

Plea: Hoping for your help

...from p 1

develop an advanced campaign, we have decided to appeal to our support base in the same way we always have: with a honest plea to get the help we need where we need it. It may not directly provide holiday gifts, or put shoes on children, but it makes it possible for us to continue doing those things and it keeps us from spending money frivolously on a campaign.

We have worked very hard to be good stewards of the funds that have been given to the agency. We have a small staff of five employees that manage and oversee our programs. We are very cost-conscious and do not spend funds unless we absolutely need to and we would not be asking for these funds if they were not desperately needed.

At this time, the agency has already experienced a reduction of \$18,000 in funding for 2018. While recouping these funds would provide some stability, it does not take into account any cost of living increase accrued through increasing utility or business expenses, nor does it provide any type of provision for employees. Below is a summary of needed funding to maintain current staff, make necessary improvements, and continue existing services:

- Funds to maintain the Help Me Hotline, which would assist with ongoing operational expenses, companion software, website development, data resource expansion, and future system upgrades. \$40,000
 - Additional support for the voucher program to help alleviate the cost of providing free items in the Fab-U-Less Finds Thrift Store. While items given away and sold in the store are given to the agency free of cost, there are associated cost of maintaining and operating a business that are not being met strictly through sales. \$25,000
 - A resurfacing and updating of the existing parking lot to make it handicap accessible. We would also like to eventually replace and update doors to provide electric access to the building. \$25,000 (lot only)
- If you would like to donate to AFL-CIO Community Services, please send your donation in the enclosed envelope, visit our website at helpmenow.org, or call the agency at 816-364-1131. The agency accepts donations in any form convenient for you, including check, PayPal, or credit card. Donations are accepted by mail, phone, or online.

Help Me Hotline expands with CommunityPoint

...from p 1

Without the Help Me Hotline, many in our community would have no idea where to start when they find themselves in a difficult situation and need help.

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.

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. However, it does not come without costs.

The Help Me Hotline is a valuable asset to our community and merits financial support. In 2017, call specialists answered 23,199 calls and emails from individuals in our community who were searching for aid. The service provided 10,821 referrals, serving more than 33,500 individuals.

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

Spring 2018



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 2017, 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 more than 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.

Help Me Headlines



AFL-CIO Community Services

Spring 2018

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

816.364.1131

www.helpmenow.org

Help Me Hotline expands agency outreach with CommunityPoint

Last year AFL-CIO Community Services was able to vastly expand its database and purchase new software, called ServicePoint, through a partnership with the United Ways in Kansas City and St. Louis. These updates have made it possible to improve the quality and streamline services provided through the agency's Help Me Hotline.

In addition to new software, the new system includes CommunityPoint, a customizable online community resource directory that enables the agency to provide instant public access to resources through a user-friendly

website and mobile application 24/7. For the past 12 months, the agency has been working to create a public-access website that will allow for user-initiated searches, and hopes to have it fully operational by Summer 2017.

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. Anyone needing assistance can utilize the online directory.

...See Help Me on p 2

Plea: Hoping for your help

We have been blessed to have such strong community support around the programs of AFL-CIO Community Services. This support has made it possible for us to successfully complete 33 years of Adopt-A-Family, provide more than \$292,778 in free clothing and household items through our Fab-U-Less Finds Thrift Store, and provide shoes for every child who has come through our doors during the past 15 years for Soles For Christ. When funds are needed for these programs, you always come through for us.

In the past few years the agency has found itself in a precarious position. While funding for specific programs has remained strong, our general fund has dropped dramatically

and funding for administrative and capital improvements have not kept up. We have found ourselves cutting more and more corners, unable to repair and update facilities and programs, and slipping behind on potential advancements.

We are continuously working to find more funding. We host events, apply for grants, speak to groups - anything to increase awareness of the agency and bring in much-needed dollars. For the past four years, we have hosted a yearly, month-long fundraiser and while it has produced funds, it has not brought in the kind of funding the agency so desperately needs.

Rather than spend funds to bring in experts to

...See Plea p 2

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 1st. 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.

2018 Program Dates

Shoes will be distributed on Monday, August 6, from 8 am - 4 pm and again on Tuesday, August 7, 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.

UPCOMING EVENTS

June 23: Trivia Night - Come test your knowledge at our holiday trivia contest. Doors open at 5, play begins at 7 pm, Callison Hall, 1222 S 10th St. Each player is \$20, with a 10 person team maximum. \$15 per player for a full team of 10.



July 14: Super Saturday Sale - We've held back the good stuff for one day only at Fab-U-Less Finds thrift store. For every \$25 you spend, you'll earn \$5 in Fab Funds for your next visit. 10 am to 2 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.



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.

August 11: 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, Letter Carrier's Hall, 2301 St. Joseph Ave. \$20 per person, five person team limit. \$15 per player for a full team of 5.

2017 Annual Outcomes

13,373
calls & emails

10,821
referrals
made

33,564
individuals

6,425
walk-ins

Help Me Hotline



816.364.1131
800.365.7724



Fab-U-Less
Finds
Fashions & Furnishings
for Less

\$41,841

18,068
free clothing &
household items

MENTION
THIS AD
AND GET
50% OFF
ONE ITEM

Fab-U-Less
Finds
Thrift Store

Open Monday - Friday: 9 am - 5 pm
Saturdays: 9 am to 1 pm



SPECIALS
EVERYDAY!

WEDNESDAYS ARE
SENIOR DAY!
GET 50% OFF YOUR
ENTIRE PURCHASE

1203 N 6th St 816-364-1131



diaperdepot

8,041
diapers given

\$1,946

2,276
individuals applied

Soles
for
Christ
Shoe Program

1,182
pairs of shoes

\$29,550



In 2017,
132 applicants
qualified for
eyewear.

\$10,950

In 2017,
volunteers donated
1,679
hours toward agency
programs



\$40,531

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



\$10,377

145
households



894
adults
1,247 children
135 seniors



Many thanks to 2017 volunteers, groups, board members

- | | | | | | | | |
|--------------------|---|--|---|--|-------------------------|--|--|
| Individuals | Abby Dennis
Pat, Nancy, Erin & Patrick Dillon
Yadiel Leon Acosta
Morgan Arbelo
Cameron Ashlock
Mary Baker
John Bales
Mike & Becky
Barton Mathew
Benedict
Barbara Bigelow
Marvin Birt
Olga Bisig
AJ Bleich
Lanette Bocquin
Pam Brock
Becky Brooner
Rachael Burris
Theresa Buttz
Valerie Buxton
Carol Calwell
Ronald Campbell
Sidnee & Spencer Carr
Kallie Catron
Nancy Clisbee
Jon Colestock
Samantha Cooper
Lori Cordonmier
Courtney Cruz
Kate Davison
Mindy Dawson | Shelly Hines
Vanessa Hoffman
Johana Hopkins
Debbie Hueser
Lainie Hundley
Holly Hurd
Pam Jamison
Daniel Johnson
Marcia Johnson
Parker Johnson
Paula Johnson
Zachary Jordan
Kitty Karr
Julie Kaufman
Rose Kendall
Roxanna Kerns
Zoann Kier
Helen King
Sharon & Bob Koranda
Jillian LaFollette
Kelley Lincoln
Jose & Jacqueline Llamas
Karla Long
Mary Martens
Patty Mason
Mark McCann
Rindy McCartney
Ursula McMillian
J McVey
Molly Michalsia
Geraldine & Willie Mier
Rachel Milane-Rivero | Karon Milbourn
Whitney Mildfeldt
Debra Miller
Patsy Miller
Marsha & Stormie Milne
Lindsey Minton
Monica Morrill
Elvedina Mujagic
Ken & Connie Newton
Peggy Peregrine
Alex Phillips
Dick & Roxanna Phillips
Mary & Trenton Prothero
Diane Redden
Zack Reece
Hayley Renaud
Bruce Reynolds
Joyce Roberts
Maria Rodrick
Melly Romo-Segovia
Terri Rosenberger
Amanda Ross
Mary Rossiter
Jeanne Saniple
Guanni Schoof
Leslie Seals
Misty Seippel
Brittani Selby
Sheryl Shaw
Candy Sheehan
Kylie Shepard | Christy Shroyer
Frank Sindelar
Cindy & Marty Soper
Averi Souther
Kitty Spafford
Ronda Speer
Charlene Steeby
Debby Stephens
Dominic Sterzinger
Mark Struthers
Carol Tatum
Rick Tolbert
Pam Trickey
Donna Trierweiler
Sherri Troshynski
Gail Tyler
Larry Uehling
Mike Veale
Keyla Vela
Phillip Walley
Keith Waller
Victoria Watson
Danielle & Wayne Ward
John & Joyce Warden
Linda Warner
Jean Warren
Chris Weekly
Laura West
Rhonda Whitney
Jamie Wigginton
Robin Wilsey
Thelma Wyrick | John Yar
Jacob Yates | Groups & Organizations
American Family
Acme Food & Vending
AT&T Employees
CWA Local 6360
Eagle Radio
Edward Jones
Fazoli's
Fox 26 KNPN
Goodcents (N. Belt)
Hy-Vee
International Paper
Kmart
KQTV 2
Letter Carriers' Local 195
Little Caesars
Midland Ministries
Mosaic Life Care
Noyes Home
NWMO Central
Labor Council
Plumbers & Pipefitters Local 45 | Price Chopper
St. Joseph Bicycle Club
St. Joseph Building & Trades
St. Joseph NewsPress
St. Joseph Woodworkers Guild
Willcross Seed
YWCA
Board Members
Ray Allen
Jasmine Briedwell
Jon Carr
George Clinton
Tina Chapman
Jeremiah Hollars
Bailey Hughes
Becky Hughes
Darrick Inoscho
Sue Johnson
Leslie Lane
Mike Northup
Lisa Reece
Dick Sipe
Darren Steele
Allison Tschannen
Cynde Veale |
|--------------------|---|--|---|--|-------------------------|--|--|

Online Access

AFL-CIO Community Services is online at 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.