

Johnson County Christmas Bureau
9503 Johnson Drive, Merriam, KS 66202
Mailing address:
P.O. Box 14786
Lenexa, KS 66285-4786
(913) 341-4342



You Can
Make A
Difference!

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JCCB Bureau 2009 **buzz**



Volume 9
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November 2009

**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**

WE HAVE A LOCATION!

The 2009 Johnson County Christmas Bureau Holiday Shop will be held in the old Circuit City location at 6030 Eby Street, Merriam Village, Merriam, Kansas. It is southeast of Johnson Drive and I-35. Developers Diversified Realty Corporation of Beachwood, Ohio donated the space to us. **Erik Christopher** and **Brendon Ruth**, company representatives, helped finalize our location. We also appreciate the help of City Council person, **Nancy Hupp** and **Gwen Howard**. Finding a location for our yearly Shop is a great challenge and we appreciate the help and concern of everyone!

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Our department shoppers have stepped up several notches in buying and taking advantage of good closeout sales from stores around the area. They realize that our numbers are going to be greater than ever before and are stocking for this increase.

Several events have taken place to bring JCCB to the attention of the Greater Kansas City area. On Sept. 12, **Fox 4 News** graciously interviewed us at the Cottonwood Storage location showing just a fraction of the merchandise that we will have on hand for our Holiday Shop. Good coverage and airtime on the evening's news gave us the opportunity to let viewers see what JCCB is all

about, and the impact we have on the Johnson County community and helping those families that are in need.

Our grant monies are coming in and at last count we have received several thousand dollars. Our post card solicitation has produced good response. The solicitation letter was mailed recently. Speaking opportunities are being met. Groups are asking for speakers and are showing a great deal of interest in our mission to help those in need. Churches are getting their donations started. As always, we so appreciate the church community for their talent, time and treasure, and more importantly their yearly support of the JCCB.

A task force has been developed within the JCCB to work on the future leadership of our organization. The JCCB makes a huge difference in our clients' lives, and we are exploring new ways to ensure our organization continues to serve others for years to come.

– **Alice Algie**, President

ANNOUNCING JCCB NEW ONLINE VOLUNTEER SIGN-UP SYSTEM

The Johnson County Christmas Bureau has moved to an Online Volunteer Signup System. It is a simple form and will take less than 5 minutes to complete. The form will ask for basic contact information along with an email address to send volunteer sign-up confirmations.

**Go to www.jccb.org
Click on the information
on the Home Page.**

This will direct you to the Volunteer Sign-up application - complete and click send. An email stating that your request has been received will be sent.

An email confirming your day, time, and # of volunteers will be sent after your request has been processed.

Changes include:

- The maximum number on the volunteer sign-up page is 12 volunteers. Any group with more than 12 will need to do multiple online requests.
- High school groups (ages 18 and under) will need to have a sponsor's name and contact information of an individual that is over age 25.
- Middle School students (ages 12- 15) will only be allowed to work Clean/ Move-in, Set Up Shop times. Groups need to have a ratio adult supervisor for every 5 students participating.

This is an exciting new step for JCCB. Please check the web site (www.jccb.org) to sign up to volunteer for the 2009 Holiday Shop.

– **Chris Steege**, IT Chairwoman

PERSONAL CARE NEEDS

Personal Care is gearing up for the upcoming 2009 Holiday Shop and would appreciate receiving donations of toothbrushes, toothpaste, bath tissue, facial tissue, deodorant, shaving items, shampoos, liquid hand and body soap, all baby care items, liquid dishwashing soap, liquid detergent for general purposes and, especially liquid detergent for use by persons with allergies (hypo-allergenic). The hypoallergenic detergent is of particular importance as we have many requests for it. Thanks, so much, for your help.

– **Jim and Marj Gerner**, Personal Care Co-chairmen

MIMI'S FUND RAISER

Eat at Mimi's
(95th & Quivira)

on Thursday, December 10
from 7:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.

15% of what you spend
will be donated to the JCCB.

You must bring a flyer with
you to get the 15% donation.

Flyers are available on our website at jccb.org, from the JCCB office, 341-4342 or from Barb Dickerson - 913-894-9190.

Thank you Mimi's
for your support!

2009 Shop

Move-in Day November 21st
Shop Set-up November 30 – December 4
Shop Dates December 4 – 12

2009 Board of Directors

President: Alice Algie
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: vacant
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: Barb Dickerson
Schools: Barb Dickerson
Teen Gifts: Margaret Ganzman & Susan Strongman
Toys: Karen Boyd
Used Coats: Sheila Wombles
Volunteers: Beth Rosenwald
JCYM Liaison: Natalie Kenny

OUR THANKS TO:

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**, our newsletter designer, and to **Phil Sandmeyer** who prints our newsletter for us.

NURSING HOME GIFTS

JCCB Nursing Homes Department is in the process of contacting the Activity Directors to evaluate how well we have met the needs of our clients in the past and how we can improve our department for 2009. If you wish to donate to the Nursing Homes area, requests for 2009 are puzzle books, 3X, 4X, and 5X sweatshirts. We have also learned that there is a large need for baby dolls and radios.

– **Cathleen Hartman**, Nursing Homes Chairwoman

H.U.G.S.

Hats, Underwear, Gloves, Scarves make up the important **H.U.G.S.** department, The JCYM ladies have spent many hours collecting and sorting hundreds of items for the Shop. We appreciate all groups who have had drives to collect H.U.G.S. for us. We are still in need of men's and boy's underwear and gloves. Thank you for your help.

– **Janet Olberding**, HUGS Chairwoman

CLOTHING

The Clothing department will serve only children 12 years old and younger this year. We are still in need of boy's size 7 through 14 pants or jeans.

– **Jeremy and Megan Warner**, Clothing Co-chairmen

USED COATS

Coats are the only used item we distribute to our clients. Every year we give away thousands of clean, used coats. We want to thank the many churches, clubs and schools who have conducted coat drives for us. Our many clients will appreciate a cozy, warm coat as winter comes. If you have coats to contribute, call our office for a pick-up, or bring them to the Shop when it opens.

– **Sheila Womble**, Used Coats Chairwoman

DONATIONS AND GRANTS

We have received many fine donations and grants this year. We appreciate grants from **Johnson County Young Matrons, Wal-Mart Stores, Hancock Company** and the **United Way**. Individual donations continue to come in and are greatly appreciated. Our greatest supporters with time, energy, and donations are – YOU – our readers! Our organization is completely funded through grants and donations. Thank you!



GRAB BAGS

We are collecting small new items to fill surprise bags for our Christmas store shoppers. We can use almost anything small enough to fit in a plastic grocery bag, such as hand soap, shampoo, tooth paste, hand lotion, pens, note pads, etc. Please save your plastic bags following any shopping trip so we do not have to purchase these. Bring your plastic bags and gift items to the office or telephone us for pick up. 913-451-3291.

– **Barbara & Haven Rolander**, Grab Bag Chairmen

TERRIFIC TOYS FOR ALL

The Toy Department is busy year around, selecting toys for children from the unborn to the ages of ten. We have a nice selection for all ages but are still short toys for the number of children that we are projected to serve.

We are especially in need of toys for under the age of two years. If you are donating toys for this age group, please look at the front of the box for the appropriate age. So many toys look like they are for the younger child, but are not suitable for children under the age of three. Activity toys, learning toys, and popular character toys would be greatly appreciated. Also ride-on toys for toddlers are always needed. We also have had some diaper bags donated to us and we would appreciate if groups would either take the bags and fill them with baby items or hold a baby shower drive, give us the items and we will get volunteers to stuff the bags.

For the older children, we can always use the popular toys of the season- Spiderman/Batman, Dora the Explorer, Bratz dolls, princess dolls, Thomas the Tank, Cars, Transformers, etc. Whatever your child is requesting for the holidays is what these children would like too. We can also use the classic toys, arts and crafts kits, basketball and footballs, ride-on toys, games, dinosaurs, cars and trucks, kitchen sets, building sets such as Mega Blocks and Legos for all ages, science kits, etc. Also we appreciate items such as sleeping bags and bike helmets. We get bikes donated and would like to give each child a helmet with the bike.

The Toy Department would also like volunteers that could spend several hours a day for several days working in the department. We always have plenty to do with stocking the store, filling backpacks, and helping with the inventory. We try to accommodate what the parents would like to give their children so we need people that know the toys we have available. Thank you!

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

CLIENT SERVICES

The Client Services office gets many calls from folks asking how to sign up for the Holiday Shop. Families with children receiving state assistance will receive applications thru SRS. We do not take applications ourselves but refer others in need to local social service agencies. A person (or family) must be residing in Johnson County and have a total household income no higher than 150% of the federal poverty level. If these guidelines are met, an application will be filled out by a staff person and sent to us.

Agency staffs have the qualifications to ask for income data and family information, and often already have the family in their database. There is no way that our office of volunteers could do what these professionals do for us, and we are extremely grateful. If you would like to help in our office with processing the applications, call us at 913-825-6624.

– **Betty Athey**, Client Services Chairwoman

TANTALIZING TEEN GIFTS

We would like to thank the **Johnson County Young Matrons** for their generous donation of \$15,000 for gifts for the Christmas Bureau clients. Through this groups' generosity, we will be able to buy wonderful gifts for all of our clients. The Teen buyers have shopped and found some wonderful gifts for our teens.

We are still in need of electronics such as MP3 and CD players; hairdryers; skateboards; one shot cameras; socket sets; adult games; gift certificates or any gift a teen might enjoy. We would also love for a group to make fleece blankets in "teen fabrics". These were a big hit in last year's shop.

– **Susan Strongman** and **Margaret Ganzman**, Teens Co-Chairmen

OUR HEROES - SCHOOLS!

Here we are, it's fall again and time to really get our food drives in gear. All of the schools received a letter around September 22 and the response has been great! We had schools calling before the letters even went out, wanting to get started organizing their food drives early. So it looks like it will be another fantastic year for our schools. THANK YOU!

– **Barbara Dickerson**, School Involvement Chairwoman

YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE WITH THE JOHNSON COUNTY CHRISTMAS BUREAU!

ADULT GIFTS STILL NEEDED

The opening of the 2009 Shop is near, and the Adult Gifts department is still in need of new gift items: electric skillets, blenders, crock pots or any large appliance for large families, sheets (full, king, queen), men's razors and beard trimmers, laser levels, canister sets, costume jewelry, and new, small winter holiday figurines or decorations. If you're a member of a group, please consider pooling your funds to buy one of these needed gifts. We are very grateful to those of you who have already made generous donations; you are appreciated. Pick-up services can be provided; call the Christmas Bureau office (913-341-4342) if you would like someone to pick up your donations.

– **Lois Harger** and **Virginia Winston**, Adult Co-chairmen

JOHNSON COUNTY YOUNG MATRONS

Every year **JCYM** looks forward to helping with The Holiday Shop. Early fall we hold two collections: one for HUGS and one for Coats (new and clean used). This year one of our members challenged herself to visit garage sales and 'collect' 100 coats to donate. Two days in the fall we hold HUGS sorting workshops at the "little house" where we de-tag and sort sizes of hats, gloves, underwear and scarves. (and giggle and gab

and solve the world's problems)

A favorite activity is our annual Fleece Workshop - We bring 1 1/2 yards of fun bright patterned fleece (per blanket) and scissors to fringe the fleece. (And giggle and gab etc. :-). Last year we gave some 65 lap robes to Cathleen Hartman for Nursing Homes.

Then comes the Shop. We love working there. We help set up and staff HUGS and Toys and coats. Two or three days we take clients around and leave warm and happy knowing that we make a difference.

JCYM 18th Annual HOMES FOR THE HOLIDAYS TOUR 2009

5 fantastic homes
in South Leawood

Wednesday November 18
9:30 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Tickets \$18 in advance \$20 at the door.
Tickets online and at most Hen Houses.

HOLIDAY BOUTIQUE at the Lodge at Ironwoods Park

Tuesday November 17 and
Wednesday November 18th
10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Free admission to boutique!
More info: www.jcym.net

Proceeds from this tour go to our 6 Philanthropies of which JCCB is one!!

– **Natalie Kenny**, JCYM/JCCB
Liaison