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Volunteering Comes ALIVE

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ALIVE
Local Information & Volunteer Exchange
1818 31W By Pass• Bowling Green, KY• (270) 782-0082

June 2007 **Volunteering Comes ALIVE** Volume 2, Issue 2

Seasons of Service

Featured above: WKU Habitat for Humanity Chapter working on the Centennial Build.

The Points of Light Foundation sponsors "Seasons of Service." This event serves as a year round plan to show how a single day of serving can help communities grow. More than 20 million people volunteer each year in the Season of Service days which include: Martin Luther King Day, National Youth Service Day, National Volunteer Week, Make a Difference Day, and Kids' Care Week. Each day is sponsored by a national organization, and each day promotes volunteerism for the target area. Upcoming dates include:

Community Build Day August 4th: The Financial Services Roundtable assigns this day to be the physical manifestation of what its member companies do all year to build the communities they serve. In 2007 the Roundtable will have more than 50 builds nationwide.

My Good Deed Day September 11th: The theme of this day is to honor the victims of the September 11 terrorist attacks on America through a voluntarily observed national day of service, charity and compassion. The purpose is to encourage people everywhere to set aside time every September 11 to help others in need - in any fashion they deem appropriate - in honor of those who lost their lives as a result of the terrorist attacks against America.

The information for this article can be found at www.pointsoflight.org/programs/seasons

New, Improved ALIVE Center

Greetings, everyone. I'd like to take this opportunity to share some exciting changes that are unfolding at the ALIVE Center. In January of this year, Western Kentucky University was awarded state funds through the Council for Post Secondary Education to establish a Center for Regional Stewardship. What is that, you may ask? Regional Stewardship is defined both by the process of collaboration and the goal of improving the quality of life in regions. Individuals and organizations are encouraged to work collaboratively to create vibrant, livable communities. Regional Stewardship builds on the premise that "place matters" and that we all have a role in making our communities good places to live and work. Through partnerships, we can imagine and enact creative solutions to the challenging social, economic and environmental issues facing our region.

The ALIVE Center will be the hub of WKU's Regional Stewardship Initiatives. In fact, our name will change to "Western Kentucky University ALIVE Center for Community Partnerships and Regional Stewardship." (Of course, we will still just refer to it as the ALIVE Center!) Our new mission statement is: To promote regional stewardship and community development across Central Kentucky through campus and community partnerships. We will have new staff members housed in the building next to the ALIVE Center (which will allow for additional parking during busy meeting times). You'll soon see updates posted on our website introducing the staff and their positions. Cheryl, Leah, and Tracy will still be busy in their usual spots at the ALIVE Center and the array of services we have provided in the past (including meeting space, equipment rental, volunteer placement, community calendar, workshops, and grant assistance) will continue and expand as we branch out this year. We are looking forward to working with you as we transition to a Center that serves over 20 counties, facilitating partnerships and identifying resources to strengthen communities across Central Kentucky.

-Katrina Phelps

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Nonprofit Community Calendar

June-August 2007

6/4 Budget and Credit. Contact 270-796-4175 for more information.

6/5 Meth 101 Training Class presented by the Warren County Juvenile Delinquency Prevention Council. Contact 270-393-4244 for more information.

6/8 10th Annual Stand for Children Day presented by Community Education. Contact 270-842-4281 for more information.

6/8-9 Warren County Relay for Life. For more information contact 270-745-1963.

6/9 BG Human Rights Commission Junk for Justice Yard Sale. Contact 270-782-7900 for more information.

6/15 Picnic/Potluck presented by Bowling Green Warren AARP Chapter. For more information contact 270-782-3904

6/16 Delta Sigma Theta Juneteenth Celebration. For more information contact 270-745-2551.

6/23 Southern Kentucky Kids on the Block Garden Tour and Tea. Contact 270-842-2259 for more information.

6/23 Aviation Heritage Park Hangar Party. Contact 270-782-7736 for more information.

7/12-8/4 Public Theatre of Kentucky presents A Midsummer Night's Dream. For more information contact 270-781-6233.

7/20 Traveling with Elder Hostel presented by Bowling Green Warren AARP Chapter. Contact 270-782-3904 for more information.

7/26 Big Brothers Big Sisters hosts Spirits in the Cave. For more information call 270-781-1180.

8/10-11 Southern Kentucky Kids on the Block Festival of Sand. Contact 270-842-2259 for more information.

8/17 Charities: Who Benefits? Presented by Bowling Green Warren AARP Chapter. Contact 270-782-3904 for more information.

Youth Alliance of Bowling Green / Warren County

Come Hear About…

The newly-forming WKU ALIVE Center for Community Partnerships and Regional Stewardship & Warren County Juvenile Delinquency Prevention Council's Targeted Community Assessment

Tuesday, June 19th, 2007
At 12pm at the ALIVE Center

Coming in August…
Human Resource Management:
Legal & Practical Aspects of Being a Boss

RSVP: Leah Ashwill at 270-782-0812 or leah@alivebg.org
Lunch will be served!

Youth Alliance of Bowling Green / Warren County *is a multi-coalition group of youth-serving individuals throughout our community. The vision of* ***Youth Alliance*** *is for our youth to experience success and be supported by nurturing families, high quality schools, and effective community programs. Our Mission is to be a catalyst for positive youth development through opportunities for collaboration, information sharing, and program funding.*

Grant Writers' Corner

The next Grant Writers Group will meet Wednesday, June 27, from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the ALIVE Center to discuss how to make the most of your current donors. As usual we will have a special guest speaker. The meeting will include a free lunch, but seating is limited, and you must make a reservation! Contact Tracy Harkins, Grant Facilitator, at 782-0824, if you plan to attend.

You don't have to be an experienced Grant Writer to come to the group meetings. Previous talks have included a variety of speakers and information and participants have found them very helpful.

The Grant Writers Group meets every other month. Meetings allow those who write grants for nonprofits to share information on grant sources, to hear presentations on topics of interest, and to find opportunities for networking and mentoring.

Don't miss the next one!

NAMI Bowling Green

National Alliance on Mental Illness in Bowling Green

Serious mental illness can affect anyone—children, adolescents, adults, and the elderly. It's no one's fault.

NAMI Bowling Green became an affiliate of the National Alliance on Mental Illness in October of 1985. It was launched by a small group of families with relatives who suffered from various forms of serious mental illness. NAMI now has over 1,100 local affiliates across the country with over 244,000 total members.

People who have mental illness are often referred to as "consumers." NAMI BG is proud to be one of the first groups in Kentucky to have a consumer on its Board of Directors and both family members ***and*** consumers as consumers as NAMI Bowling Green members.

Support is the main purpose of NAMI Bowling Green and it begins with being part of a group whose members all share the same kinds of experiences and challenges. When you live each day with mental illness, it is often difficult to find the strength and encouragement to carry on. NAMI Bowling Green members find solace and assistance in coping with mental illness by sharing ideas and information during group meetings. Meetings are held in an atmosphere of fellowship and understanding. Advice, support, and counsel are offered from the collective experiences of the group. It helps to know that this is not something you have to go through alone. NAMI Bowling Green also works as an advocate for improvements in the mental health system by educating the general public. A non-profit, all-volunteer organization,

NAMI Bowling Green feels that the more the general public learns about severe mental illness, the more it will help to reduce the stigma that surrounds it. In addition, members encourage and support research so that one day each consumer will be on a path to recovery.

It has been 22 years since NAMI Bowling Green hosted its first meeting, but the need for NAMI is as strong as it was in 1985. Support group meetings are held on the third Monday of each month at 6:45 p.m. at:

BEST Center for Independent Living
624A Eastwood Avenue
Bowling Green, Kentucky

For more information,
contact Christine Morris Black at 270-535-2919
or Livelongandprosper2000@yahoo.com.
Or, Marty Harrison at 270-842-5687 or
martynamibgky@aol.com.

Services offered through NAMI Bowling Green include:

- NAMI Family and Consumer Support Groups
- Open Forums
- Medical/Legislative Updates
- Advocacy
- Tele-Care Support
- Mental Illness Awareness Week Activities
- Family-to-Family Education Program
- Seasonal Social Events for Consumers Throughout our Ten-county Region

The annual NAMI Bowling Green Christmas party boasts of more than 265 attendees. A hot meal is served, gifts are exchanged, and music and dancing are soon to follow. This has been a popular event for 18 years, and community members often donate time, money and gift items to help make this a memorable holiday celebration.

Each year, the first week of October is Mental Illness Awareness week, and May is Mental Health Month. NAMI Bowling Green participates in numerous community informational events throughout the year, always eager for an opportunity to educate the public about various forms of mental illness and other mental health concerns. NAMI Bowling Green also supports legislation designed to benefit people with mental illness and their family members.

EOC participants balance family, college and work

Julana Smith and KD Hester are EOC participants who are perfecting their balancing act of pursuing a college degree, family and working. Both Julana and KD work at Teresa's Restaurant as waitresses and found help at EOC when they decided to go to college.

Julana enrolled in Bowling Green Community College in Fall 2005. She is interested in becoming a Speech Pathologist. While enrolled part-time each semester, she has maintained a 3.0 GPA. Julana is married and has three boys. She says she had become an expert in time management and stresses that scheduling everything is so important. Julana would like other people who are considering going back to school that it is possible. She emphasizes, "If you set your mind to it and you want it bad enough, you can do it".

KD Hester also enrolled in Bowling Green Community College in Fall 2005. She is interested in Nursing and while taking classes part-time, she has maintained a 3.23 GPA. After earning her GED, KD says she wasted time not going to college, so she is happy to be working toward her degree now. KD stresses that setting goals are important and that anyone interested in going back to school needs to working on setting goals. KD shared her story with the participants of the Women & Kids Learning Together Summer Camp last year and plans to speak to the 2007 participants this June.

EOC is proud of Julana and KD – they are an inspiration to everyone who is considering going to college!

Pictured: EOC participants KD Hester and Julana Smith – waitresses balancing family, college and work.

The Educational Opportunity Centers (EOC) program at Western Kentucky University offers assistance to adults who wish to pursue a college degree. Services provided include: admissions and financial aid application assistance, career assessments, general information about colleges and majors, and assistance with academic scheduling.

All services are free with priority given to adults who are age 19 and older, low income and first generation. Please contact the EOC at (270) 745-4441.

EOC Educational Opportunity Centers

Educational Opportunity Centers
Western Kentucky University
1906 College Heights Boulevard # 11098
Bowling Green, KY 42101-1098
www.wku.edu/eoc

CommUNITY Celebrates

Featured above: Kaleidoscope Dance class performing to the song entitled. "Lipgloss." Featured right: Abraham Williams and Mayor Elaine Walker speak at the beginning of the event. Bottom right photo displays work from Kaleidoscope art class.

Photos taken by Stephen Pavey and Aurelia Spaulding

Kaleidoscope Program coordinator, Gary Hook commented, "We were trying to showcase the beauty in the community, in response to recent negative occurrences. There are so many assets in this community that often get overlooked. We saw this as an opportunity to display all things that are great about this community. "

Kaleidoscope accomplished their goal when as many as 300 area residents came out to support the youth performers, view art, listen to music, and enjoy the food and drinks served.

The celebration, sponsored by Bowling Green Parks & Rec., WKU Kaleidoscope Program and Housing Authority of Bowling Green, brought out many important community members including Abraham Williams (Housing Authority Executive Director), Robert Rodarte (Parker Bennett Center Director) and Bowling Green Mayor Elaine Walker.

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The services the ALIVE Center provides to nonprofit organizations include posting volunteer opportunities, community events, employment opportunities, youth development, and grant services as well as providing meeting space and equipment (tables & chairs) free-of-charge.

Summer Fun for Kids

Featured above: Young ladies from Girls, Inc. Participating in the after school program. The Girls, Inc. Summer Program will be open from 7:30am-5:30pm beginning June 4th.

Countless camps and programs for youth are held in Warren County during the summer. Feel free to log onto the ALIVE Center website to find information on summer fun for your child. Look for the link on the home page. Camps are available in areas ranging from science, arts, athletics, recreation and academics.

Although many camps are about one week or less, a few organizations hold month long activities. Programs lasting Monday-Friday four weeks or more include: Big Red School, Bowling Green Parks and Recreation Summer Fun Camp, Community Action of Southern Kentucky Club Action Summer Program, Community Education Youth Activities Program, Dance Arts, East West Kung-Fu and Judo Camps, Kentucky Museum, Parker Bennett Community Center, and VAMPY.

ALIVE CENTER STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Cheryl Allen, Community Action
Larry Howlett, Center for Nonprofit Management
Tonya Mathews, Bowling Green Chamber of Commerce
Anne Grubbs, Community Education
Jim Jones, Community Partner
Katrina Phelps, Western Kentucky University

~ALIVE Center is affiliated with Western Kentucky University and a partner of the WKU SVB~