

UPCOMING EVENTS

In Memory

June 22: 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 27: 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 player for a full team of 5.

August 5-6: Soles for Christ distribution – Shoes will be given out on a first-come, first-served basis, Monday 8 am – 4 pm and again on Tuesday, from 8 am – 6 pm.

August 31: Trivia Night – Come test your knowledge at our trivia contest. Doors open at 6 pm, play begins at 7 pm, Pony Express Musuem, 914 Penn St. Each player is \$20, with a 10 person team maximum.

AFL-CIO Community Services mourns the loss of long-time agency supporter and board member Lewis "Ray" Allen. Ray, 75, passed away Sunday, May 12, 2019, at St. Luke's Hospice House. He was born June 22, 1943.

Ray worked for Mead Products for 39 years before retiring. He was a proud member of the union for 54 years and the Business Agent for Paperworkers Local #29 for 13 years. Ray was a humanitarian, serving on several committees, including the Northwest Missouri Central Labor Council, United Way Allocations, Buchanan County Democrats, and United Democrats Club of Northwest Missouri.

Our condolences go out to his daughter, Amanda Switzer and her husband Brian, and his long-time companion, Beth Evans. He will be greatly missed by our board and staff. Ray's almost daily visits were something we grew to expect and will miss very much.



Printing services provided by Cookman Printing

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

Return Service Requested

NONPROFIT
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
AFL-CIO
COMMUNITY
SERVICES
PERMIT NO. 76

Help Me Headlines



AFL-CIO Community Services

Spring 2019

Making your dollars make sense

AFL-CIO Community Services is so very thankful for the support it receives from this community. When the agency's phone system went down this winter, donations quickly came in to replace the broken (and very outdated) system that is essential to administering our primary program, the Help Me Hotline.

As our primary program, the Help Me Hotline provides information and referral service to Northwest Missouri and Northeast Kansas. Anyone needing assistance can call the agency to get up-to-date information on all available resources for assistance. This saves time and resources for both those needing assistance and the agency that provides it because it eliminates fruitless searches and redirection from agencies.

Without community support, replacing the system may have taken more time than we could have afforded to lose and we are forever grateful to those who donated to the cause.

In addition to the Help Me Hotline, Community Services administers five year-round programs and two annual programs. The year-long programs include: Fab-U-Less Finds thrift store, Lions Club eyeglasses, Diaper Depot, Seasonal Services, and Emergency Assistance. The two annual programs are: Adopt-A-Family Christmas and Soles for Christ.

It is during this time of year that we do the majority of our fund raising to support these programs. We do this through a combination of events and through our Summer fund drive. (A full schedule of events can be found on page two of this newsletter.) Donations to the agency are used to support programming.

To provide a better picture of how funds are used, please consider the following common program values:

\$25 Provides:

- ❖ One pair of shoes for Soles for Christ
- ❖ 12 voucher items for a single mother and one child in Fab-U-Less Finds
- ❖ One tank of gas for a person to get to work waiting for their first paycheck
- ❖ Replacing a lost identification

\$50 Provides:

- ❖ A prescription for eyeglasses through the Lion's Club program
- ❖ 24 voucher items for a family of four in Fab-U-Less Finds
- ❖ A case of diapers for one family
- ❖ A medical prescription through the Emergency Assistance fund

\$100 Provides:

- ❖ Referral services for 14 individuals (average cost of \$7 per call)
- ❖ Holiday gifts for a teenager through the Adopt-A-Family program
- ❖ Four pairs of shoes for Soles for Christ
- ❖ An air conditioner unit for one household

\$250 Provides:

- ❖ Referral services for 35 individuals (average cost of \$7 per call)
- ❖ Holiday gifts for a single mom of two through Adopt-A-Family program
- ❖ Cases of diapers for five families
- ❖ A pair of glasses through the Lion's Club program

To assist with these valuable programs, please return your donation in the included remittance envelope or visit helpmenow.org.

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 preschool 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 tennis 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.

2019 Program Dates

Distribution will be on Monday, August 5, from 8 am – 4 pm and again on Tuesday, August 6, from 8 am – 6 pm.

Donation suggestions

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

Many thanks to 2018 volunteers, board members

Individuals

Jeanne Archer
Mary Baker
Billie Bartley
Mike & Becky Barton
Kim Beaman
Barbara Bigelow
Marvin Birt
Olga Bisig
Dolores Blair
Lanette Bocquin
Kathy Brinton
Becky Brooner
Carol Bunge
Joan Burton
Jillian Bodhi-Grantham
Jean Boyer
Cara Campbell
Ron & Devon Campbell
Jon, Sidnee & Seneca Carr
Nancy Clisbee
Andrea Cole
Jon & Joy Colestock
Twila Cook
Rosa Costillo
Chris Crabtree
Courtney Cruz
Kate Davison

Abby Dennis
Tammy Dean
Jennifer Dennis
Andrea Edwards
Susanne Eichenmueller
Amanda Espiritu
Fran Evans
Kendal Evans
Shannon Evans
Tracy Evans
Fred Flores
Marvin Flores
Lisa Gabriel
Julie Gattton
Tom Gebken
Luci Gniitt
Shirley Golden
Mackenzie Grantham
Cathy Green
Candace Greever
Sandy Hamann
George & Nancy Hammer
Walt & Pam Hanabury
Holly Harris
Norma Harris
Jeff Hayes
Cheryl Hawkins
Donna Hickok
Derek Hines
Rodney Hines

Kathryn Hines
Shelly Hines
Melissa Hossfeld
Heather Hughes
Caden Hundley
Lainie Hundley
Holly Hurd
Connie Jackson
Pam Jamison
George Johnson
Marcia Johnson
Paula Johnson
Kitty Karr
Julie Kaufman
Debbie Keefer
Roxanna Kerns
Helen King
Sharon & Bob Koranda
Karen Lamm
Jennifer Lee
Zulima Lugo-Knapp
Karla Long
Jennifer Lundy
Dani Matias
Lee McGinley
Angela McKimmon
Ursula McMillian
J McVey
Geraldine Mier
Patsy Miller
Teresa Miller
Lindsey Minton

Stormie Milne
Michael Montgomery
Kenisha Morris
Ken & Connie Newton
Sue Niewald
Kari & Bailey Pecora
Peggy Peregrine
Dick & Roxanna Phillips
Moe Power
Mary & Trenton Prothero
Maria Ramirez
Hayley Renand
Bruce Reynolds
Rachel Richy
Katy Richmond
Joyce Roberts
Leslie Seals
Candy Sheehan
Christy Shroyer
Frank Sindelar
Skylar Smith
Cindy & Marty Soper
Kitty Spafford
Mike, Madison, Cameron & Debie Steilen
Debra Stephens
Mark Struthers

Mark Torres
Rick Tolbert
Sherri Troshynski
Mike Veale
John & Joyce Warden
Linda Warner
Jean Warren
Kathy Wessler
Jamie Wigginton
Chris & Tracy Wright
Thelma Wyrick
Sadie Wyrick-Holtsclaw
Keith Waller
Victoria Watson
Leah Watts-Sams

Groups & Organizations

American Family
Acme Food & Vending
AT&T CWA Local 6360
Clifton, Larson, Allen, LLP
Collison Repair Specialists
CWA Local 6360
Eagle Radio

Edward Jones
Fox 26 KNPN
Highland Community College
Hy-Vee International Paper
Jimmy Johns
KQTV 2
Letter Carriers' Local 195
Little Caesars
Mosaic Life Care
Northside Community Association
Noyes Home
NWMo Central Labor Council
Pizza Ranch
Plasma Biological Services
Plumbers & Pipefitters Local 45
Price Chopper
St. Joseph Bicycle Club
St Joseph Building & Trades
St Joseph Business & Industry

Chapter St. Joseph News Press
St. Joseph Woodworkers Guild
Simple Simons
Stoney Creek Quilters
Valvoline Express Care
Victory Chevrolet
YWCA
Board Members
Ray Allen
Jasmine Briedwell
Jon Carr
George Clinton
Tina Chapman
Jeremiah Hollars
Scott Howell
Becky Hughes
Darrick Incho
Sue Johnson
Dennis Merritt
Mike Northup
Lisa Reece
Dick Sipe
Darren Steele
Allison Tschamnen
Cynde Veale
Than Wagers

AFL-CIO Community Services

Spring 2019



GIVE FUNDS 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, a monetary donation ensures 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 700 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.



GIVE ONLINE 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 Facebooks page, there are pages for Adopt-A-Family Christmas, Soles for Christ, and Fab-U-Less Finds.

2018 Annual Outcomes

23,389
annual average calls

- ❖ Callers are provided resources for basic needs including food, shelter, healthcare, mental health, employment, education and seasonal assistance (tax preparation, school supplies, heating/cooling centers).
- ❖ Callers reach a trained, caring Call Specialist who assesses the needs of each person and searches a database with more than 8,000 services to connect callers with the help they need.
- ❖ Since 2007, the average number of calls have increased by 27.5 percent.
- ❖ Anyone can search the Help Me Hotline online beginning in June 2019 by visiting www.helpmenow.org.

Help Me Hotline
123 456 789 0
816-364-1131
800-365-7724

It's free.

It's confidential.

It's available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

1,941
volunteer & service hours



Fab-U-Less
Fashions & Furnishings for Less

Lions RECYCLE For Sight

In 2018, 118 applicants qualified for eyewear.

\$10,350

- ❖ The Fab-U-Less Finds voucher program allows each household to receive six free items per person within the household, four times a year.
- ❖ The store is open to the public and relies on donations for its inventory; donations are tax deductible. The store offers pick ups for those donors who cannot deliver.

15,688
free clothing & household items

\$36,053

- ❖ Of the 729 families that applied for the program, 212 households had \$0 income.
- ❖ The majority, 85 percent (619 families), are at 100 percent or below poverty guidelines; 8 percent (56 families) are up to 35 percent above poverty guidelines; and 2 percent (15 families) are 36 percent or more above poverty guidelines.
- ❖ In 2018, 770 different adopters provided assistance to the families. This included, 163 individuals/families; and 130 businesses/organizations. There were 477 undesignated monetary donations made to the program to help cover the cost of food baskets, gift cards and vouchers for families.

More than 80,825 individuals have been served through Adopt-A-Family since 1983.

The four most common funding needs of 2018 were: gasoline, sewer bills, electric bills, and bus tokens and tickets.

\$22,799

- ❖ There are no boundaries, no eligibility guidelines and no fees for this service.
- ❖ The agency uses emergency funds for the people that "fall through the cracks" like car payments, insurance, and repairs, phone bills, medical needs and other necessities required to exist. The agency tries to fill those gaps.
- ❖ The agency coordinates all available funds from the community and then pays the amount needed or adds any additional funds needed.

In 2018, 1,497 volunteers donated 1,497 hours toward agency programs

\$36,138



915 adults
1,299 children
146 seniors



422 individuals

Soles for Christ
Shoe Program



1,172 pairs of shoes

\$26,800

- ❖ Children in pre-k through 12th grade, living in Buchanan and Andrew counties in Missouri and Doniphan County in Kansas, are eligible to receive a free pair of new tennis shoes.
- ❖ Every child that comes to the distribution receives shoes.
- ❖ The first year, 210 pairs of school shoes were distributed.
- ❖ The program utilized 90 volunteers performing 514.5 hours of service.

Seasonal Services

- ❖ Heart Warmers is a new partnership for the agency created by R.J. Jackson; it was created to provide space heaters to those in need during the cold weather months.
- ❖ To combat summer heat, fans are donated by KCP&L and air conditioners are donated by the public.
- ❖ In 2018, heaters, fans and air conditioners were distributed to 52 households, which included 71 adults, 15 seniors and 46 children.



132 individuals

\$1,347

2019 Attainable Goals

1 GOAL: Reach at least 20,000 individuals through the Help Me Hotline and its online CommunityPoint application.

VALUE: Approximately \$7 per call for services

FUNDS NEEDED: \$140,000

2 GOAL: Supply at least 125 people with glasses through the Lion's Club Eyeglasses program.

VALUE: Approximately \$150 per pair of glasses

FUNDS NEEDED: \$18,750

3 GOAL: Provide Christmas gifts to 750 families through the Adopt-A-Family Christmas program.

VALUE: Approximately \$75 per person, based on a yearly average of 2,500 individuals.

FUNDS NEEDED: \$187,500

4 GOAL: Give at least 1,200 pairs of new tennis shoes to children through the Soles for Christ shoe program.

VALUE: \$25 per pair of shoes

FUNDS NEEDED: \$30,000

5 GOAL: Serve 4,200 people with free clothing, household items, and furniture through the Fab-U-Less Finds voucher program.

VALUE: Approximately \$13.50 per person, per voucher.

FUNDS NEEDED: \$56,700