Pulse

Covering Volunteerism and Service Throughout Kentucky

Shannon L. Ramsey, Editor

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Newsletter Information

We'd love to have an article about your program or organization. Please email [Shannon Ramsey](mailto:Shannon.Ramsey@kccvs.org) to learn more about submitting an article for the newsletter.

Download the print version of this newsletter and past editions on the [KCCVS Newsletter](#) page on our website.

"Write it on your heart that every day is the best day in the year."

- Ralph Waldo Emerson

Contact the KCCVS



275 E. Main St., 3W-E
Frankfort, KY 40621
(800) 239-7404

www.volunteerKY.ky.gov

www.facebook.com/kccvs

kccvs@ky.gov



2012 Reflections and Ideas for 2013

By Shannon Ramsey, KCCVS Executive Assistant



It's easy to just rush into a new year, but it's important to take some time to reflect on the previous year and to think of what you would like

to accomplish in the new year. Personally, 2012 had many challenges, but ended up being one of the best years of my life. The same could be said for KCCVS in 2012. We faced big challenges -- major funding cuts and the loss of half of our staff, two because of retirement and two because of budget cuts. However, the KCCVS also had many accomplishments last year. You can see images of many of them in the [2012 KCCVS Slideshow](#).

As most of you do, we have high hopes for 2013. With both the call for nominations for the 2012 Governor's Volunteer Awards and MLK Day of Service in January, activity around the KCCVS office will pick up speed in no time. Most of our annual events are still on the calendar, but you may see changes in how they are implemented because of cuts in funds and staff. One example is that we will be asking for input on community needs through an online survey instead of at our annual community forums held across the Commonwealth. The annual program year kick-off event for Kentucky AmeriCorps members, called the Launch, will also see changes in its structure and design. So, like many of you, we here at the KCCVS must continue striving to do more with less.

What are your goals for 2013? Have you reflected on your 2012? What do you want to do differently this year? What do you want to see the KCCVS accomplish in 2013? How can you be a part of our success? Share your thoughts with us on the [KCCVS Facebook page](#)!

What's so great about the Governor's Volunteer Awards?

By Shannon Ramsey, KCCVS Executive Assistant

The Governor's Awards for Volunteerism and Service program, often called the Governor's Volunteer Awards, has more benefits than one may realize. The most obvious being a way to honor dedicated volunteers and what that honor means to the winners. However, the benefits may extend far beyond that.

First of all, let's not diminish what being selected as a Governor's Volunteer Award recipient means to the individuals and groups that win. For example, last year, I ran across an article in the Lexington Herald-Leader about recently deceased woodworker, Joel Evans, from Midway. The article profiled him and the impact he made on his community and specifically mentioned he was "honored by the governor for 'outstanding volunteer service.'" Evans

Woodworker also was a volunteer

JOEL EVANS LEFT HIS MARK ON FURNITURE AND IN MIDWAY

By Karla Ward
ward1@herald-leader.com

Joel Evans, known for his woodworking skills and volunteer civic efforts, died Sunday at his home in Midway. He was 76.

Mr. Evans' career also included work as a physicist and student of the philosophy of science.

"He was complex and had so many interests," said Ricka White, who with her late husband, Patrick White, co-owned a Lexington woodworking shop, the Unfinished Universe, with Mr. Evans. "He was a huge person in stature and in fact."

She said Mr. Evans was affectionately referred to on more than one occasion as "the smartest redneck you'd ever meet."



PABLO ALCALA / 2006 STAFF FILE PHOTO

Joel Evans started out studying physics then took up woodworking in the 1970s.

The largely self-taught woodworkers became known for their craftsmanship, particularly their ability to restore historic furniture. They did work for the governor's mansion and historic sites such as the Mary Todd Lincoln House.

"They did a lot of political arguing

around there, and then they did a little woodworking on the side," Joyce Evans joked.

White said Mr. Evans had an irrevocable, generous nature.

"The Unfinished Universe never made any money, and Joel was a good part of that reason," she said.

Mr. Evans enjoyed portraying Santa each year for Midway's downtown holiday celebrations. He also volunteered at the library, helped create a Tree Board in Midway and served with the Kentucky River Watershed Watch program. In 2004, he was honored by the governor for "outstanding volunteer service," which included organizing an effort to create a park from a wooded area near Midway's Northside Elementary School.

In addition to his wife, Mr. Evans is survived by three children, Joel Evans, Sara Day Evans and Amy Axon, and several grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Visitation will be 4 to 5 p.m. Friday at Kerr Brothers Funeral Home on Main Street, followed by a memorial service.

Karla Ward: (859) 231-3314.
Twitter: @HLPublicSafety



Joel Evans at the awards ceremony in April 2004

won a 2003 Governor's Volunteer Award in the Adult Impact category and was presented his award in April 2004. Nine years after winning a Governor's Volunteer Award, it was still considered important enough to him and his family to include it in a profile of his life. Wow!

A more recent example is of last year's Youth Volunteer Service Award winner, Amanda Otten, who found that winning the award opened up more opportunities for her to share her passion for volunteering to other young people. In Oct. 2012, 15-year-old Amanda addressed approximately 50 high school students at a youth leadership workshop in Louisville. Workshop organizers had learned about Amanda through the media coverage of the 2011 Governor's Volunteer Award recipients. She was specifically sought out by the organizers so that the workshop participants could discover more about volunteerism from a peer. Her presen-

tation was well-received and many students came up to talk to Amanda afterward. Not only was her presentation beneficial for workshop participants, but also for Amanda herself, who really enjoyed the chance to share her passion for service and gain valuable public speaking experience.



Amanda Otten spoke with students after the Oct. presentation

This leads me to a benefit that may be overlooked – positive news coverage. In a time where so much news reporting seems negative, coverage about the Governor's Volunteer Awards and winners is not. Articles appear in both large city papers as well as small local ones. Readers are reminded of the difference one person can make in the lives of others. Not only are the individual winners spotlighted, but often the nonprofit organizations they are associated with are highlighted, which may lead to more people volunteering, or at the least, new or increased awareness of those nonprofits and community needs.

The benefits of the awards program also extend to nominees who were not selected to win an award, and their nominators. Being nominated for the awards program reminds the individuals and groups that their volunteer service is appreciated, and needed. Recognition of volunteer service through the nomination process could renew enthusiasm and motivation. Plus there is the added bonus that all nominees receive a Certificate of Recognition signed

The State Journal

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Kentucky praises its volunteers



Kentucky Ambassador Award recipients Shawn Abell II of Hardin County (left) and Mattie County (right) shake hands with First Lady Jane Robinson Monday afternoon at the Governor's Mansion during the 2011 Governor's Awards for Outstanding Volunteer Service ceremony. For the past five years, the 3-year-old has volunteered for Sina Hospital of Baltimore's See-A-Limb Clinic.

First lady, crowd gather to celebrate those who give

The governor's office launched the volunteer awards program in 2011. The Kentucky Commission on Community Volunteerism and Service has administered the program since 2005.

Independent judges chose recipients in 13 categories. They announced their winners during the last October's Road to the Governor's Awards ceremony.

A special First Lady's Award was added for the second year for providing extra help for youth at risk of dropping out of school.

Robinson talks with First Lady's Award winner Gise Johnson of Woodford County. Johnson started letters & meals, with the primary goal of improving disposal practices through mentoring, homework help and hot meals for middle school students.

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by the Governor, which gives nominees a tangible reminder of their volunteer efforts. By participating in the nomination process, nominators are reminded of the contributions and dedication of their nominee, as well as the importance of recognizing volunteers in general.

So now you know what I think is so great about the Governor's Volunteer Awards. Have I missed something? Send me an email at Shannon.Ramsey@ky.gov and let me know your opinion!

The call for nominations for the 2012 Governor's Volunteer Awards will be released on **Friday, Jan. 25, 2013**. All information and resources will be posted on our website and a notification sent through our email distribution list. If you are not on our list, please [join](#).

New Resources from KCCVS

Inclusive Volunteer Recruitment

The KCCVS and the Corporation for National and Community Service continue to promote disabilities inclusion both in national service and in community volunteerism. As part of that ongoing effort, KCCVS has produced a training module, a self-contained group activity designed to educate the public in a group setting about disabilities inclusion. It includes materials and instructions that should be very straightforward for trainers. Participants will find the workshop useful and informative.

[Inclusive Volunteer Recruitment](#) (Formatted for front-back printing)

Life after AmeriCorps

Compiled by Jeff Dycus in December 2012

[Life After AmeriCorps Resources](#)

[Education Award Usage - Updated 2012 \(PDF\)](#)

[Education Award Usage - Updated 2012 \(PowerPoint\)](#)



Annual "Shop & Share" Day is Feb. 2

One-day Goods Drive Benefits Kentucky Domestic Violence Association Shelters

First Lady Jane Beshear is encouraging Kentuckians to volunteer and participate in the 5th Annual "Shop & Share" day, a one-day goods drive to benefit domestic violence shelters across the state. The drive will be held at Kentucky Kroger and Food City stores on the Saturday of Super Bowl weekend, Feb. 2, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

"All of us are aware of the appalling crime of domestic violence, and many Kentuckians have had friends or family members who have been victims themselves," Mrs. Beshear said. "Shop & Share is easy way for people to contribute to victims and their families. While gathering their game-day supplies or doing their weekly grocery shopping, Kentuckians can purchase necessities for the shelters and then directly donate the items at the store."

Volunteers at each Kroger and Food City store will provide a list of items needed at the shelters, such as canned foods, school supplies, toilet paper and soap. Monetary donations will also be accepted. To sign-up as a volunteer, please visit the [First Lady's website](#).



Last year, the combined goods and monetary donations for Shop & Share day were estimated at more than \$782,000.

"Thanks to the generosity and support of Kentuckians, Shop & Share has raised hundreds of thousands of dollars for domestic violence victims and their families," said Mrs. Beshear. "Every year we reach a new monetary achievement, and this year our goal is to collect more than \$1 million in donations."

All collected contributions will be given to the 15 Kentucky Domestic Violence Association (KDVA) shelters across the state.

Organizational partners for 2013 Shop & Share include the First Lady's Office, KDVA, Kroger, Food City, the Kentucky Commission on Women, the General Federation of Women's Clubs, the Girl Scouts of Kentuckiana, the Girls Scouts of Wilderness Road Council and the Kentucky Drug Court.

For more information on Shop & Share, please visit the [First Lady's website](#). For more information on the KDVA, please visit the [KDVA website](#).