

## Board revamps fundraising event schedule for 2017

AFL-CIO Community Services is moving some of the fundraising events that were formerly scheduled during the Christmas in July FUNdraising campaign. This is being done in hopes of increasing attendance and to alleviate the concentration of events during the busy summer months.

Beginning with Trivia Night, which was moved from July and held on April 1st, some events are being moved and others are being revamped. The agency will no longer have a raffle for the Toy Drive, it will instead seek partnerships with several businesses in the community in hopes of increasing the inventory for the Adopt-A-Family Christmas program. Additionally, the Scavenger Hunt will be pushed back to August 5th.

The agency will still host several events for the 2016 Christmas in July annual FUNdrive. Events will include:

- ▶ A month-long Fund Drive & Toy Drive
- ▶ Fab-U-Less Finds thrift store sale on July 13th
- ▶ Mustangs' Baseball Christmas Extravaganza on July 22nd

The funds raised during these events all filter directly back into agency programs. None of the donations leave the St. Joseph area and many of the funds will be used to help your neighbors who are in need. For more information about the Christmas in July events, please visit the AFL-CIO Community Services web page at helpmenow.org.

Information is also available on Facebook through the agency page @aflciocommunityservices or the Christmas in July page @ChristmasinJulycommunityservices.

## Help Me Hotline expands

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software upgrades. Recently the agency was able to purchase software through ServicePoint, a customizable online software system that enables the agency to provide instant public access to community resources through a user-friendly website and mobile application. The agency is still working to create a public-access website that will allow for user-initiated searches, and hopes to have it operational by Summer 2017.

These advancements would not be possible without the partnership of the Kansas City and St. Louis United Way offices. Only through their generosity was the agency able to financially afford the new software and make these much-needed expansions and improvements.

Another vital partnership has been through the combined efforts of Mosaic Life Care and Grace Evangelical Church. Each provided essential financial support through program grants that aided in covering the expenses associated with the software and licensing costs.

The new software and public access options will make it possible for the agency to continue its overall goal of providing comprehensive and unbiased information and accurate referrals. It is a valuable asset to our community and merits financial support.

Donations made to the Help Me Hotline program would assist with ongoing operational expenses, companion software, website development, data resource expansion, and future system upgrades. If you would like to donate, please indicate your preference in the provided remittance envelope or call the Help Me Hotline at 816-364-1131.

AFL-CIO Community Services  
1203 N. Sixth St.  
Saint Joseph, MO 64501

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AFL-CIO Community Services and United Way Partnership

AFL-CIO Community Services

Spring 2017



### GIVE MONEY

The success of all AFL-CIO Community Services programs is due to the generosity of community members and businesses that provide financial support to agency programs. By making an unrestricted monetary donation, you are allowing us to respond to the program with the most current needs. Because many of the programs are seasonal, by making a monetary donation you are ensuring the success of the programs rather than restricting the funds to a limited period of use. To make a donation, visit the agency website at helpmenow.org, complete and return the included donation envelope or call 816.364.1131.

### GIVE YOUR TIME

Volunteers are the backbone of many agency programs. In 2016, volunteers distributed shoes to school-age children through the Soles for Christ program; helped sort and distribute clothing and household essentials in the Fab-U-Less Finds thrift store; and adopted, shopped for and distributed Christmas gifts to almost 800 families living in the St. Joseph area through the Adopt-A-Family program. The options for volunteering are endless and we can always find a match for your talents. To give time, please visit the agency website at helpmenow.org or call 816.364.1131.

### GIVE GIFTS

The opportunities and the options for giving are numerous for donors interested in giving items, and every item received goes to good use. New and gently used clothing and household items are always welcome in the Fab-U-Less Finds thrift store. We are happy to pick up yard sale leftovers, or take items you can no longer use when you do your Spring or Fall cleaning. Diapers and wipes are always needed for the Diaper Depot; used eyeglasses can be donated to the Lion's Club eyeglasses program; and new shoes can be given to the Soles for Christ shoe program. Donate by calling 816.364.1131.



## UPCOMING EVENTS

**July 13: Christmas in July Sale** – We've held back the good stuff for one night of can't-be-beat bargains in the Fab-U-Less Finds thrift store. For every \$25 you spend, you'll earn \$5 in Fab Funds for your next visit. 4:30 to 7 pm, 1203 N. 6th St.

**July 22: Mustangs night** – Come out and cheer the Mustangs on at their last home game of the season. Game time is 7 pm. Agency receives portion of \$6 ticket when you buy by calling 364.1131 or buy at 1203 N. 6th St. Tickets can be purchased by phone and mailed as well.

**August 5: Scavenger Hunt** – You may think you know your way around St. Joseph, but this scavenger hunt list may even stump you! Bring four of your friends and join in the fun! Registration starts at 5 pm, and the hunt begins at 6 pm at the Letter Carrier's Hall, 2301 St. Joseph Ave. \$15 per person, five person team limit.



It's your chance to grab up the best we have to offer in decor, clothing and holiday items.  
4:30 to 7 pm,  
1203 N. 6th St.

## Fall Fling Sale

October 12, 2017



August 14 & 15, 2017

Donations of new tennis shoes would be greatly appreciated. To donate or volunteer, please call 816.364.1131 or come to 1203 N. 6th St.

# Help Me Headlines



AFL-CIO Community Services

Spring 2017

1203 N. 6th St., St. Joseph, MO 64501

816.364.1131

www.helpmenow.org

## Help Me Hotline expands services

While AFL-CIO Community Services may be better known for its Adopt-A-Family Christmas program or the Soles for Christ shoe program, the agency's main program is its Help Me Hotline Information & Referral service.

The Help Me Hotline is a 24/7/365 referral service that links people who need information or assistance to appropriate health and human services. Its a great resource for everyday needs

that aren't quite 9-1-1 emergencies. Common issues include utility assistance, food insecurity issues, medical needs, vehicle problems (lack of gasoline, mechanical issues), or rent and housing issues.

When a situation like this occurs, many people turn to family members or will reach out to a bank or credit union for a loan. However, not all people are as fortunate to have that type of support and they have nowhere to turn. While it does not provide funding, the Help Me Hotline provides an extensive, accurate and reliable database of all health and human services throughout the state of Missouri, several resources in Kansas, and many nationwide programs as well. Referral services are available to the entire public. There are no eligibility requirements or boundaries.

This service is far superior to many of the traditional methods for getting help. While phonebooks provide contact numbers, they give no information about services or requirements. The Internet can be overwhelming and put the researcher through a wild goose chase for help. Many agencies are aware of other resources, but have limited knowledge of programs and eligibility guidelines. The Help Me

Hotline exists just for that reason. To avoid wild goose chases and frustrating leads that provide no results. It is not unusual for time to be a factor; many times the urgency of their situation does not allow for time spent searching for possible help, so being able to make one call to get the correct information they need prevents their issue from becoming a larger one.

In 2016, Information & Referral specialists answered 11,379 phone calls, saw 5,027 walk-ins, and received 3,503 calls from other agencies on their clients' behalf. The total number of individuals served was 32,664 (18,815 adults, 2,444 seniors, and 11,405 children). Additionally, I&R issued 10,209 referrals, directing clients to the appropriate programs to serve their needs.

To provide this service, the Help Me Hotline is dependent upon a database of agencies and programs. The agency compiles and maintains a detailed description of the most up-to-date agencies and programs provided by community, social, health and government organizations.

The Information & Referral program is not a new program; it has been provided to the community by the agency since 1978. However, recently AFL-CIO Community Services was able to vastly expand its database through a partnership with the United Ways in Kansas City and St. Louis and through the purchase of much-needed

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## Soles for Christ distribution set

AFL-CIO Community Services is once again organizing the Soles for Christ shoe program. The program offers shoes to children from pre-school to 12th grade living in Andrew and Buchanan counties in MO, as well as Doniphan County, KS.

We would like to invite you to join in this program by donating new shoes to our agency or by volunteering during the distribution days. Shoes can be dropped off at the agency, 1203 N. 6th St., no later than Wednesday, August 9rd. Hours for drop off are 8 am - 5 pm, Monday through Friday. Monetary donations are welcome, and all donations are tax deductible.

Volunteers for the program would help size and fit the children with their shoes, keep stock organized, or help with family registration. If interested in volunteering, please contact our office at 816.364.1131.

### 2017 Program Dates

Shoes will be distributed on Monday, August 14, from 8 am - 4 pm and again on Tuesday, August 15, from 8 am - 6 pm.

### Donation suggestions

▶ New tennis shoes are best, as schools do not allow flip-flop, dress or slip-on style shoes to be used in gym classes.

▶ Shoe sizes needed include toddler 5-10, youth 11-6, and all adult sizes

▶ Monetary donations are used to buy shoes when we run out of a size and for special needs.

▶ Socks are also accepted and will be offered while supplies last.

# 2016 Annual Outcomes

11,379  
telephone calls



5,027  
walk-ins



1,009  
adults  
1,340  
children  
128  
seniors



32,664  
individuals

10,209  
referrals  
made

\$7,800  
In 2016,  
108 applicants  
qualified for  
eyewear.



\$15,159



In 2016,  
Cinderella's Closet moved  
into a new location that provided  
much-needed additional space for  
distribution events and storing dresses,  
shoes and accessories. The new address for  
Cinderella's closet is 827 S. 9th.  
As a long-time partner in the Cinderella's Closet  
formal wear program with St. Joseph Junior  
League, AFL-CIO Community Services is still  
invested in its success and serves as a drop-off  
location for program donations because the  
new location is not open outside of distribu-  
tion dates or by special appointments.  
Donations at our agency can be made  
Monday- Friday from  
9 am to 5 pm.



Fab-U-Less  
Finds  
Fashions &  
Furnishings  
for Less

19,109  
free clothing &  
housewares items

\$44,880

Emergency  
funds provided a  
variety of needs, including  
birth certificates, IDs, dia-  
pers, bus passes, utility bills,  
gasoline, rent, transportation  
services, and prescription  
medications.



\$27,650



10,363  
diapers given  
\$3,227



1,106  
pairs of shoes

## Many thanks to 2016 volunteers

- |                      |                    |                    |                                   |
|----------------------|--------------------|--------------------|-----------------------------------|
| <b>Individuals</b>   | Shirley Golden     | Ken & Connie       | Becky Turner                      |
| Yadiel Leon Acosta   | Edgar Pineda-      | Newton             | Traci Turner                      |
| Sarah Albers         | Granados           | Michael Nielsen    | William Tyler                     |
| George & Pam         | Candace Greever    | Kristi Nike        | Larry Uehling                     |
| Albert               | Gari Grindstaff    | Mike Northup       | Brandon Veale                     |
| Ray Allen            | Nancy Hammer       | Whitney Norton     | Mike & Cynde                      |
| Debra Anderson       | Pam Hanabury       | Tracy Nurski       | Veale                             |
| Kate Arthur          | Abigail Hansen     | Kevin Owens        | Keith Waller                      |
| Mike Barton          | Myrlo Hall         | Lynn Palma         | Amy Ward                          |
| Barbara Bigelow      | Connie Harris      | Dick & Roxanna     | Todd Ward                         |
| Olga Bisig           | Norma Harris       | Phillips           | John Warden                       |
| Breanna Bland        | Natalia Guerra-    | Lochlan Phillips   | Jean Warren                       |
| Lanette & Kevin      | Landrau            | Kara Powelson      | Kathy Whitley                     |
| Bocquin              | Sister Harley      | Mary Prothero      | Jamie Wigginton                   |
| Krystal Bowen        | Donna Hickok       | Diane Redden       | Billie Williams                   |
| Jasmine Briedwell    | Vanessa Hoffman    | Lisa Reece         | Cari Williams                     |
| Kathy Brinton        | Jeremiah Hollers   | Bruce Reynolds     | Sue Winchester                    |
| Carol Bunge          | Nicole Holliday    | Lisa Reynolds      | Connor Wood                       |
| Ruth Ann Bunker      | Scott Howell       | Joyce Roberts      | Lori Zillner                      |
| Rachael Burris       | Debbie Hueser      | Debbie Roebkes     |                                   |
| Ronald Campbell      | Becky & Bailey     | Aleandra & Melly   |                                   |
| Jon, Sidnee, Spencer | Hughes             | Romo-Segovia       | <b>Groups &amp; Organizations</b> |
| Carr                 | Alexandra Hyde     | Antonia Ross       | Acme Food &                       |
| Jacky Clamas         | Darrick Inscho     | Jeanne Sample      | Vending                           |
| George Clinton       | Servilio Izquierdo | Bree Schreck       | American Angus                    |
| Mark Compton         | Andrea Jacobs      | Jenny Schultz      | Cabana Grill                      |
| Mark Conley          | Pam Jamison        | Candy Sheehan      | Cracker Barrel                    |
| Lori Cordonnier      | Allen Jennings     | Frank Sindelar     | Eagle Radio                       |
| Vanessa Culver       | Marcia Johnson     | Dick Sipe          | Edward Jones                      |
| Dallas Davidson      | Sue Johnson        | Drew Skinner       | Fox 26 KNPB                       |
| Karie Davis          | Kitty Karr         | Deb Smith          | Golden Glaze                      |
| Kate Davison         | Helen King         | Shawna Sollars     | Hy-Vee                            |
| Cheryl Deeken        | Sharon & Bob       | Cindy & Marty      | International Paper               |
| Diane Delaney        | Koranda            | Soper              | Kmart                             |
| Naomi Trinidad-      | Leslie Lane        | Kitty Spafford     | KQTV 2                            |
| Delgado              | Gabriel Pineda-    | Randi Lenander     | Little Caesars                    |
| Dominquez            | Jim Lever          | Michelle Stagner   | Meierhoffer Funeral               |
| D Drake              | Karla Long         | Jennifer Stanton   | Home & Crematory                  |
| Janice Eaton         | Kevin Macnado      | Charlene Steeby    | Mr. Goodcents                     |
| Fran Evans           | Tess Matagi        | Darren Steele      | Price Chopper                     |
| Stephaney Ferguson   | Rindy McCartney    | Dominic Sterzinger | Schweizer Orchards                |
| Fred & Fredis Flores | Christy McFarland  | Mark Struthers     | St. Joseph Bicycle                |
| Sister Fuhrman       | Ursula McMillian   | Zade Sutton        | Club                              |
| Jeff & Elora Gates   | Geraldine Mier     | Ruth Thornton      | St. Joseph NewsPress              |
| Julie Gatton         | Karen Milbourn     | Rick Tolbert       | St. Joseph Wood-                  |
| Sister Garay         | Jill Miller        | Harley Trachel     | workers Guild                     |
| Tom Gebken           | Marsha Milne       | Pam Trickey        | Willcross Seed                    |
| Linda Geib           | Lindsey Minton     | Donna Trierweiler  |                                   |
| Shannon Gilpin       | Cheri Morton       | Allison Tschannen  |                                   |
|                      | Sister Newren      |                    |                                   |

Online Access

AFL-CIO Community Services is online at [helpmenow.org](http://helpmenow.org). In addition, many of the agency programs have their own Facebook pages. Information on the programs are updated regularly through the website and Facebook pages. Please "like" us to keep up on the latest news and to show your support for the agency programs. In addition to the AFL-CIO Community Services Facebook page, there are also pages for the Adopt-A-Family Christmas program, Soles for Christ Shoe program, Christmas in July, and the Fab-U-Less Finds thrift store.