

The Volunteer Voice



MONTHLY VOLUNTEER NEWSLETTER

Volume 5, Issue 4

Senior Editor: Julie Strassman

Associate Editor: Natalie Gemberling

April 2017

Join Us in Celebrating National Volunteer Week!

April is best known for those showers which bring May flowers, but here at Kingdom House we remember it for National Volunteer Week! From April 23rd - 29th, we recognize the hard work and "heart" work which volunteers do throughout the year. Volunteers serve in every aspect of our programming here at Kingdom House, from assisting in classrooms to planning events, and so much more! We wouldn't be able to offer as many programs or serve as many families without the assistance of both our individual volunteers and volunteer groups. So, please celebrate National Volunteer Week with us! Whether you join us for bowling or follow our special social media posts, we hope you'll feel how important you are to Kingdom House!

Volunteer Appreciation - Vintage Bowling!

Who: You + family/friends

What: 1950's-style bowling plus soft drinks, hotdogs, & snacks

Date: Thursday, April 27th

Time: 5:30 - 7:30pm - open house

Where: The Vintage Bowling Alley at Lafayette Park United Methodist Church - 2300 Lafayette Ave. St. Louis, MO 63104 - 5 min. from KH

- Free parking in church parking lot; please wear tennis shoes if you would like to bowl

Please RSVP to Julie Strassman at jstrassman@kingdomhouse.org by Monday, April 24th. Thank you!



Happy Easter!

Wishing you and yours a happy Easter! Please take note that Kingdom House will be closed on Friday, April 14th and Saturday, April 15th for the holiday.



New Volunteers

- ◇ Candace Hooker
- ◇ Leianna Tanedo
- ◇ DJ Boits
- ◇ Matt Tabakin

Please Join us in Welcoming Them to the KH Team!

April Birthdays

- ◇ Brooke Doherty
- ◇ Andrea Gabaldon
- ◇ Santos Gonzales
- ◇ Candace Hooker
- ◇ Ian McIntire
- ◇ Carolyn Moore
- ◇ Dan Stokes

Happy Birthday!

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Thank You and Best Wishes for the Future - D.J. Hubbard

After over half a decade of dedicated service to Kingdom House, volunteer D.J. Hubbard is moving on to greener (or at least warmer!) pastures. He and Audrey, his wife of 51 years, will be moving to California in order to be closer to his oldest son and his family.

In his time with Kingdom House, D.J. served in a variety of roles. He began as a volunteer counselor, helping Kingdom House participants and staff with a variety of issues. He then began working with the Early Childhood Center, counseling children with behavioral challenges and advising teachers. His final role at Kingdom House was as a tutor with the English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) program, where he helped adults become fluent in English.

In thinking back on his service at Kingdom House, D.J. says, "I think my favorite thing about volunteering at KH was the personal satisfaction I received from helping others. I remember once when I was away from my volunteering duties temporarily for two months residing in California, I received a telephone call from a counseling client at KH telling me that she wanted me to know how much I had helped, and thanking me for my assistance in her achieving a better life. Those are the kinds of rewards that make it all worthwhile."

While D.J. may be moving, he plans to remain an active volunteer. He and Audrey both do a lot of service work, and they hope to continue tutoring for ESOL programs in California. Says D.J. of his future plans, "I also volunteer for the American Stroke Association and the American Parkinson's Disease Association by facilitating support groups for



D.J. Hubbard and his wife, Audrey, with pictures of their family. Photo Credit: St. Louis Post-Dispatch

care partners and families of individuals with stroke or Parkinson's Disease. Facilitating these groups is a natural evolution from my professional career as a Speech Pathologist for the V.A. hospitals here and as a counselor. I plan to continue those sorts of volunteer activities as long as my health and energy will allow, wherever I am." Best wishes and many thanks from all of us at Kingdom House, D.J.!

Green Thumbs Needed for the Kingdom House Garden!



Have you always liked to play in the dirt? Volunteer in Kingdom House's community vegetable, herb, and flower garden! The produce from our garden goes to help hundreds of low-income families in St. Louis, ensuring them delicious, nutrient-rich food. Come share your skills and make a difference for children and families in need of healthy food! Volunteer gardeners are also needed to help Kingdom House participants (youth, teens, adults) learn the skill of gardening, the skill that keeps on giving! Volunteers will help plant, maintain, harvest, and most importantly educate on gardening and the produce grown. For more information, please contact Natalie Gemberling at 314-627-1232 or ngemberling@kingdomhouse.org.