

The Volunteer Voice



MONTHLY VOLUNTEER NEWSLETTER

Volume 4, Issue 10

Senior Editor: Julie Strassman

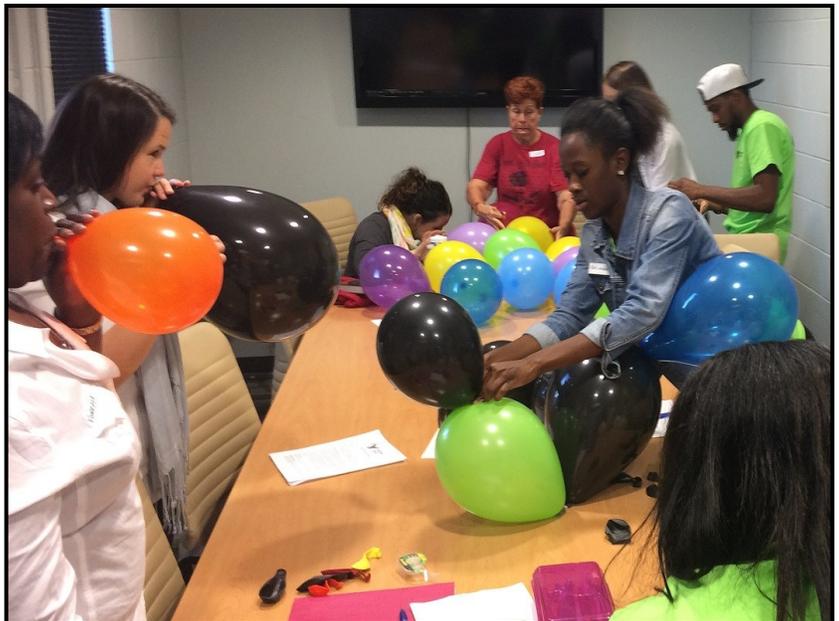
Associate Editor: Natalie Gemberling

October 2016

After School Gets a Great Start with Staff & Volunteer Training

On September 12, 2016, six After School Volunteers (Ashlee Ayers, Kelsie Ryan, Cyndie Jones, Katie Nicoloff, Vonetta Flowers and Andrea Gabaldon) and five Staff Activity Leaders came together to prepare for the beginning of the After School Program year! Volunteers first met with Misti to learn about the youth enrolled, the schedule for each program day and to go over safety procedures when working with youth.

Volunteers and staff completed a team building game to see who could make the largest standing balloon tower, followed by an open discussion on where there were opportunities for volunteers to assist with enrichment activities and homework help. This was a great opportunity for staff and volunteers to connect to learn more about each other, After School youth and program structure.



If you are interested in learning more about volunteering with After School, please contact Natalie Gemberling at ngemberling@kingdomhouse.org or 314-627-1232. Opportunities are available on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 4-6pm.

Poverty Simulation - Oct. 24th

Curious to learn more about why Kingdom House works to empower low income families? Come join us for a poverty simulation on Monday, Oct. 24th! The simulation is designed to help participants understand what it might be like to be a part of a typical low income family trying to survive from month to month. This free experience is an eye-opener to anyone who wishes to understand more about the realities of poverty and discuss the potential for change within their community. The simulation will be in the Kingdom House gymnasium on Oct. 24th from 6:30 - 9:30pm. Go to: <https://goo.gl/forms/reuah0C9XxhTSUyi1> to register by Oct. 10th. Contact missionshift@csl.edu or call 314-505-7168 with any questions. See you there!

Welcome New Volunteers!

- ◆ Katie Nicoloff
- ◆ Vonetta Flowers
- ◆ Carolyn Moore
- ◆ Andrea Gabaldon
- ◆ Santos Gonzales

We're Glad to Have You on the Kingdom House Team!

October Birthdays

- ◆ Aubrie Hoffman
- ◆ Elizabeth Kienker
- ◆ Jan McCurley
- ◆ Mark Neilsen
- ◆ Donald Robinson
- ◆ Anne Skelton
- ◆ Elise Westhoff

Happy Birthday!

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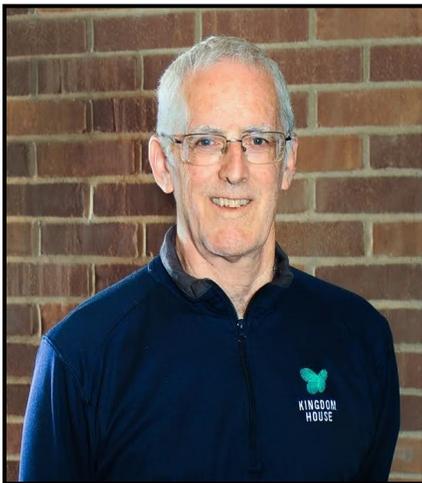
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Service Spotlight: Mark Neilsen, Ignatian Volunteer Corps

How did you first hear about/get involved with volunteering at Kingdom



House? I heard about Kingdom House through the Ignatian Volunteer Corps, a service and spiritual reflection program for retired and semi-retired people that is sponsored by the Jesuit religious order. **What is your occupation?** I retired from Creative Communications for the Parish, a Christian publisher, where I worked as an editor/writer for 25 years. **What book/movie inspired you recently and why?** "The Art of Memoir" by author Mary Karr inspired me to try to turn some genealogical research I had done into a personal memoir. **How do you enjoy spending your free time (when not volun-**

teering at Kingdom House)? I play guitar and sing in a bluegrass band called River Bound. We try to practice every week and play out occasionally. **How long have you been volunteering with us, and what keeps you coming back to volunteer at Kingdom House?** This is my third year at Kingdom House. The clients work hard to improve their lives and the staff is creative in working to assist them. I just try to help the process along. **In your opinion, what is the best thing about the St. Louis community?** St. Louis is a dynamic place to be, full of challenge, change and opportunity. Plus, Spring and Fall are wonderful!

Manchester UMC Urban Forum Attends "Antigone in Ferguson"

Manchester UMC (MUMC) members participating in a weekend Urban Forum experience at Kingdom House got a special opportunity: the chance to see the premiere of "Antigone in Ferguson". The performance was hosted by The Center for Social Empowerment at Wellspring Church in Ferguson, MO, and correlated perfectly with the MUMC group's chosen Urban Forum topic - the intersection of racism and poverty. According to the Center's website, "The project presented dramatic readings of Sophocles' 'Antigone' - an ancient Greek tragedy about when personal conviction and state law clash, and violence ensues - for diverse audiences, composed of concerned citizens, members of faith communities, city officials



"Antigone in Ferguson" cast (from left: Glenn Davis, Samira Wiley, Reg E. Cathey, Gloria Reuben) with chorus and musicians

and law enforcement, with the goal of generating powerful dialogue between these communities, fostering compassion, understanding, and positive action." After the performance, the MUMC group discussed the play over



Manchester UMC Urban Forum Participants (from left: Moe Parisien, Trish Gunby, Joy Parisien, Rev. Beth Elders, Sue Belval, Jim Belval, and Joan Bender) at Antigone in Ferguson

dinner, making connections between Antigone and what they had learned over the weekend about racism and poverty in St. Louis, and how they would put that knowledge into action with their congregation. Interested in what the Urban Forum can help your group experience and learn? Contact us at drichter@kingdomhouse.org