

# The Community Hero



## H1N1 Volunteer Accomplishments Celebrated

The Stone County Health Department (SCHD) held an H1N1 Volunteer Appreciation Celebration at the Best Western Branson Inn for the 30 volunteers who donated their time, talents, and skills during the 2009 H1N1 Vaccination Campaign.

During the H1N1 Vaccination Campaign, the SCHD hosted 11 vaccination clinics, not including the clinics held at both SCHD offices, and utilized 30 different volunteers who contributed a total of 297 hours.



Sixteen of the 30 volunteers who supported the 2009 H1N1 Vaccination Campaign in Stone county were celebrated at an appreciation banquet on April 20.

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Volunteers assisted SCHD by performing job assignments that ranged from greeters to nurses and scribes, to safety and traffic control. Because of the hard work and dedication of these volunteers, more than 11 hundred people were vaccinated against the H1N1 influenza virus.

The H1N1 Volunteer Appreciation Celebration provided the opportunity to not only recognize the volunteers for their efforts, but it was a time to get all

of the volunteers together to socialize and to share their H1N1 clinic stories.

Volunteer Coordinator Kim King said she was very pleased to have the celebration because it provided closure and a breath of fresh air to the hustle and bustle of the H1N1 chaos.

“It just made sense that we could talk to the volunteers afterward to see what went well and what improvements need to be made for the future.”

The celebration not only gave

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# Volunteers contributed nearly 300 hours



Volunteers and their guests were served catering from Danna's Bar-B-Que and Burger Shop.

everyone the opportunity to interact with other volunteers, but it also provided an opportunity to celebrate their accomplishments while enjoying delicious food.

Angela Ford, SCHD Administrator, spoke to the volunteers about the H1N1 response efforts, public health emergency response situations and preparations that will foster volunteer participation in the future. King, discussed next steps for the volunteer program, announced upcoming volunteer opportunities and drills, and presented the awards. Volunteers were recognized for their hours of service and received a certificate of appreciation.

Rosalie Tizzard was recognized for contributing the most hours of service; totaling 39 and half hours. Julie Crone, R.N. was recognized for contributing the most hours of service in the nursing section with a total of 10

hours. Three gentlemen (David Hypke, Jim Elder, and Daniel Horton) were recognized in the safety/traffic section. Hypke was awarded the most hours of service in the safety traffic section for his 12 hour contribution. Elder contributed nearly 12 hours, and Horton received the award for spending nearly six hours braving the bitter cold. Two teenagers, Callie Stone and Robert Hamblin, were recognized as the youngest volunteers who participated in the Vaccination Campaign. Jim McKenna and Tizzard were introduced as the volunteer managers.

Door prize recipients included Sheila Lindsey, Melanie Peck, Cynthia Hamblin, Julie Crone, and Jim Elder. A special thank you goes to the following Branson West businesses for their partnership, support and donations: Wal-Mart, Tequila's Bar and Grill, Branson West Ace Hardware, and Shell Gas Station.

According to King, the SCHD is would not have accomplished all that they did in regard to the H1N1 clinics, while maintaining the health department's regular services if it had not been for the volunteers.

"This group of volunteers made my job as a volunteer

coordinator very enjoyable and worthwhile during a hectic time in public health. I thoroughly enjoyed getting to know each one," King said.

She added that although the appreciation celebration was to reward the volunteers for their efforts, she left the celebration having been the most rewarded person in attendance.

"I have had the pleasure working with this awesome bunch of volunteers. I totally treasure that experience and each volunteer!"

All of the SCHD staff would like to thank the volunteers for their efforts, contributions of time, and willingness to assist in the vaccination and public outreach initiative. All of the volunteers who responded are truly community heroes and were a critical part in the public health response. The community will be better able to respond to a public health emergency because of our volunteers!

If you would like more information about the Stone County Community Heroes program, contact Kim King at the Stone County Health Department, (417) 357-6134 or visit [www.stonecountyhealthdepartment.com](http://www.stonecountyhealthdepartment.com)

## Volunteer Profile

### Patricia Horton



**Q: What is your current job?** I am retired.

**Q: Where do you live?** Ga-

lena, which is in Stone County.

**Q: What is your family like?** I have two grown sons and two granddaughters.

**Q: Why did you decide to be a Community Hero?** I want to be

able to help the community in the event of an emergency. It is important to know what to do in order to help others.

**Q: Why do you feel it is important to volunteer?** I think it is important to be a useful member of your community and to help other people.

**Q: What are your hobbies?** I love playing with my grandchildren! I also

love cooking, being on the computer and reading.

**Q: What is your favorite kind of food?** I like spicy food!

**Q: What is your favorite color?** Green.

**Q: What is your life philosophy?** Treat other people with dignity and respect, the way I would want to be treated.

## Featured Partner

### United Way of the Ozarks—Day of Caring

The United Way of the Ozarks enjoys a rich heritage that can trace its origins to 1930. Since that time, in communities across the Ozarks, the lives of thousands of children, adults, and families have been made better thanks to the services of United Way's member agencies. Contributions to the United Way give people hope for a better life. United Way agencies help people learn to read, feed the hungry, give shelter to the homeless, protect families and children from violence, restore hope after a disaster or illness, and renew faith for a brighter tomorrow.

In addition, the largest day of volunteerism in southwest Missouri is the United Way Day of Caring, which will be held August 19. Businesses allow their employees the opportunity to provide hands-on, volunteer labor for a variety of United Way member agencies. Projects include everything from painting houses to mentoring children. Day of Caring volunteers have the opportunity to experience the joy of doing something for others and area non-profit agencies receive invaluable volunteer assistance to complete projects that might otherwise not get

done.

The Springfield-Greene County Health Department and the Community Heroes program participates in the Day of Caring. Any Community Hero volunteers who would like to participate, can contact Rebecca Ray at (417) 874-1297 to be part of the Health Department's team.

To learn more about the Day of Caring or additional volunteer opportunities with the United Way of the Ozarks, contact Volunteer Coordinator Kim Hopkins-Will at 863-7700 or [khopkinswill@uwozarks.com](mailto:khopkinswill@uwozarks.com).

# Calendar of Events

**New Volunteer Orientation/ Training.** Volunteers are needed to assist Local Public Health Agencies. Please attend a Community Hero training to get involved and make a difference in your community! The next new volunteer orientation/training in Springfield is scheduled for June 14 at 9:30 a.m. New volunteer orientation is also held every other Monday from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and the first Saturday of the month from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. Please e-mail volunteer-health@springfieldmo.gov or call (417) 874-1297 to register.

**Ongoing. Secret Shopper program Evaluation** The Springfield-Greene County Health Department is looking for volunteers who would be willing to participate in an evaluation program of the health department's services. Volunteers will act as potential participants in health department programs. This will include calling, asking question, and providing feedback about customer service experiences. Volunteers will document answers to questions, number of times a call was transferred, and if he/she received the information being sought. Interested volunteers may call (417) 874-1297 or e-mail volunteer-

health@springfieldmo.gov.

**WIC Volunteers. Greene County.** The Springfield-Greene County WIC program is looking for volunteers to assist with several different projects. The first being a greeter for incoming WIC clients. This position would direct clients where they needed to go and help them through their WIC visit with a friendly face. The second opportunity is a data entry person. This person would look at 6 months worth of WIC data, enter it into a database, and compare numbers to determine efficiencies that will allow WIC to better serve its clientele.

**Interpretation and Translator Services.** Hand in Hand Multicultural Center is looking for qualified interpreters/translators. "We believe that communication is one of the most effective tools in reaching and serving our community." HIH is looking for speakers of other languages to utilize their skills for a paid translator/interpreter position. No previous translator/interpreter experience is required. HIH will provide training to qualified speakers. Call 417-865-HOPE or email alicia@hihmc.org.

## Mission Statement

We will provide volunteer help to the communities we serve whenever it is most needed. We will always plan, prepare and participate.

Community Heroes is a Region D Local Public Health Volunteer program. Community Heroes does not discriminate against any individual because of race, color, religion, sex, age, physical or mental handicap, sensory disabilities or veteran status.

For questions, comments, or suggestions contact Regional Educator/Volunteer Coordinator, Rebecca Ray at (417) 874-1297 or by e-mail at rray@springfieldmo.gov

Visit us or sign up to be a Community Hero at [www.beacommunityhero.com](http://www.beacommunityhero.com)

**The Community Hero is a monthly publication for the volunteers and staff members of Region D local public health departments.**

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If you would like to have your training or event listed in *The Community Hero*, please contact Rebecca Ray at (417) 874-1297.