

The Volunteer Voice



MONTHLY VOLUNTEER NEWSLETTER

Volume 5, Issue 6

Senior Editor: Julie Strassman

Associate Editor: Natalie Gemberling

June 2017

KH Summer Camp Prevents the Summer Slide

The words “summer slide” may conjure up visions of waterparks and playgrounds, but it’s not as fun as it sounds! The summer slide refers to the learning loss that occurs over the summer break if school children don’t have access to educational experiences. Here at Kingdom House, we’re working hard to prevent our scholars from sliding backward in the progress they made during the school year.

Our summer camp is an official Freedom School, a Children’s Defense Fund program which “seeks to build strong, literate, and empowered children prepared to make a difference in themselves, their families, communities, nation and world today.” While at Kingdom House, the scholars spend their mornings reading and doing literacy

activities to boost both their reading comprehension and their love of books. In the afternoons, they do STEAM activities, exploring the world of science, technology, engineering, art and mathematics.

The KH Freedom School had great success last year, with no learning loss for any of the 100 scholars. Plus, 30% of the scholars had up to a 7 month gain in proficiency! Would you like to help the scholars have a fun, educational summer? Sign up as a Summer Reader! Please see the email and page 2 of the Volunteer Voice for more details.



New Volunteers

- ◇ Shannon Keating
- ◇ Abby Evilsizor

Welcome to the
KH Team!

2017 Golf Tournament and Dinner Auction

REGISTER TODAY!

GOLF TOURNAMENT

JUNE 5, 2017 • FOREST HILLS COUNTRY CLUB

The drive to empower families and children



There’s still time to sign up for the Golf Tournament and Dinner Auction! Support Kingdom House by attending or volunteering at our biggest event of the year! For tickets or to sign up to volunteer, please visit kingdomhouse.org See you on the links!

June Birthdays

- ◇ Daniel Carleton
- ◇ Ruth Carr
- ◇ Amy Donahue
- ◇ Susan Erickson
- ◇ Jim Lange
- ◇ Paige Loiselle
- ◇ Allison Reed

Happy Birthday!

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Volunteer Spotlight - Bodega Clerk Jan McCurley

This month, we've interviewed Jan McCurley, who volunteers in the Bodega Thrift Store and serves on the Kingdom House Women's Auxiliary Board. Here's what she has to say!

What is your occupation? I retired from Nerinx Hall High School as an English teacher 7 years ago.

How did you first hear about/get involved with volunteering at Kingdom House? I first heard about Kingdom House through the United Methodist Women's work with the Soulard Family Center, and I joined a committee to help with their fundraising walks. My husband became part of the Board, and we both began to help with additional events such as the Golf Tournament.

In your opinion, what is the best thing about the St. Louis metro community? I love St. Louis for many reasons, but among the best things about the St. Louis metro community are the wealth of great, local restaurants and variety of cultural opportunities we have.

How long have you been volunteering with us and what keeps you coming back to volunteer at Kingdom House? I have been volunteering in some capacity since the 1990s, and I have continued to volunteer because Kingdom House serves the needs of the community in so many capacities that I have always found a place to help.

How do you enjoy spending your free time (when not volunteering at Kingdom House)? I like to spend time with my husband and family hiking, bird watching, and just relaxing at our log cabin in the southern Illinois woods.

What book/movie inspired you recently and why? Probably the most recent movie to inspire me is "Hidden Figures," the movie about the Black women whose mathematical skills were an important part of the NASA space program in the 1960s. I felt moved by their determination and courage and proud to finally be a witness to their intellectual contributions and leadership, which had been buried far too long.

How has volunteering at Kingdom House benefited you? I have gained a deeper understanding of the challenges faced by many St. Louisans and how I am called to serve and advocate for others in need. I have also developed lovely friendships with the staff and volunteers with whom I serve.



Readers for Summer Camp

Volunteers are invited to participate in *Harambee*, an uplifting time filled with songs and chants to get Summer Camp scholars excited for their day! Volunteers will read a book aloud to youth scholars, and answer questions about the importance of literacy in their life. Readers are needed Monday - Friday from June 19-July 28, 9-9:30am. As a bonus, volunteers will be entered into a drawing for a gift card each time they come to read! To sign up, please contact Natalie Gemberling at 314-627-1232 or ngemberling@kingdomhouse.org.

Shop Out Hunger: June 24th

Help provide nutritious food for Kingdom House families by volunteering at our biggest food drive of the year! Volunteers can help in collecting donations at the Arsenal Schnucks or the Mackenzie Pointe Dierbergs, or they can assist at Kingdom House, helping to organize the donations as they come in. This fun service opportunity is perfect for volunteers all ages, and we have morning and afternoon shifts to fit busy schedules! For more information, please contact Julie Strassman at 314-627-9826 or jstrassman@kingdomhouse.org.