

# The Heart Line: Taking the Pulse

Covering Volunteerism and Service Throughout Kentucky

Shannon L. Ramsey, Editor

March-April 2012 Edition

## In This Edition

KCCVS Elects New Leadership

KCCVS Announcements:

Governor's Volunteer Awards

Kentucky Volunteer Week

ATEAM Build-A-Bed Projects

Homeland Security Corps

KCCVS Named One of Constant

Contact's 2011 All Stars

Do you have a job posting to share?

Martin Luther King Jr. Day Service Project

## 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.



*"Down in their hearts, wise men know its truth: the only way to help yourself is to help others."*

~ Elbert Hubbard

## Welcome

Welcome to the March-April 2012 edition of the Heart Line newsletter, a publication by the Kentucky Commission on Community Volunteerism and Service (KCCVS).

This edition is full of information about exciting things going on with KCCVS and our AmeriCorps programs. We hope you'll enjoy catching up with what's going on in Kentucky national service and volunteerism.

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.

## KCCVS Elects New Leadership



Daron Jordan

The KCCVS recently elected Daron Jordan as commission chairman and DeAnna Brangers as vice chairwoman.

KCCVS is part of the Cabinet for Health and Family Services (CHFS). CHFS Acting Secretary Eric Friedlander said he is confident in the leadership of Jordan and Brangers.

"Daron and DeAnna have shown such a commitment to service both through KCCVS and in their own efforts," Friedlander said. "Each has demonstrated a passion for the work of the commission and will continue to inspire others to engage in volunteerism."

Since Jordan's appointment in 2009 by Governor Steve Beshear, he has been very involved in the commission, serving on the Strategic Planning Committee and the Program Committee. He lives in Madisonville and serves as the city's community development director. Jordan is also president of DEJ Enterprises LLC, a consulting business he formed in 2001. In addition, Jordan has held a wide variety of private and public sector jobs.

Jordan is married to Tricia Ann Jordan, Ph.D., director of the West Area

*Continued on page 2*

Health Education Center and a teacher at Kentucky Community and Technical College System, Murray State University and Western Kentucky University.

Jordan succeeds Aaron Anderkin, who served as KCCVS chairman for three years.



DeAnna Brangers

Gov. Beshear appointed Brangers to the commission in 2011. She lives in Louisville with her husband, Jason. She is a full-time mom of four children and volunteers at numerous organizations, boards and committees. Brangers holds a bachelor's degree in political science from Campbellsville University and has worked as a political consultant and executive recruiter.

Brangers succeeds Janet Gates who served as KCCVS vice chairwoman for two years.

The commission is a statewide, bipartisan group comprised of 25 members, appointed by the governor, with diverse service and volunteerism backgrounds. KCCVS administers Kentucky's AmeriCorps national service programs. AmeriCorps members serve faith-based and nonprofit organizations to meet critical educational, environmental and safety needs. Learn more about AmeriCorps and the Commission on the [KCCVS website](#).

## KCCVS Announcements

### Governor's Volunteer Awards



Wow, we sure have some awesome volunteers in Kentucky! Award winners or not, everyone nominated provides invaluable service and makes us proud to be Kentuckians.

This year's call for nominations for the 2011 Governor's Awards for Volunteerism and Service was a huge success -- there was a 57 percent increase in nominations received compared to last year! However, that made the judges' job much more difficult. In some cases, award winners and runners-up were separated by only fractions of a point.

Thanks to everyone who helped spread the word and, of course, to those who took the time to nominate a special volunteer or volunteer group.

KCCVS Executive Director Eileen Cackowski notified all winning nominators by phone. Letters to all other nominators were be mailed the first week of April. Thanks again, and please contact Shannon Ramsey, (800) 239-7404, ext. 4115, if you have any questions.

### 2012 Volunteer Week



April is National Volunteer Month, and April 15-21 is National Volunteer Week -- the busiest time of year for volunteer recognition.

Governor Steve Beshear proclaimed that week as Kentucky Volunteer Week.

See a copy of the proclamation; learn more about our Volunteer Recognition Program; and how to submit your citation and certificate requests in a timely manner for your recognition events on the [KCCVS website](#).

*Continued on page 3*

## ATEAM Build-A-Bed Projects

The ATEAM AmeriCorps program is organizing bed builds in several counties where its members serve.

**April 14:** Pulaski and Barren counties

**April 28:** Hancock County

**May 5:** Marshall County

**May 19:** Webster County

**June 2:** Crittenden County

For more information, contact [Shannon Bailes](#) or [Donna Morgan](#).



2011 ATEAM Build-A-Bed event

## Homeland Security Corps

By Jud Pomeroy, Homeland Security Corps program coordinator



HSC members at the 2011-12 Kentucky AmeriCorps Member Conference

On Feb. 29, due to the loss of a federal grant, Homeland Security Corps (HSC), a Kentucky AmeriCorps program, closed its doors after nine years of providing outstanding safety, security and disaster response services to the citizens of the Green River Area Development District (GRADD) counties. Established in 2002 with 10 positions, the program was a mainstay for participating agencies allowing each to significantly increase its capacity to take on missions that they would not otherwise be able to address. The HSC program always had service site and member waiting lists, even when the number of positions was increased to 20 in 2010.

HSC members have been actively involved in Red Cross Chapter operations, Citizen Corps Component programs such as Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT), Medical

Reserve Corps units and Neighborhood Watch groups in the seven-county GRADD area. Additionally, members have been instrumental in establishing and equipping a volunteer Structural Evaluation Team for pre- and post-disaster structural assessments in Daviess County. Further, HSC members have been actively involved in organizing and establishing local Volunteer Organizations Active in Disasters programs in the GRADD sphere of influence.

Members of the program also focused hard on community volunteer recruitment in the area of disaster response preparedness issues and responded in force to the devastating 2009 area ice storm and the local, state and national flooding crisis of spring 2011. Other activities include federal, state and local disaster response training, as well as active participation in national, regional, state and local disaster response training exercises and Geographical Information System data collection and mapping.

After the program's final day, HSC service site managers found that many of the programs currently operating may not survive because of their inability to fund a full or part time staff person to fill the void left by the departing AmeriCorps members. The program has consistently demonstrated an extremely positive impact on the various communities and citizens that it has served. They point specifically to how well they have met and exceeded the stated priorities outlined by the Corporation for National Community Service for the Federal



HSC members and staff at their CERT graduation

Continued on page 4

AmeriCorps program, which states that Disaster Preparedness and Response is a Tier 1 focus area for program applications.

For those of you who have served in the Homeland Security Corps, we offer our congratulations and sincere appreciation for your successful completion of your service. We are extremely proud of your accomplishments and outstanding performance in the program. We also encourage you to be proud of your service and outstanding accomplishments. Please know that your service has been greatly appreciated and that your time in the program has made a significant difference in the safety, security and overall preparedness of your various communities.

## KCCVS Named One of Constant Contact's 2011 All Stars



The KCCVS has received the 2011 [All Star Award](#) from Constant Contact, Inc., the trusted marketing advisor to more than 500,000 small organizations worldwide. Each year, a select group of Constant Contact customers are honored with the All Star Award for their exemplary marketing results. The KCCVS's results ranked among the top 10 percent of Constant Contact's customer base.

"We're proud to be recognized by Constant Contact for our use of email marketing and survey tools," KCCVS Executive Director Eileen Cackowski said. "Constant Contact has allowed us to get information out in a more timely fashion and ensure that awareness of volunteerism and national service increases in Kentucky. We received this honor for the second year in a row because of the commitment and technological innovation of Shannon Ramsey, our media and publications specialist."

Constant Contact customers using any combination of the company's Email Marketing, Event Marketing and Online Survey tools are eligible for this award. Constant Contact looked at the following criteria when selecting this year's All Stars:

- Frequency of campaigns, events and surveys
- Open, bounce and click-through rates
- Event registration rates
- Survey completion rates
- Use of social features
- Use of mailing list sign-up tools

"There is nothing we like more than to see our customers finding success. It's the reason Constant Contact was founded, and it's a thrill to see the fantastic results that our All Stars are achieving," said Constant Contact CEO Gail Goodman. "This group is really leading the charge when it comes to delivering relevant, engaging content that drives real business results. We salute this year's All Stars for their success, and are honored to have played a part in their achievements."

Go online to learn more about [Constant Contact](#).

## Do You Have a Job Posting to Share?



In the May-June 2011 edition of the newsletter, the KCCVS posted a note that we would help share job opportunities in the nonprofit field, and we asked interested individuals to join an email distribution list. Our list has grown to more than 100 individuals, but we haven't received notice of very many job opportunities to share.

**If you are part of a nonprofit organization and would like to share a job opportunity with our distribution list members, please send the announcement to [Shannon Ramsey](#).**

If you are interested in receiving copies of such notices, please send an email to [KCCVS](#) with "job opportunities" in the subject line and we will add your name to the distribution list.

## Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service Project 2012

By David Clark, Senior Connections program director

The mission of the AmeriCorps Senior Connections program is to improve the quality of life for seniors and to help them remain independent in their own homes. Program members receive all types of requests for assistance.

Carol, a SC member, serving at a local senior center, was approached by a social worker to help Marie (name changed for privacy), an elderly former nun with several disabilities. Marie's Section 8 subsidized apartment was scheduled for its annual inspections. She was a hoarder. Because of an illness for several years, things at her house had gotten out of control. The social worker was very concerned that the apartment would not pass the upcoming inspection. If the apartment did not pass the inspection, Marie could be evicted and out on the street.



*Cluttered living room*



*Marie's kitchen before*

Carol visited Marie's apartment and quickly determined that she needed help to accomplish the cleaning before the pending inspection. Carol enlisted the help of several other SC members to assist with the project. The members took on the task of helping Marie get her life back in order and saving her home. Though Marie is very intelligent and speaks five languages, she has a difficult time communicating and her speech is very slow. Years ago she sustained a head injury resulting in brain damage. She wears a protective helmet all of the time, even in the apartment because she fears falling again.



*Marie's kitchen after*

When Carol and two other AmeriCorps members arrived the first day it was overwhelming. One could only imagine how it was for Marie on a daily basis. The small apartment wasn't filthy, just so cluttered you could barely find a path to walk. It took the team all day just to organize all the paperwork on the coffee table and the couch. Nothing had a place. Marie was very upset when they arrived thinking they were going to throw all of her things out. The members explained they were there to help her save her home and would not throw anything out unless she approved. Working patiently, they gained her confidence. The second day went better and Marie was ready to help them when they arrived.

Five different people worked on six different days, and everything changed. There was order -- a place for everything and everything in its place. She gave up things she had an abundance of, she donated things she didn't use anymore and found personal family items that she had misplaced. There were books everywhere. The members told Marie that these treasured books would be very beneficial to other people and convinced her to share them by donating many of them. Marie went through the seven big boxes of books by herself, and donated them to a mission in Chile.

As we left with things clean and in order, Marie was happy and at ease and ready to face the next day on her own. The social worker informed us that the apartment passed the inspection with a 100 percent score.



**Kentucky Commission on Community Volunteerism and Service**

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