Season of Hope 2019

Yes, it is that time of year again! Season of Hope 2019 is well underway. The St. Francois County Community Partnership has administered this annual holiday program since 1999. Donations are picking up and as of today, most referrals from our community partners have been received. The staff is busy transcribing the wish lists for the kids to be distributed to organizations and individuals that have already pledged sponsorship of St. Francois County children. These groups will enlist folks who will take time from their busy holiday season to purchase gifts for kids who might not otherwise have a joyous holiday!

Our referral sources include each of the St. Francois County school districts, Children’s Division, East Missouri Action Agency and three Head Start Centers. These groups have provided Season of Hope with hundreds of children over the last 18 years. In 2018, just over 1,500 children benefited from the generosity of the people and businesses of St. Francois County.

(Continued on page 2)

EDUCARE — HELP STILL WANTED!

Educare of St. Francois County is looking to hire an assistant childcare trainer. At a minimum, applicants must possess a 4-year Bachelor’s Degree in early childhood education, elementary education, social services or other related field; and two years experience working with children.

This is a part-time position (perfect for a retired teacher). Duties include, but are not limited to: visiting day care facilities, bringing resources and curriculum, training day care providers in State required topics, reporting to the State and assisting the Partnership as needed; including working full-time for 2-3 weeks in December for the Season of Hope Program. Up to three evenings per month may be required. Applicant must submit fingerprints for a criminal background check. Starting pay is $15 per hour with a trial period of 90 days.

Come to the Educare office located at 1101 Weber Rd., Suite 202, in Farmington for an application. Application is required; an addition of a current resume is encouraged. For additional questions, call Liz at 573-760-0212.
2020 United States Census

With the upcoming 2020 Census, it is paramount that we remember the need to count everybody. Billions of federal program dollars flow into the states based on population counts documented by the Census. Therefore, make sure you respond to the mailed census forms and to in-person interviews by Census takers who visit your home. Encourage your relatives, friends and neighbors to do the same.

Also: The Law Is Clear: Personal Information Cannot Be Shared

Keeping Your Data Safe

Our mission is to serve as the nation’s leading provider of quality statistics about its people and economy. We couldn’t produce this information without you.

Responsible data stewardship is how we maintain your trust.

Being responsible stewards of your data is not only required by law but also embedded in our culture.

The Law Protects Your Information

Under Title 13 of the U.S. Code, your information must be kept confidential, and your answers cannot be used against you by any government agency or court. Anyone who violates this law faces severe penalties.

We Use Cutting-Edge Safeguards To Protect Your Identity

We do not identify individuals in the statistics we publish. Our policies and safeguards help us ensure the confidentiality of your information. Our Disclosure Review Board verifies that any product we release meets our confidentiality standards.

Season of Hope Continued

(Continued from page 1)

Children referred to Season of Hope, with the help of their parents, prepare wish lists from which shoppers are able to purchase gifts sure to brighten the eyes of kids throughout St. Francois County. All of this is done with utmost confidentiality; no names or other identifying information is distributed to shoppers, only their ages and gift wish lists.

Season of Hope is truly a community effort. Hundreds of individuals, organizations, employee groups and businesses support this project with generous donations. Volunteers spend countless hours shopping, collecting, sorting, bagging, transporting and delivering hundreds of gifts which will bring joy to children on that special morning. Without the tremendous support of the St. Francois County communities, Season of Hope simply would not be possible.

All donations to Season of Hope are tax deductible, and may be mailed to SF CCP, 1101 Weber Rd., Suite 202, Farmington, MO 63640. Please take note: The packing center has moved to a new location this year....... Unwrapped gifts, toys etc. may be delivered to the packing station at 601 Buckley (REAR) St., Park Hills, MO beginning on DECEMBER 2nd. If you would like a tax letter for toy and clothing donations, please keep those receipts. Your monetary donations receive an automatic tax-deductible letter.

A sponsorship form is included in this newsletter for your convenience. Please make copies and pass them out to your friends, families and colleagues.

A sincere thank you from the St. Francois County Community Partnership staff goes out to everybody who has made Season of Hope a reality over the years. With one full-time and three part-time staff, it is obvious that we could not do this without you! Happy Holidays to all!

Bill Bunch, SF CCP Executive Director
Season of Hope 2019
Sponsor Response Form

Seasons Greetings!
Since 1999 Caring Communities has coordinated a community-wide effort to provide holiday gifts for the children of families who live in poverty. You can share in helping to meet the needs of children in St. Francois County by participating in Season of Hope. Here’s how you can help:

- Your family, organization, group, business, or church can sponsor a family from your own community. Determine the number of children you are able to help and return the commitment form below. On or before November 5th we will begin sending information to sponsors about the family with whom they have been matched; specifically the children’s ages and their “wish list.” We simply ask that you do what you can to fulfill the children’s wishes. **We ask that the items are turned in to Season of Hope no later than Monday, Dec. 9th.**
- You may purchase and donate new toys. Please call 431-3173 for a list of the most requested toys and information on drop-off points.
- You may send a cash donation to be used to sponsor a child/family. Involve everyone in your organization or business by creating an opportunity for them to contribute. You may make the donation in memory or honor of someone.
- You may purchase a Gift Card for teen clothing or cell phone cards, etc. for teens.

We would like to pair every family with a sponsor to better meet the requests of families and expedite the entire process. We appreciate your assistance in helping all families in St. Francois County experience a joyous holiday season. Warmest wishes for happy holidays.

- St. Francois County Community Partnership

P.S. If you’d like a tax-deductible receipt for your purchases, simply provide us with: 1. A copy of your sales receipt when you deliver your gifts 2. The family ID code for your gifts and 3. The name and address you’d like it mailed to.

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2019 Season of Hope Commitment Form

I (we) would like to make a commitment to sponsor a child or family through Season of Hope!

Please indicate the maximum number of children you are able to sponsor:

(On average, you can expect to spend around $75 per child. If you have more than $75 to spend, please consider sponsoring more than one child.)

OR

I (we) plan to collect new toys (toy drive) and/or purchase gift card(s) to be delivered to the Partnership by December 9th to be used to fulfill children’s wishes.

Enclosed please find a **TAX DEDUCTIBLE** cash donation to be used to sponsor a child/children. Checks should be made out to “St. Francois County Community Partnership.”

Sponsor(s) Name: ___________________________________________  FAX: _______________________

Organization/Business/Church/Group/Individual

Address: __________________________________________ City ___________ Zip ___________

Contact Person: ___________________________ Phone: ___________  Alt. Phone: ___________

The Best Way to Contact You (please check one):  ____ Phone  ____ E-Mail  ____ Fax

E-mail address: __________________________________________

Please return to St. Francois Community Partnership ASAP. Thank You!
Tel: 431-3173 Fax: 760-0451  •  1101 Weber Rd., Suite 202  •  Farmington, MO  •  63640

PLEASE FEEL FREE TO COPY THIS FORM AND SHARE IT WITH FRIENDS!
Are You Ready to Make A Difference?

Here are the Facts...

Today, 38.6 million Americans - and 1 in 5 children - are struggling in poverty, making hard choices between food, health care, heat and rent. In Missouri 13.4% of all children live in poverty. In St. Francois County 17.75% of all children live in poverty.

Make a donation in memory or honor of someone, today!

Season of Hope 2019
Our History

The Community Partnership has taken the lead in organizing Caring Communities Christmas, now known as Season of Hope, since 1999. We have seen the number of referrals as well as the level of community involvement grow over the years. Below are some facts regarding our growth that you might find interesting.

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Why Get Involved: Families who live in poverty daily confront the anxiety and stress of their socio-economic status. That stress is intensified during the holiday season, a time when parents desperately want to provide for their children. Children who do not have their basic needs met with adequate clothing, school supplies, and good nutrition statistically are not as successful in school as those children of families with adequate income.

In contrast, the holiday season fosters a sense of brotherhood and many citizens feel the desire to make a contribution to their community. The Partnership seeks to channel this desire into help that is meaningful for children and families. We have the opportunity to provide some relief from the constant worry and to raise the self-esteem of a child through the simple delight of receiving a gift.

The statistics may seem overwhelming, but we CAN make a difference—one family at a time.

Your Success Stories: You have provided hundreds of children with brand new winter coats. You provided beds for children who slept on a pad on the floor and warm blankets for many. You delivered firewood to a family with no heat. New mothers have received baby beds and care items. Numerous children received warm clothing and new shoes, as well as toys with which to play.

You ARE making a difference, one child at a time!

Adding value, bringing hope to children & families
Community Events and Activities

- **Parkland Toy Run:** Hosted by Parkland Cycle Servants. All toys go to Season of Hope. **Saturday, Nov. 2.**

- **4th Annual Regional Veterans Parade:** Saturday, November 2nd at 11 a.m. This year’s theme is “MAY WE NEVER FORGET & FOREVER HONOR OUR VETERANS” The Grand Marshals will be World War II & Korean War Veterans. Call Ginger Pizarro for more information at (573) 431-6599 or 573-454-5706.

- **Diabetes Self-Management Class:** MPower—Empowerment for a Healthier, Happier Life. Topics include Forming a Partnership with Your Heath Care Team. **Wednesday, November 12th** at 10:30 a.m. at First Baptist Church in Farmington, located at 210 N. A Street.

- **Diabetes Education Classes:** Parkland Health Mart Pharmacy is offering a series of FREE Diabetic education classes. Each class will be held at Midwest Heath Group in Farmington. Here’s a list of the classes and dates: **Traveling and Sick Day Preparedness**, Thursday, Nov. 21st at 1 p.m. // **Stock Your Pantry Like a Pro**, Thursday, Dec. 19th at 1 p.m. For More details, visit www.parklandrx.com.

- **Shared Blessings 7th Annual Thanksgiving Dinner:** VOLUNTEERS NEEDED to cook, serve, deliver, supply food and goods to feed what is expected to be near 5,000 people! **Thanksgiving weekend, November 28, 29 & 30** at 518 Grove St., Bonne Terre. **FREE and open to anyone!** Dine-in or delivery. Call 358-2998 to be a part of the miracle!

“Girl’s Night Out” a Success

Once again, Girl’s Night Out hosted by Twin Oaks Winery was a great success. This event is spearheaded each year by Jackie Berry for the benefit of the St. Francois County United Way and St. Francois County Community Partnership’s Season of Hope project.

This annual event gives the ladies of St. Francois County an opportunity to come out and enjoy an evening with good food, wine and friends. At the same time this event raises funds for the United Way of St. Francois County and toy donations for the Season of Hope which provides toys and clothing to 1,300-1,500 St. Francois County children each year.

In spite of the less than perfect weather, attendance was great and the Partnership received a record number of toys for the Season of Hope and the United Way garnered a substantial boost toward their seasonal fundraising goal.
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
Bill Bunch - Executive Director SFCCP (ex officio)
Linda Fitzgerald - Division of Workforce Development
Hilary Freeman - Bismarck School District
Elizabeth Hartmann - Children’s Division
Chuck Henson - First Baptist Church
Jessica Hinkebein - Great Mines Health Center
Chris Massey - Presbyterian Children’s Home & Services
Jessica McKnight - St. Francois County Health Center
Tina Miller - Mineral Area College
Marsha Petty - Farmington School District
Meg Reiner - At Large
Teresa Ressel - Daily Journal
Chris Saylor - BJCC Behavioral Health
Skylar Schwartz - Central School District
Al Sullivan - SFC I.D.A.
Alan Wells - 9-1-1 Joint Commission
Becky Yount - West County School District

If you would like to be removed from our mailing list, please call 573-760-0212 or email tiffany@sfccp.org.

RECCURRING CLASSES & SUPPORT GROUPS

- **Childbirth & Breastfeeding Classes**: Offered by Parkland Health Center. FREE to all participants.
  - **Childbirth Classes** are on the 2nd Saturday of each month, 8 to noon. Open to any expectant parents.
  - **Breastfeeding Classes** are on the 1st Monday of each month from 5-7 p.m. Open to any new or expectant mom.
  For more information on either of these classes, call 573-760-8500 or visit www.parklandhealthcenter.org/baby.

- **Diabetes Self-Management Class**: Free classes provided by Parkland Health Center on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of each month from 1-3 p.m. at the Farmington Public Library. For more information, call 760-8396.

- **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.