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UA23 Volunteerism Comes ALIVE

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Volunteerism Comes ALIVE

A newsletter celebrating volunteerism and nonprofits in our community.

Some of the Best Reasons to GIVE

Some of the best reasons to give are the ones you may not have considered - the ones that make it worth your while to go that extra step. People who have contributed money to a charity report that they get back in satisfaction and joy more than they ever expend in inconvenience or effort - what you get back is immeasurable. You'll also receive these benefits:

- * Giving helps keep taxes and other costs down.
- * Giving returns to society some of the benefits society gives you.
- * Giving lets those who have more, share with those who have less.
- * Giving encourages more giving - you can set an example for others.

source: www.dontalmostgive.org

December 2006

Volume I, Issue 4

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Greetings from the ALIVE Center! ~ Cheryl Kirby-Stokes, Director



In October I had the distinct honor of being chosen to represent Western Kentucky at the National Nonprofit Congress. The Nonprofit Congress is an unprecedented effort to unite nonprofits and strengthen the charitable sector. In the best spirit of democracy, the Nonprofit Congress is bringing

together nonprofits from across the country to identify the values that all nonprofits share, develop a vision and priorities for the sector, and exercise a collective voice.

The Nonprofit Congress is being driven by local nonprofits. In 2005 and 2006 charitable leaders and their allies convened at over 117 Town Hall Meetings in 43 states to define their shared values, discuss the role of the nonprofit sector in our society, identify challenges and generate solutions to the issues that all nonprofits face, and unite around opportunities for the future.

On October 16 -17, 2006, approximately 400 nonprofit delegates gathered in Washington, DC to review *Voices from the Field*, a summary of the results of the Town Halls, to affirm the sector's shared values, and to create state action plans for the sector. I encourage all nonprofits to learn more about the National Nonprofit Congress and the ways you can participate. For more information, check out their website at www.nonprofitcongress.org.

Nonprofit Community Events

See next page (inset) for Bowling Green Chamber Orchestra's upcoming events.

12/1 Nashville Mandolin Society (6:30 p.m.), Capitol Arts Center

12/2 2 Jaycees Christmas Parade (9:30 a.m.), Bowling Green; Victorian Christmas (10 a.m. to 2 p.m.), Kentucky Library and Museum; Christmas in Kentucky (11 a.m. to 3 p.m.), Kentucky Building, WKU; Landmark Association's Christmas Tour of Homes (noon to 5 p.m.)

12/2 & 3 Arts & Crafts Fair, Phil Moore Park

12/5 Combating Holiday Stress (2 to 3 p.m.), Health & Wellness Center, Greenwood Mall

12/5 & 6 Moscow Ballet presents *The Nutcracker* (7:30 p.m.), Capitol Arts Center

12/7, 8 & 12 Women's Center Holiday Brunch (Thurs., 9 to 11 a.m. in Scottsville, The Medical Center Dining Room; Friday, December 8, 9 to 11 a.m. in Franklin, The Medical Center Classroom; Tuesday, December 12, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. in Bowling Green, The Medical Center Auditorium)

12/8 & 9 Christmas Candlelight Tours of Riverview at Hobson Grove

12/9 Caveman Chorus (8 p.m.), Capitol Arts Center

12/09 & 10 Festival of Trains, L&N Depot

12/10 BG Woman's Club Christmas Home Tour (1 to 5 p.m.)

12/14-17 *A Taffeta Christmas*, Capitol Arts Center

12/15-17 *'Twas the Night Before Christmas*, Capitol Arts Youth Theatre, WKU Gordon Wilson Lab Theatre

12/20 Community Blood Drive (noon to 6 p.m.), Medical Center Health & Wellness Center, Greenwood Mall

1/23 Youth Recognition Ceremony, Capitol Arts Center

1/25 "Gen. Robert E. Lee 200th Birthday Celebration" dinner and program by Dr. Ron Hatcher, Riverview at Hobson Grove

2/27 2nd Annual "Spellabration" presented by Hill's Pet Food and Community Education, Knights of Columbus Hall

2/10 Victorian Valentine-making Party for Children, Riverview at Hobson Grove

2/14 "Valentine's Day in Victorian Bowling Green" luncheon and program, Riverview at Hobson Grove

2/22 "George Washington Birthday Celebration" luncheon and program, Riverview at Hobson Grove

For more information on these community events, visit www.alivebg.org or call 270.782.0082.

Contact us to promote your nonprofit's events in our next newsletter and on our community web site.

Grant Writers' Corner

The next Grant Writers Group will meet Wednesday, December 13, from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the ALIVE Center to discuss how to turn your nonprofit's needs into a successful grant proposal. Johna Rodgers, Grant Writer for the Green River Regional Educational Cooperative, will be our guest speaker. The meeting will include a delicious 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.

Participants found last month's meeting on grant budgeting with Tricia Callahan and Renae Speck of WKU very helpful and informative.

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!

New Volunteer Initiative Medical Reserve Corps

The Barren River Area Development District (BRADD) Citizen Corps Council and area



health departments are spear-heading an effort to form a regional Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) unit in the BRADD area to address the lack of manpower available to respond to disasters in the community. Its mission is to establish, support and guide a team of local medical, public health and Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) volunteers who can contribute their skills and expertise throughout the year as well as during times of community need. MRC volunteers include medical and public health professionals such as physicians, nurses, pharmacists, dentists, and veterinarians. Other community members, such as interpreters, chaplains, office workers, and legal advisors, can fill other vital support positions. Non-medical volunteers can also become members by completing the Community Emergency Response Team training and the MRC training.

For more information on MRC, visit its web site (www.medicalreservecorps.gov) or call Janarae Conway at 270-781-8039, ext. 155.

OUR CARING COMMUNITY

Bowling Green Chamber Orchestra

For tickets or more information about any of these programs or concerts, visit the orchestra's website at www.BGChamberOrchestra.org, or call 270-846-BGCO (2426).

Changing Lives. . . One Note At A Time

The only professional chamber orchestra in the state of Kentucky, the Bowling Green Chamber Orchestra (BGCO) accomplishes its mission through diverse programming for adults and children, the BG Chamber Singers who perform with the BGCO, the BG Chamber Players (a smaller group that plays for weddings and receptions), a string academy, three youth orchestras, and an active volunteer group.



The BGCO is not a typical chamber orchestra. Music Director/Conductor Jeffrey A. Reed believes in programming literature that appeals to a wider audience than the usual classical fare played by most chamber orchestras. Although the orchestra has been careful to honor its classical repertoire, one of its most endearing qualities has been its versatility—concerts featuring Beethoven, the Beatles, Bluegrass and Broadway. “I think that orchestras all over the country have tended to lose touch with their public,” he said. “Sometimes we try to be so artistically significant that we forget that a big part of what we offer is entertainment, and entertainment comes in many forms.”

This approach has worked, as audiences have grown from about 100 per concert the first season (2000) to an average of 800 this past season, with some concerts selling as many as 2,000 tickets. The budget has grown from \$15,000 six years ago to over \$500,000 this season. For the past two years the BGCO has offered the community a free Fourth of July concert, drawing over 10,000 people each year. A new event this season is Hymnfest, a sing-a-long concert of traditional, favorite hymns.

Youth & Volunteer Opportunities

This will be the second season that the BGCO has offered Children's Cushion Concerts (C-3 concerts)



at the L & N Depot.

During these concerts, targeting children ages

2 through 9, children and adults sit on cushions very close to the orchestra for a 45-minute program about instruments, composers, or some other music topic. Maestro Reed speaks directly to the children, involving them in the program. Children also enjoy meeting Perry Penguin, the BGCO mascot, who is always there to lead them in a parade around the depot.

In addition to concerts, the BGCO offers a String Academy and three youth orchestras. The String Academy opened in January of 2003 with one teacher and five students and now has eight teachers and 120 students. The focus is on private lessons for all ages on all orchestral string instruments. The String Academy offers teachers a place to teach for a small fee used to cover the utility costs of the building.

The Youth Orchestra, started in December 2001, has developed into three different orchestras: one for beginners, intermediate players, and more advanced players. The more advanced orchestra includes wind and percussion players from the area. These orchestras are open to *all* string players, not just students enrolled at the Bowling Green String Academy.

A new organization to the BGCO this year is The Encore. The Encore is the volunteer arm of the orchestra, responsible for planning special events and other projects to raise money to support the orchestra. Membership is open to anyone who wants to support the BGCO.



Bowling Green
CHAMBER ORCHESTRA

UPCOMING EVENTS

Dec. 11: *A Larnelle Harris Christmas Homecoming*, 7:30 p.m., Living Hope Baptist Church

Jan. 14: Children's Concert, *You've Got Rhythm!*, 2 p.m., L & N Depot

Jan. 22: *Around the World in 80 Minutes*, 7:30 p.m., Living Hope Baptist Church

Feb. 4: Children's Concert, *Meet the Conductor*, 2 p.m. L & N Depot

Feb. 9/10: *Retromadness: The '70s Show*, featuring guest host, Chuck Barris, 8 p.m., Capitol Arts Center

Feb. 25: Children's Concert, *Mr. B*, 2 p.m., L & N Depot

OUR CARING COMMUNITY

Keep It Clean, Bowling Green



The city's *Keep it Clean, Bowling Green* campaign began in March of 2003, following a federal mandate to improve the quality of storm water runoff from urban areas, as outlined in amendments to the

Clean Water Act. Communities with population criteria similar to Bowling Green's established similar programs.

The campaign addresses two major issues that impact all segments of the community: water quality and litter management. City Hydrologist Tim Slattery and Kim Lancaster, the city's Public Information Coordinator, work closely together to conduct events for both programs. Tim's focus is on educating the public on water quality issues, while Kim focuses on anti-litter campaign efforts.

Education

Educational programs offered through the year target a wide audience, from elementary school classes to college level groups. Through these presentations, students are introduced to a number of issues, including the impact of pollutants on water quality, both nationally and locally, as well as information about water issues unique to a *karst* landscape. According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency,

the term *karst* refers to the "type of topography formed over limestone, dolomite or gypsum by solution of the rock and is characterized by closed depressions or sinkholes, caves and underground drainage," quite common in this region of Kentucky.



Stanley the Trash Can is the newest celebrity to join the program's anti-litter campaign. This active mascot appears at many events in town and is welcomed at local elementary schools, particularly by students in primary grades.



Volunteerism

Volunteer activities encourage residents to participate in the campaign, as well. Curb marking activities involve small groups from local schools and civic organizations. Five to eight individuals work together on this project to place plastic discs that say "Keep it Clean BG, Dump no Waste, Drains to River" on storm sewer curb inlets and drainage wells. In addition, larger groups are organized to pick up trash in places in town where



storm water collects. Slattery explains that when it rains in Bowling

Green, any trash that is on city streets is carried with storm water to these collection points.

Contact Information & On the Web

Any teacher or civic organization interested in hosting a presentation or any volunteers wanting to do curb marking or trash cleanups can contact Tim Slattery at 270.393.3099 or Tim.Slattery@bgky.org or Kim Lancaster at 270.393.3605 or kim.lancaster@bgky.org. Their address is P.O. Box 430, 1011 College Street, Bowling Green, KY 42102-0430.

Stormwater activities and other information can be found on the city's site (<http://www.bgky.org/publicworks/planningdesign/stormwater.php>).

YOUTH NEWS

Youth Recognition Ceremony Scheduled for January: Make a Nomination

The Spotlight Youth Council of BG/WC presents the 2nd Annual Youth Recognition Ceremony on Tuesday, January 23, 2007 at the Capitol Arts Theatre. We are accepting nomination forms through Thursday, November 30, 2006.

If you would like to nominate a young person or group of young people who have demonstrated "Making A Difference" in 2006, visit our website at www.alivebg.org to download a nomination form. The nomination process is quick and easy, so keep them coming!

A NIGHT AT THE OSCARS!

The theme for this year's Youth Recognition Ceremony is "A Night At the Oscars," and all young people will be recognized in a glimmer and glitz fashion, certain to assure them of how much we value their contributions!

For more information about the Youth Recognition Ceremony, contact Leah Ashwill at 782-0812 or leah@alivebg.org. Nomination forms will be accepted by fax at 782-0922 or mail at 1818 31-W Bypass, Bowling Green, KY 42101.



Last year's ceremony, held at the Sloan Convention Center, honored over 180 youth.

Youth Solutions Grants Awarded; Funds Still Available

Congratulations to the young people at the following organizations for receiving Youth Solutions grant funding in the Fall of 2006:

- T.C. Cherry Elementary – Youth Literacy at T.C. Cherry
- Henry Moss Middle School – It's Raining Cats & Dogs, benefiting the BG/WC Human Society
- Bristow Elementary – Drug Free Week

ALIVE Center still has Youth Solutions grant monies available for youth groups who would like to fund a service project of their choice. Over \$26,000 has been awarded to youth from area schools, churches and youth serving agencies since program inception. Completed projects can be viewed on the ALIVE Center website at www.alivebg.org. If you would like a representative to come and speak with your youth group about applying for a Youth Solutions grant, contact Leah Ashwill at 782-0812 or leah@alivebg.org.



Moss Middle School students; photo courtesy *Bowling Green Daily News*

Youth Alliance of BG/WC Meeting Scheduled, Speakers Announced

The next Youth Alliance meeting is scheduled for Monday, December 4, at noon at the ALIVE Center. Lunch will be provided. Eric Gregory with the Save Our Kids Coalition and Tricia Callahan with the Healthy Weight Kids Coalition will join us to speak about their coalitions' upcoming activities and how those activities would benefit from the help of our many community partners. For more information about Youth Alliance, visit our website at www.alivebg.org (under the Youth tab).

Please R.S.V.P. to Leah Ashwill at 782-0812 or leah@alivebg.org if you plan to attend.



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~~ALIVE Center is affiliated with Western Kentucky University and is a partner of the WKU Student Volunteer Bureau~~

Some of the Best Reasons to VOLUNTEER

Spending time helping others is one of the most selfless things you can do. But, you may be surprised to find out that you'll get more than you could ever expect from the experience. Whether it's a feeling of accomplishment or joy, there's no doubt that volunteering will affect you in a big way. You'll also receive these benefits:

- * Volunteering makes you feel needed.
- * Volunteering can lead to learning new skills.
- * Volunteering can help you deal with some of your personal problems.
- * Volunteering helps you meet new people and breaks down barriers of misunderstanding, mistrust and fear.
- * Volunteering can create new contacts which may help your business or career.

source: www.dontalmostgive.org

ALIVE Center Steering Committee

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

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.