January 2020

Season of Hope 2019 (Photos on Page 2)

Season of Hope 2019 was another great success! A total of 1,292 youngsters received gifts through this year’s program. We started off with a couple of very productive toy-drives. The first was in association with “Girl’s Night Out” which took place at Twin Oaks Winery on October 24th. This event not only raised a record amount of funds for the United Way of St. Francois County, but the attendees donated an entire SUV-load of toys for the St. Francois County Community Partnership’s signature program, Season of Hope.

November 2nd, saw the Parkland Toy Run which is an annual event sponsored by the St. Francois County Cycle Servants (see pic below). A number of cyclists from clubs in the area participate and donate toys and food. This year’s event, as always, netted several hundred toys and over 150 lbs. of canned goods and other food items. The toys from these two events were a good start for this year’s Season of Hope. The food was donated to the Farmington Ministerial Alliance Food Pantry. The food is rotated around to the various helping organizations from one year to the next.

Since the Season of Hope information went out in September, the donations have come in steadily, however, we actually started receiving donations for 2019 in January. In addition to the aforementioned early toy drives, 2019 Season of Hope has benefited greatly from the 4th annual toy drive at Menards. A new toy drive event took place at the Doe Run Dollar General Store.

One of the last and largest fundraising events to benefit Season of Hope was the Annual Hulsey Real Estate Christmas Party held December 7th. Derek and Chris Hulsey arrived at the Packing Center with a box truck full of toys on the following Monday (see pic above). In addition to over 300 toys there was around $3,000 in gift cards, checks and...
Season of Hope (Continued from page #)

cash contributed by the attendees of the Hulsey Christmas event.

A special thanks goes out to fundraising events by classes, clubs and other organizations at the North County Schools, Farmington Schools, Presbyterian Manor employees, Ameriprise Financial, SRG Global Corporate, Wal-Mart Foundation and many others who sponsored events to raise funds for the 2019 Season of Hope. Individual donors who give year in and year out, are to be commended also. A big debt of gratitude is owed to those individuals and organizations who chose to sponsor children, taking the children’s wish lists and doing the shopping themselves. Centene Corporation Employees soared past their previous number of children sponsored this year by sponsoring 130 kids! This great community once again broke the record number (633) of children sponsored this year, which reduced the burden on our small staff and referral organizations; however, along with volunteers these groups still shopped for over 650 kids! We had several groups and individuals who sponsored more than 10 kids each. Thanks to the amazing volunteers who helped tirelessly at the packing center and with shopping this year. Also, we’d like to give a special thanks to the student groups who helped with loading and unloading toys.

Thanks to Pastor Curt Gwartney and Fellowship Free Will Baptist Church for the donation of their fellowship hall for use as our center of operations. Needless to say our small, but diligent staff, Tiffany Creamer, Liz Bennett, Kaye DeGonia as well as temporary worker Debbie Stegall deserve a big hand for all their work, too.

As a result of the great generosity and giving nature of the people of St. Francois County the St. Francois County Community Partnership was able to carry out another successful year with the Season of Hope project. No doubt 1,292 children had a joyous holiday season. Thanks to everybody out there who made this happen!!

A full list of our sponsors and donors will be featured in our February newsletter!

Happy Holidays from our family to yours!

Bill
Season of Hope...A Different Viewpoint

Phew, another Season of Hope is successfully completed. The thing I always brag on to people when talking about Season of Hope is that it is totally donation driven. The Partnership administers, the five school districts and other participating entities facilitate, but our community makes the whole thing happen. St Francois County businesses, clubs, civic groups, churches, religious organizations and individuals make the Season of Hope a success every year.

This was my fifth Season of Hope and every year I am impressed with the level of cooperation from everyone involved, but this year seemed even more so. We would like to extend a huge thank you to the Fellowship Freewill Baptist Church in Park Hills for the use of their hall as the packing station. With the help of an attendant at the packing station and the threat of snow in the forecast, we not only kept up but got ahead of ourselves. Everyone was happy to start organizing and pre-shopping for the next group. The cooperative spirit and teamwork from our referral sources made this year’s Season of Hope a lesson in how a community can come together for the betterment of those in need.

Thank you to everyone involved in 2019 Season of Hope,

Liz Bennett

Thank you to the following St. Francois County Community Partnership Board Members who donated their time and resources to Season of Hope in 2019.

Bob Bullock
Cindy Barton
Linda Fitzgerald
Shelly Bess
Rob Baker
Becky Yount
Skylar Ragland
Elizabeth Hartmann

Marsha Petty
Hilary Freeman
Bill Bunch
Chuck Henson
Meg Reiner
Tina Miller
Al Sullivan

St. Francois Community Partnership gladly supports United Way of St. Francois County’s bell ringing campaign. If you’d like to join the fun for next year’s bell ringing, contact Clay Whitener at United Way by calling 573-760-8929.
If you would like to be removed from our mailing list, please call 573-760-0212 or email tiffany@sfecp.org.

SFCCP Board of Directors

Karen Adams - SEMO Mental Health - Retired
Rob Baker - East Missouri Action Agency
Cynthia Barton - Board of Probation & Parole
Shelly Bess - Shared Blessings, Inc.
Robert Bullock - Parish Minister
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Alan Wells - 9-1-1 Joint Commission
Becky Yount - West County School District

RECURRING CLASSES & SUPPORT GROUPS

♦ FREE CLASSES OFFERED BY PARKLAND HEALTH CENTER:
  ➔ Childbirth Classes. Offered monthly. Open to any expectant parents. Visit parklandhealthcenter.org/baby for current schedule and registration.
  ➔ Breastfeeding Classes. Offered monthly. Open to any new or expectant mom. Visit parklandhealthcenter.org/baby for current schedule and registration.
  ➔ Sibling Classes. Offered monthly. Open to any parents and their children. Visit parklandhealthcenter.org/baby for current schedule and registration.
  ➔ Diabetes Self-Management Class. 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of each month from 1-3 p.m. at the Farmington Public Library. For more information, visit parklandhealthcenter.org or call 760-8396. Open to all ages.

♦ Diabetic Class: Parkland Health Mart Pharmacy is offering a free class on the 3rd Thursday of each month in Farmington at Midwest Health Group at 1 p.m. For more info, visit parklandrx.com.

♦ Life After Loss Support Group: Sponsored by Heart & Soul Hospice, the group is a safe place to process grief, learn healthy coping skills & connect with others. Open to public. 3rd Thursday each month, 4:30-6:00 p.m. at 412 Cayce St., Farmington. Please call 756-7066 or email farmingtonhospice@pmma.org.

♦ NAMI Connection Recovery Support Group & Family Support Group: Both meetings are on the 2nd Thursday of each month at 7 p.m. at the LIFE Center for Independent Living, 725 E. Karsch Blvd., Farmington. Call 573-701-4185 for more information. www.nami.org.