

The Heart Line: Taking the Pulse

Covering Volunteerism and Service Throughout the Commonwealth

May 2010 Edition

Welcome

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

This month's edition features spotlights on Kentucky's Make A Difference Day project, a free training in Western Kentucky, an innovative program and a community organization.

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.

National Award for Kentucky Project



State Journal Publisher Ann Dix Maenza, center, presents (left to right) Andrea Sieloff, Shannon Ramsey, Tom Utterback, and Eileen Cackowski, executive director of KCCVS, with a \$10,000 check from USA WEEKEND Magazine on April 16, 2010.

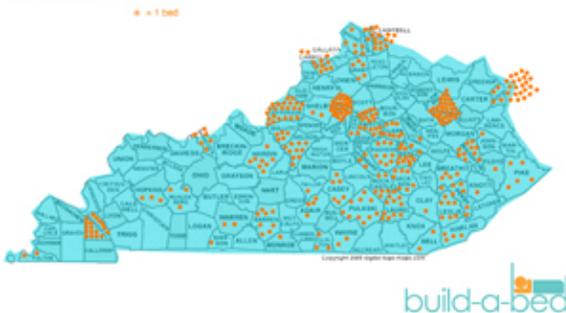
Kentucky's Make A Difference Day 2009 project won one of 10 national awards! Follow the links below to learn more about the project that collected more than 123 tons of food and brought \$10,000 to the commonwealth.

Half of the \$10,000 went to the Build-A-Bed project and the other half was shared equally among the top 5 food collectors to give to the food bank of their choice.

Read news articles, see pictures and learn more about the project and winners of the food drive competitions on the Make A Difference Day page on the KCCVS website, www.volunteerKY.ky.gov.

Thank You from Build-A-Bed

Bed Distribution Map



The national kickoff project for AmeriCorps Week, Build-A-Bed, the 24-hour bed building blitz, was a huge success. On May 8-9, nearly 1,000 volunteers built 545 beds for children in need.

Thank you to everyone that was involved in this amazing project! We are still compiling photos and information for a final report. We will send that out as soon as possible.

Read news articles, see pictures and learn more about the project on the KCCVS website, www.volunteerKY.ky.gov.

Training Opportunity in Western Kentucky



The Kentucky Commission on Community Volunteerism and Service and Murray State University are hosting a training, The Basics of Resource Development, on June 24 in Murray.

Join us for an overview of two very important resource development skills, grant writing and fund raising.

The event is **free**, but you must register. Space is limited, so don't delay! For more information and to register, go to <http://www.eventbrite.com/event/632749571>.

"7 Habits" Program at the University of Louisville

By Dr. Thomas H. Crawford

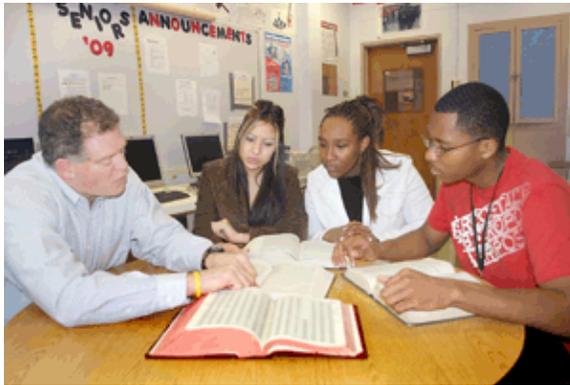


Photo used with permission by Business First of Louisville (c) March 2010

In the summer of 2005, 15 volunteers became part of a University of Louisville (UofL) program, The Youth Leadership Development Seminar (YLDS) in the Office of Community Engagement. We were certified to teach the book by Sean Covey, "The 7 Habits of Highly Effective Teens," a process that cost \$15,000. The funding was made available by Louisville Mayor Jerry Abramson, UofL President James Ramsey, several area banks, corporations and individuals. With the help of the Louisville Urban League, the YMCA Black Achievers, Youth Alive, The Lincoln Foundation and the Canaan Community Development Center, we identified about 700 teens to participate in the program. Those teens received a copy of the book, a workbook and several hours of instruction. The 15

certified trainers included teachers, preachers, bankers, a couple of reformed drug dealers and a retired chemistry professor.

The following year, then Principal Brian Shumate of Iroquois High School received a grant and purchased "7 Habits" books for about 800 of his students. Over a three-year period, and that program has introduced about 2,000 students to these life skills. One of our original 15 trainers, Andrea Grindrod, a chemistry teacher at Iroquois High School, had been teaching the "7 Habits" to some of her students and was a factor in Mr. Shumate's decision to expand the program. Ms. Grindrod left Iroquois to join a JCPS science curriculum writing team, and her colleague, social science teacher Sara Sutton, took the program to the students. In 2007, Central High School teacher and former prosecuting attorney for the Commonwealth of Kentucky Joe Gutmann introduced the "7 Habits" to the students in his Law and Government Magnet Program. Joe was certified to teach the "7 Habits" by the Rev. William McKinley Blackford IV, one of our original certified trainers. Rev. Blackford is certified to "train the trainers." The program at Central has gone so well that Principal Dan Withers decided that all of Central's freshmen will receive training in the "7 Habits" by Mr. Gutmann.

In the summer of 2008, Associate Principal Bryce Hibbard of Moore Traditional Middle School and High School informed me of the schools' decisions to teach the "7 Habits" principles to more than 1,300 students. Mr. Gutmann and the Rev. Blackford shared their "7 Habits" experiences with the faculty at Moore in preparation for the launch of their program. On the first day of class, Mr. Gutmann brought 50 of his students to Moore, where they shared with the Moore students what studying the "7 Habits" had meant to them. Michael Shoulders, a Family Resource Teacher at Moore and one of our original 15

trainers, had been teaching the “7 Habits” to small groups of Moore students for two years and that was a factor in Mr. Hibbard’s decision to reach the full student body with those ideas.

Robin Doty, a teacher at Kammerer Middle School, taught English last summer to a group of students in the Health Careers Adventure Program, where I was teaching a chemistry course. She saw my chemistry presentation to the students on the “7 Habits,” and decided she wanted to teach those same principles to her students. With the help of the Kammerer PTA, she acquired 35 copies of “The 7 Habits of Highly Effective Teens” book and the YLDS provided 125 copies of the accompanying workbook. After teaching the “7 Habits” only a little over a month, she reports a great deal of student enthusiasm over the “7 Habits” and often hears her students expressing the principles they are learning in their conversations with each other.

One of the most exciting things to happen with the “7 Habits” is the decision the faculty and administration at the Mill Creek Elementary School made under the leadership of Principal Michelle Pennix to become a Leadership Academy. The school will be modeled after the A.B. Combs Elementary School in Raleigh, N.C., a school totally immersed in the “7 Habits.” That school has won several national and state awards for improvements in its students’ academic performance, attendance and behavior and enhanced parental involvement in their children’s academic experience. William Blackford will begin training the faculty next summer.

Our best estimate is that we have reached at least 6,000 students through the volunteer efforts of all these folks. We believe the “7 Habits” are giving students a set of principles upon which to create a productive life, and we hope more schools will adopt this approach. It would be impossible to estimate the hours our volunteers have committed to this “7 Habits” project over the past five years, but it would be significant, but not as significant as the rewards we have received from seeing changes in the way many of these students think about life.

Spotlight on Community Organization: Exploited Children’s Help Organization

By Mary Mattingly



The Exploited Children's Help Organization (ECHO) is a volunteer-based organization dedicated to reducing the impact and incidence of child victimization. We champion this goal through advocacy, public education, prevention and support services. ECHO was founded in 1983 as a private, nonprofit volunteer organization. ECHO programs are available to residents of metropolitan Louisville, which includes seven

counties in Kentucky and Indiana, with a population 970,000. More than 100 volunteers conduct the development and implementation of all ECHO programs. ECHO is also committed to working closely with all agencies and individuals throughout the community who are addressing the protection of children, and to ensure that there is no needless duplication of efforts. ECHO has developed many programs to fulfill its mission of victim support and community prevention education. Some of the programs are described as follows:

Kids In Court

This educational orientation program is designed to help children feel less anxious about testifying in court. Volunteers and staff help the children with the activities such as the "mock trials" (when children take turns role-playing the judge, prosecuting attorney, defense attorney, witness and sheriff). The program is held bimonthly from 5-6 p.m.

Family Court Playroom

ECHO volunteers monitor the playroom at the Judicial Center on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 9 a.m. until noon. The Family Court Playroom offers a fun and safe environment to children who would otherwise have to wait in the lobby or in the back of the courtrooms. Time

commitment varies; some volunteers help weekly and others one day a month.

Public Education Kidsafe Booth

ECHO helps educate the public about the issues of missing and exploited children by setting up booths at community events and fairs.

TIPS

Teaching the Importance of Personal Safety. Trained volunteers teach elementary school children about personal safety and trustworthy adults.

ECHO Soundings

ECHO volunteers publish a quarterly newsletter to educate the public on issues of abused and missing children. Volunteers write and edit articles and help set up the layout.

If you have any questions about our other programs or interested in volunteering please contact ECHO:

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"The heart of a volunteer is not measured in size, but by the depth of the commitment to make a difference in the lives of others."

- DeAnn Hollis

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