

The Heart Line: Taking the Pulse

Covering Volunteerism and Service Throughout Kentucky

Shannon L. Ramsey, Editor

May-June 2011 Edition

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Article Submission

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.

Newsletter Archives

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

Dates

June 14 - Flag Day

June 19 - Father's Day

June 21 - First Day of Summer

July 4 - Independence Day

Welcome

Welcome to the May-June edition of the Heart Line newsletter, a publication by the Kentucky Commission on Community Volunteerism and Service (KCCVS).

Although summer doesn't start for a few more days, it sure has gotten hot. This edition of the newsletter is no exception. This edition includes articles about nonprofit job opportunities, the volunteer awards ceremony, a commissioner spotlight, the RSVP volunteer celebration and the Build-A-Bed project.

Also, please do not hesitate to contact us if you have questions about any of our community service programs, such as AmeriCorps, the Governor's Volunteer Awards, the Volunteer Insurance Program or the Volunteer Recognition Program.

Looking for Job Opportunities?

From time to time, the KCCVS receives notices of job opportunities in the nonprofit field. If you would be interested in receiving copies of such notices, please send an email to kccvs@ky.gov with "job opportunities" in the subject line and you will be added to the distribution list.

2010 Governor's Awards for Volunteerism and Service

By Shannon Ramsey, KCCVS Media and Publications Specialist

First Lady Honors State's Outstanding Volunteers



2010 Governor's Volunteer Award recipients.
Photo by Eddie Boden Photography.

Wow, we sure have some awesome volunteers in Kentucky! The group of 2010 Governor's Awards for Volunteerism and Service recipients was certainly no exception. Some of the volunteer achievements include selling thousands of dollars worth of lemonade to aid sick children, being the

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bridge to the community for groups that need help because of language barriers and staying up nights with ailing elderly to give them comfort and peace when facing death.



Lifetime Achievement Award recipient, Bill Burch with Mrs. Beshear. Photo by Eddie Boden Photography.

The awards ceremony and reception for the volunteer and service award recipients was held at the Governor's Mansion on June 2, 2011. Sixteen groups and individuals from across the state were honored for their volunteer contributions.

First Lady Jane Beshear and Cabinet for Health and Family Services Deputy Secretary Eric Friedlander presented the 2010 Governor's Awards for Volunteerism and Service at the ceremony.

"Volunteers never get paid, and they rarely get much glory," Mrs. Beshear told the recipients at the ceremony. "You create a better world in small steps. It's not just the service you provide that makes a change. It's your readiness to take on any challenge that inspires the rest of us to act. It's your resourcefulness that teaches us that we can sometimes find answers in the most unlikely of places; we just have to look. And it's your willingness to be open-minded and culturally informed. Your work with diverse groups shows us that our differences don't matter when we are committed to one cause."

This year, a new category was created to honor a Kentuckian who has gone the extra mile to assist youth at risk of dropping out of high school. The First Lady's Award trophy, complete with a pink hue, was create to reflect her support of breast cancer awareness. The award also complements Mrs. Beshear's Graduate Kentucky initiative, which is a statewide program that focuses on dropout prevention and increasing graduation rates in public schools.



Photo by Eddie Boden Photography

Bill Burch, a retired principal from Ashland, received the Lifetime Achievement Award.

Read about all the wonderful recipients, see photos and more on the [KCCVS website](#).

Commissioner Spotlight: Daron Jordan

By Shannon Ramsey, KCCVS Media and Publications Specialist



Daron Jordan was appointed to the Kentucky Commission on Community Volunteerism and Service (KCCVS) by Governor Steve Beshear in 2009. He is very involved in the Commission, serving on the Strategic Planning Committee and the Program Committee. Daron was one of the five commissioners who attended the Regional Commissioner's Development Summit in Little Rock in September 2010. He, along with the other members of the Strategic Planning Committee, was instrumental in revising the KCCVS mission statement to a more clear and focused statement. The KCCVS mission is to engage Kentuckians in volunteerism and service to positively impact our communities.

Daron was born in Nashville, but was raised in Henderson and lived in that community for the majority of his life; so, he considers himself a Kentucky boy. For the last 11 years Daron has lived in Madisonville, serving as the city's community development director. He is also president of DEJ Enterprises, LLC, a personal consulting business formed in 2001. Daron is also a play-by-play announcer and sports radio talk host on an ESPN affiliated station, AM 1310 WTTL. He has held a wide variety of jobs in both the private and public sectors.

Daron received his bachelor's degree from Western Kentucky University, his master's degree in organization management from the University of Phoenix and has completed coursework in public performance management at Rutgers University.

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He is married to Tricia Ann Jordan, Ph.D., director of the West Area Health Education Center and teacher at Kentucky Community and Technical College System, Murray State University and Western Kentucky University. They will celebrate 17 years of marriage in July 2011, and they have two four-legged kids, Midnight and Sassy – both lab mixes that they rescued.

In his spare time, Daron enjoys watching movies and reading books. His favorite musical groups are Styx and the Eagles, but he also likes going to a wide variety of musical concerts. Since January, he has been to see Ozzy Osborne, Rush and Bob Seger in concert in Nashville. Other activities Daron loves are spending time with his wife and their dogs, officiating high school basketball, riding his motorcycle, spending time on the lake, playing golf and traveling. In fact, as of May 29, 2011, he has visited all 50 states.

Full of life and fun-loving, it's no surprise to learn that Daron's life philosophy is that life is a journey, so you might as well enjoy the ride. He wants to be remembered as a person who is not only fair and honest, but also enjoys life.

The KCCVS has benefited greatly from Daron's involvement with the commission, and he has grown professionally during his tenure as commissioner as well.

"During my short time as commissioner, I have learned that our commonwealth has a hidden gem in the Kentucky AmeriCorps program and the staff at KCCVS," he said. "I hope to play at least a small role in their dedication to make Kentucky even better."

Paducah-McCracken County RSVP Celebrates Volunteer Week

By Leslie Prestel, Paducah-McCracken County RSVP Volunteer Coordinator



Pictured from left to right: 1st Row: Lois Morris, Shirley Lanier, McCracken County RSVP Volunteer Coordinator Leslie Prestel, Judge Executive Van Newberry, McCracken County RSVP Director Al Knudsen, Nola Bishop, JoAnn Elkins. 2nd Row: Skip Griffin, Gloria Griffin, Juanita Salvi, Rita Durbin, Letha Davey. 3rd Row: Dan Wright, Jacqueline Moss, Ed Durbin, Betty Sumner and Pearl Holmes.

Fourteen members of The Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) of Paducah-McCracken County, along with RSVP staff, recently met with McCracken County Judge Executive Van Newberry in recognition of National Volunteer Week, April 10-16.

The McCracken County RSVP, sponsored by the Paducah-McCracken County Senior Citizen Center, Inc., is just one of more than 750 RSVP programs throughout the United States. RSVP serves as America's largest volunteer network for people age 55 and older, and was created by Congress almost 40 years ago to encourage older individuals to put their skills and life experience to work for their communities through volunteering. The RSVP matches the skills, talents and interests of volunteers with the needs of Paducah and McCracken County.

More than 550 RSVP of Paducah-McCracken County members served at more than 50 nonprofits in the county and donated 76,666 hours in the last calendar year. A check for \$1,331,688 was presented to Judge Newberry to represent the dollar amount of time donated to the community by RSVP members.

RSVP volunteers serve from up to 40 hours per week, depending upon the time each wants to donate. These volunteers serve in various ways, from repairing homes for senior citizens, to assisting in hospitals, to recycling used printer cartridges and to purchasing books to read to local school children.

For more information about volunteering in Paducah and McCracken County, please call the RSVP office at (270) 442-8993.

Build-A-Bed Update

By Carrie Stith-Webster, KCCVS Training Officer



The spring of 2009 marked the inaugural year for Build-A-Bed, a project with the goal of providing beds for children in need. The 2010 event was 24-hour, 500-bed build and the opening project for National AmeriCorps Week in May 2010. The project has become a community partnership project, involving many more groups than just AmeriCorps. The regional build model was implemented in 2011, and several local builds have already taken place to help achieve the goal of providing children a proper place to sleep.

Heather Musinski, AmeriCorps FRYSC Corps program director, developed and implemented training for Regional Build Team Leaders and 30 team leaders have been trained so far. In addition to the training, team leaders received tool kits with some start-up supplies such as glue, a how-to manual, pajamas, toothbrushes and toothpaste.

Morehead Build Event

The MSU Corps at Morehead State University partnered with outreach groups at the university, including Retired Senior Volunteer Program, Adult Education and College Access, the Center for Regional Engagement, Youth-Build and Gateway House, and held a bed build event on Saturday, March 12. The original plan was to build 50 beds and the planning committee knew \$4,000 was needed to build those beds. However, with everyone helping, they easily raised \$7,000 – enabling the group to build 71 beds! The fundraising efforts spanned 12 counties, and all MSU Corps AmeriCorps members were able to contribute to the effort. Nearly all of the 70 bedtime bags were filled by donations and members' contributions. The remaining bedtime bags were filled with items purchased through a small grant written to the Family Dollar store. Each of the bedtime bags contained sheets, a pillow, a blanket or comforter, a book, toothpaste and a toothbrush, a night light, a stuffed animal and pajamas. Nearly 100 community volunteers assisted with the project. According to the MSU Corps staff, great partnerships with several community/campus members helped drive the success of the event. MSU Corps are hoping to replicate this project next spring utilizing the connections they have made with area high school tech/vocational schools who have indicated an interest in partnering next year.



Frankfort Build Event



The Frankfort Build-A-Bed event took place on Saturday, May 14, at the National Guard Armory. Members of AmeriCorps Tribal Civilian Community Corps (TCCC), came from Hoopa, California to assist, and they were a tremendous help! Hoopa TCCC, a program of the Corporation for National and Community Service, is a team-based, nine-month tribal residential program for young men and women ages 18-24 years old. Members reside on a campus located on the Hoopa Valley Indian Reservation in Northern California. The Hoopa TCCC members stayed at the United Methodist Church in Lawrenceburg. The church and the National Guard have both proven to be great partners for the local Build-A-Bed project. In fact, the National Guard leadership was so pleased with how things went that they've asked to host another build next year. When the sawdust settled, 235 volunteers built 100 beds. So far, more than 40 beds and bedtime bags have been distributed.

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Marion Build Event

Most recently, a very successful build was organized by ATEAM AmeriCorps member Mary Ann Winders in Crittenden County. The original plan called for 15 beds to be built, but, due to the generosity of the community, they were able to build 22 beds. The build was held in the shop at the Crittenden County High School. Unique to this build was the method used to build the beds – Mr. Larry Duvall, the shop teacher, was able to visualize the most efficient method of putting the beds together and recommended an assembly-line style set-up. Volunteers were able to build 19 beds in just three hours! This is the first build event to be done assembly-line style. Volunteers came from several local churches; The Kentucky Council of Crime and Delinquency in Lyon County, local middle and high schools. Children as young as 19 months old helped to decorate the bed slats.



All of the necessary hardware and wood needed for the beds was donated and all of the wood was stained before the build by folks who had court-ordered community service they had to perform. A generous supporter donated funds to purchase all of the mattresses and everything in bedtime bags, with the exception of a few items purchased for older children. The contents of the bedtime bags were organized according to the needs of the recipient child, so that all of the children would have pajamas that fit, and most bags had three or four pairs in them. One of the recipients of a bed was a pregnant 14-year-old who had been sleeping on the floor. A bag was put together that had "extras" in it -- diapers, baby wipes, powder and other items needed for baby as well as mom.



"The people who I see in life that are the happiest, the most fulfilled, and have a sparkle in their eyes are those who have a huge component of service in their lives and in some form or fashion give to other people besides themselves." ~Paul Tudor Jones



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