

JCCB Bureau 2009



buzz

Volume 9
Issue One

President's Corner

This isn't the typical thank you and farewell the President usually writes at this time. For one thing, I will be Co-President with **Alice Algie** this year. I am looking forward to working with Alice. I couldn't ask for a better Co-President.

So this isn't a farewell, but a thank you. One huge THANK YOU to all our volunteers who stepped forward and did the job asked of them and several times did even more, and year-around department chairs who worked so hard especially when we knew we would be serving more than anticipated. I want to personally thank you for being so easy to work with and working so well together.

I want to thank the schools and organizations for all their hard work collecting items and money for donation, to sending some of the best volunteers, and our donors who continue to support us so strongly. With everyone's hard work this year's Shop turned out to be a great success.

We want to thank **Carl LaSala** with **LaSala – Sonnenberg Commercial Realty Company** and **Gilchrist & Associates** for allowing us the use of the building at 1225 E. Santa Fe. The building was in great shape that made it easier to serve the 9,267 individuals that came through this year.

I'd like to introduce my fellow Co-President Alice Algie, also known as the "Church Lady." Alice is involved with volunteering at several other organizations so I am pleased she is willing to make this commitment with me.

Looking forward to a great year!

Thanks – **Barbara Dickerson**, JCCB President

Welcome Co-President!

I'm Alice Algie, this year's Co-President of the Johnson County Christmas Bureau along with Barbara Dickerson. We have decided to work as a team with Barbara doing most of the speaking programs and I will do the Administrative paper work. Since retiring from the University of Kansas Medical Center after 35 years, I have volunteered with several groups, most especially the **Friends of the Library** and also had given time to the Christmas Bureau through a former church group. I had witnessed the amazing work in setting up the **Holiday Shop** and "personal shopping" with clients. A former President of the JCCB asked me at church one Sunday if I would be interested in working with the religious community of Johnson County to get church/synagogue groups involved in helping with the Holiday Shop or better yet, becoming more involved with the actual year round working of the Christmas Bureau. In 2005 I became the "Church Lady" and developed my contacts sending letters/post-cards and speaking to various community mission groups.

I must give special thanks to **Barbara Dickerson** for her support and advice as I delve into being the In-Charge Lady of this organization that continues to work year around to help those less fortunate in Johnson County. Our 2008 Holiday Shop assisted an amazingly large number of clients. 2009 will provide additional challenges for the Christmas Bureau as we continue to fill positions held by retiring staff.

Alice Algie, Co-President

Three Months With Client Services - 2008

The news - The economy was going down at a rapid pace and social services agencies were showing at least a 25% increase in those applying for assistance.

Our challenge – to contact and register as many individuals and families as possible to help them thru the holidays.

Contacts – SRS, Catholic Services, JoCo Mental Health, Jo Co Aging, ElCentro, Jewish Family Services, JoCo multi-Service Centers, schools and other social service agencies

The work – Thru the dedication of the Client Services team of **Deborah Owens, Rose Hay, Barb O'Donnell, Chris Steege** and many, many volunteers, over 3,000 were given appointments and entered into our database.

The Shop – Again the team and volunteers handled the office, and in four hour shifts greeted shoppers and signed them in.

Thanks – to **Lakeview Village** for the use of an apartment for our office, **Rhoads Printing** for all our regular and emergency needs, **Gill Studios** for donating postage, **El Centro** for translating on an on-call basis, and to all those agencies in the community who saw the need and helped people get connected to us.

It was a challenging year number wise, and a word of thanks is not enough to express the appreciation of all who helped the 2008 Shop be a success.

Betty Athey, Client Services, Chairman

THANK YOU Data Entry Volunteers

The 2008 **JCCB Holiday Shop** was a huge success. This was due in part of the hard work from the **Data Entry Volunteers**. Volunteers worked from October to December inputting information for over 3,200 families. Their dedica-

tion in picking up applications and inputting them on their home computers contributed to the best year ever in JCCB Data Entry.

The Johnson County Christmas Bureau would like to thank the following Data Entry Volunteers for their commitment, hard work, and attention to detail.

Sandy Ayres

Judy Church

Mary Ellen Fleming-Jones

Virginia McKnight

Lori Pratt

Terry Settje

Debi Sokol

Colleen Carroll

Carol Cleary

Dana Grayson

Linda Moore

Gretchen Ryan

Anne Shields

Megan Warner

For more information about volunteering to help with Data Entry for the 2009 Holiday Shop, please email chrissser@aol.com (note 3 "s") or call 913-205-6632.

Chris Steege, JCCB IT Chairman

Way to Go Schools!

Congratulations to all the schools that joined us this year. When the call went out that we would be in greater need this year because of the increase in clients and the fact that **Harvester's** shelves were bare, you really came through! Everyone did a great job with their individual food drives and without your help we would have been in a difficult position. We can't thank you enough!

I'd like to thank **Pam Howell** and **Orin Swift** for once again taking care of the **Olathe District** and **Karen Peavey** for taking care of the **Blue Valley District** again. You were so much help with those big jobs! We also want to thank **Bob Howell** and **Midwest Cabinets Company, Inc.** and **Bill and Paula Stringfellow** for the use of their trucks collecting food at the schools.

Once again thank you for your great participation **Shawnee Mission, Olathe, Blue Valley, DeSoto, Springhill**, and **Parochial** students. You made it happen!

Barbara Dickerson, Schools Chairman

Terrific Teen Shoppers

The **Teen Department** was a success this year thanks to all of our great volunteers. I would like to thank **Linda Cleavenger, Jane Schmidt, MaryAnn Weyforth, Sherry Ferree** and **Elaine Hager** for helping make a great Christmas for our 11 to 18 year olds. I would also like to thank Elaine Hager for her dedication to shopping for these Holiday Shop teens.

The Teen Department has started shopping for next year and can always use donations of skateboards, electronics, gift cards and sporting equipment. We would also like a group to make fleece blankets in "teen type" fabrics. The blankets were a big hit in 2008 shop.

Susan Strongman, Margaret Ganzman,
Teens Co-chairmen

Delightful Donations

The **Adult Gifts Department** was delighted by the large number and excellent quality of the donations we received this year. Thanks to all of you who gave so generously. Without your help we would not have been able to supply the 4,000 gifts that were needed for this year's shop.

There were many popular gifts this year. The handmade quilts, afghans, and throws were a big hit. Other favorite gift items were small appliances, tools, blankets, large pots and skillets, haircut sets and razors.

Our department would not have run smoothly without the assistance of our 49 volunteers. A special thank you goes to **Pat Reed, Carol Renstrom,** and **Bob and Judy Wenger** for the extra hours they worked.

We have started shopping for the 2009 Shop. Donations are always appreciated throughout the year: coffee pots, blenders, bed linens, hairdryers, gifts for men (tools, beard trimmers, razors), etc. Please think of us during the store sales throughout the year. Call the Christmas Bureau office if you would like someone to pick up your donations.

Lois Harger, Virginia Winston,
Adult Co-Chairmen

H.U.G.S.

We want to thank everyone who helped make H.U.G.S. a success this year. We have worked most of the year without a Chairman for this committee so it has taken many special individuals working hard to make it happen, A special thank you to **Janet Olberding,** who worked as a Co-chairman during the Shop,

And once again we can't thank the **Johnson County Young Matrons** enough for all their work at Shop and throughout the year with H.U.G.S., It's been a great pleasure to meet and work with **Linda Thomas** who was in charge for the JCYM this year. You did a fantastic job!

Vivacious Volunteers!

Thank you to all of our volunteers for your help during the 2008 Holiday Shop. We had over 2100 volunteers sign in over fifteen days. It was because of your generous donation of time that the Holiday Shop was a success.

If you are interested in being on the mailing list for the 2009 Holiday Shop, please email your Name, address, email address and phone number to jccbvoleunteers@gmail.com.

Cathleen Hartman, Volunteers Chairman

Mary D. McKane

1941-2009

We sadly announce the passing of Mary D. McKane on January 3, 2009. Mary was a dedicated worker at the Christmas Bureau for more than 10 years. She was Co-chairman of **Personal Care** with her husband, **John,** before her illness prevented them from continuing two years ago. Mary's volunteering did not stop with JCCB. She was active and very devoted to many other groups. We are grateful for Knowing Mary and her dedication, enthusiasm, and tireless energy.

Her husband, John, and two children survive Mary. Memorial contributions may be made to **Animal Haven.**

Personal Care Highlights

Of all of the personal care items that we were privileged to distribute, during the 2008 Shop, the large quantity of diapers was a highlight and for this we have **Al Edmonds** and **Kimberly Clark** to thank. With their generous donation they made it possible for us to distribute almost 1200 packages of this very costly item. They also donated many packages of paper towels, baby wipes, bath tissue and facial tissue. We also want to thank **Aldi Stores** for their generous donation of store credit and gift cards that helped us in our purchases from them.

Our thanks go to the many schools, families and individuals who so generously donated personal care items for our clients. Finally, we want to thank all of the volunteers that helped us in Personal Care and, of course, throughout the Shop time. We simply could not carry out the Shop without them. All in all, we came away from the 2008 Shop with profound feelings of success and accomplishment and look forward to the 2009 Shop. Happy New Year!

Jim & Marj Gerner, Co-Chairs, Personal Care

Groceries

It is a pleasure to report the **2008 Grocery Department** was very successful. Ample food, excellent volunteers and a good location contributed to helping a record number of clients. The schools were generous with donations and volunteering to assist.

Olathe Ford again graciously loaned a truck that was a great help in transporting food. **Westwood Apple Market** worked with their vendors to obtain food, at their cost, that was needed to supplement certain categories. Harvester's was able to respond to most of our food requirements and was able to fill our chicken and turkey allocation at 100%.

The amount of food distributed was remarkable: 63,500 pounds from Harvester's, 10,200 pounds from Apple Market and 60,000 (estimated) from schools.

We were blessed to have many able and willing volunteers that did a great job of making the shopping experience a pleasant one for our clients. The following were major contributors that worked from set-up until close of shop and we feel should be recognized for their outstanding effort: **Leroy Ganser, Bill Mechler, Mike Rimmer** and **Mark Ronfeldt**.

We are frequently asked, "What happens to the food that is left after the shop closes?" It is distributed to other charities within Johnson County. This year food was given to: **Catholic Charities, First Christian Church of Olathe Food Pantry, Johnson County Multi Service Center, Olathe Presbyterian Church Food Pantry, In-Place, Shawnee Community Services** and **Village Presbyterian Food Pantry**.

Thanks to all who helped make the 2008 shop a success and we hope to see you at the 2009 location.

Bill Plant, Jack Winston,
Groceries Co-Chairmen

Tantalizing Toys

The **Toy Department** would like to thank all the people who helped in our department during the '08 Holiday Shop. We could not have had such a successful year without the help of all volunteers whether they worked one shift or several days. We were able to make the lives of several thousand children happier with the gifts they received. A big thanks to **Young Matrons** for helping unpack and set up the Toy Department. Also a thank you to **Mead Johnson, Hasbro Toys, Kohls, Bikes and Trikes for Kids** and other businesses that donated items to our department. We also had groups and businesses that donated money, toys and their time and we appreciate all that you did for us. Thanks to **Ruth Lacz, Krista Pickett, Maryln Golub, Sue Boyd**, and **Cathy Walker** for helping us during set up and shop time. We also had organizations that made toys and they are always a great addition to our shop.

The Toy buyers are busy year around looking for bargains on toys. We have started shopping for the next Holiday Shop. Consider having a Christmas in July toy drive to help our department. We will be glad to pick up the items. We are always in need of toys for children under the age of three. Also there is a need for the most popular toys such as Spiderman, Dora the Explorer, Elmo, Transformers, and others. We are in need of toys for the older child such as footballs, science kits, craft kits, models, basketballs, building sets, etc. If your group would like to focus on a certain type of item, consider having a backpack drive, baby toy drive, school supply drive, etc.

We appreciate all the help and gifts we received this year. If you could help during shop time, we would like to hear from you.

Karen Boyd, Toy Department Chairman
Susan Beam-Ward, Toy Department Shop Chairman

★ Thank You! ★
★ THANK YOU! ★

Generous Churches

The religious community of Johnson County once again stepped forward in great numbers to give the Johnson County Christmas Bureau dedication and support. Economic hard times challenged the Holiday Shop in assisting larger than usual numbers of those less fortunate. Without the time, monetary donations and many collections that you provided the Holiday Shop we would have been unable to meet the challenge of increased client assistance.

We are forever grateful to our faithful church/synagogue groups who continue to support the JCCB year after year. For all that you gave and continue to give we say THANK YOU again, and again, and again. Your service for providing the less fortunate in Johnson County is truly a blessing.

Alice Algie, Church Chairman

Nursing Homes

We served 391 elderly clients in 14 Nursing Homes in Johnson County. Every client received a personal sack with holiday goodies and necessities. We distributed lap robes, walker pockets, sweatshirts/sweatpants, and large print books. In addition we gave puzzles /puzzle books, personal care items, stationery, playing cards, bibs, stuffed animals, kleenex and washcloths.

Thank you to all of our faithful volunteers who work year round knitting, crocheting and sewing. With your dedication and assistance we are able to distribute packages full of beautiful hand-made items to our elderly to show them we care.

Cathleen Hartman, Nursing Homes Chairman

Knit One Purl Two

We are pleased to have so many knitters. The clients really like the matching sets of hats and scarves. We can always use more people to knit as well as more good, clean yarn. Yarn can be dropped off or picked up at the office. Finished products may be dropped off there, too. For information call **Mary Locke**, 913-432-8927, or **Jean Anderson** 913-631-7361

Clothing

This year was very different for the Clothing Department. After much deliberation, we decided to eliminate clothing for anyone over the age of 12 years. We received a very large donation of quality clothing for school age children, that helped us deal with extra numbers. This was such a great gesture on the part of a true JCCB friend and we thank her so much. We thank everyone who worked in the Clothing Department for their help and enthusiasm.

Gwen Howard

Fund Raising Challenges

Our greatest supporters with time, energy, material donations and financial donations are - YOU - our readers. Finances have been a real challenge this past year and probably will be for the next year and we appreciate your continued support.

We appreciate the many companies who support us. Our real goal and desire would be to have an annual recognition fundraiser for JCCB. **The Macy's stores** have helped us for several years, but like all things we must continue to search for new outlets.

If you can help in this area, please contact the office, 913-341-4342 or me, **Gwen Howard**, 913-432-3250.

One Small Step

For the third year, **One Small Step**, the **Books Committee** of the Christmas Bureau, distributed over 11,000 books to children and adults. The **Fairway Woods Neighborhood** contributed money, time, and effort to this successful committee. We were helped this year by several churches: **Atonement Lutheran**, **Southminster Presbyterian**, and **Ascension Catholic Church**. Several schools held book drives which helped us reach our goal; many thanks to **Brenda Fishman**, **Chris Larson** and **StuCo at SME**, **Lauren Scarboro** and the **SLAB group at SMNW**, **Julie Fales** and **NHS at SMS**, **Angela Okane** and students at **Pioneer Ridge Middle**, **Kathi Knop** and **Joyce Stidham** and students at **Mission Valley Middle**, **Mary Lou Kanatzer** and **StuCo at Tomahawk**, **Kristi Yeager** and students at **Valley Park**, **Patty Mulligan** and students at **Heritage**. Special mention to the **Rieker family** whose daughter **Bailey** collected books rather than gifts at her tenth birthday party. We continued to have great support from **Marsha Bennet** at the **Johnson County Library**. This year we had so many great volunteers from the community work with us at the shop, including students from **SME** and **St. Thomas Aquinas**. Thanks to **Sandy and Ryan King** who were working as

volunteers and returned with boxes of donated books when it looked as though we would have to close; they were instrumental in our successful finish. We look forward to next year!!

Judy Barnes, Donna Hackett, Books Co-chairmen

JOHNSON COUNTY CHRISTMAS BUREAU MEETING DATES - 2009

General Board Meetings will be the 3rd Thursday of the month. In June, July and December there will be no meetings. The Executive Board will meet a day prior to the General Meetings. NOTE: There are 4 evening meetings. Meetings are held at the Merriam Christian Church 9400 Johnson Drive.

March 19th	General Meeting	9:30 am
April 16th	General Meeting	7:00 pm
May 21	General Meeting	9:30 am
August 20th	General Meeting	7:00 pm
September 17th	General Meeting	9:30 am
October 15th	General Meeting	7:00 pm
November 19th	General Meeting	9:30 am

Move-in Day

NOVEMBER 21st

Shop Set-up

NOVEMBER 30th – DECEMBER 4th

Shop Dates

DECEMBER 4th @ 12Noon – DECEMBER 12th

You Can Make A Difference with the Johnson County Christmas Bureau!

Your support is essential to our success.

Make a Cash Donation,

Donate Merchandise, or

Volunteer your time, talent & energy.

Contact us:

Johnson County Christmas Bureau

P.O. Box 14786

Lenexa, Kansas 66285-4786

913-341-4342



2008 Holiday Shop

Client Statistics by Age Category

1-11 months	406	
	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
1-2 years	408	369
3-4 years	388	367
5-7 years	545	467
8-10 years	444	402
11-14 years	456	425
15-18 years	337	325
19-30 years	447	1,029
31-59 years	734	1,419
60+ years	89	213
Total individuals served:	9,267	
Total number of families:	2,714	
Nursing homes served:	391	

**What a difference
we made in the lives
of these families!**

Thank you so much!

2009 Board of Directors:

Co-Presidents: Alice Algie & Barbara Dickerson

Secretary: Martha Malsbary

Treasurer: Lowell Thurman

2009 Committee Chairmen

Adult Gifts: Virginia Winston & Lois Harger

Books: Judy Barnes & Donna Hackett

Churches: Alice Algie

Client Services: Betty Athey

Clothing: Megan & Jeremy Warner

Delivery: Leroy Wisner

Fund Raising: Gwen Howard

Groceries: Bill Plant & Jack Winston

Grab Bags: Haven & Barbara Rolander

Historian & Grants: Vacant

H.U.G.S.: Janet Olberding

IT Director: Chris Steege

Knitting: Jean Anderson & Mary Locke

Newsletter Editor: Gail Harris

Nursing Homes: Cathleen Hartman

Personal Care: Jim & Marj Gerner

Publicity: Gwen Howard

Schools: Barbara Dickerson

Teen Gifts: Margaret Ganzman & Susan Strongman

Toys: Karen Boyd

Used Coats: Sheila Wombles

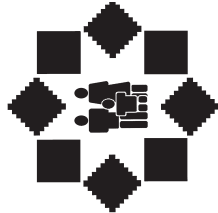
Volunteers: Cathleen Hartman & Beth Rosenwald

JCYM Liaison: Natalie Kenny

Thank you to the **Thursday Morning Mission New Connection Group at Christ Church Anglican** who faithfully label and mail our newsletters and other mailings. Thank you to **Kim Krueger** who is our newsletter designer, and to **Phil Sandmeyer** who continues to do the printing.

**If you would like to
receive your copy of
the "Buzz" by email,
Please call our office
913-341-4342.**

Johnson County Christmas Bureau
9503 Johnson Drive, Merriam, KS 66202
Mailing address:
P.O. Box 14786
Lenexa, KS 66285-4786
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Make A
Difference!**

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