



The Community Hero

Volunteer to support community event

Whether you're a teen, a single adult, or in a relationship - dating, married, remarried, whatever - *Operation Us* has a program for you.

Expecting a baby? They've got you covered, too. When people say your life will never be the same, they aren't kidding. That's why *Operation Us* is helping parents with a special one-day event called *Hitched (or Not) & Hatching*. This day of activities for new parents includes fun workshops

for moms and dads, lunch and snacks, fun activities for the dads and relaxation for the moms with "handcials" and chair massages.

But this isn't just about fun and relaxation. It's also about teaching relationship tools that parents can use to keep their relationship strong while adjusting to the family's new addition.

Workshops include talking about how to really communicate, and how to disagree without having a fight. Parents will learn skills that can help keep "parenthood" from messing up "couplehood."

This event cannot go off without a hitch unless people volunteer to help. Volunteers are needed to prior to the event to help prepare for the day's activities, such as transporting supplies, setting up, and packing diaper bags. Volunteers will be needed the day of the event to welcome participants, assist with parking, crowd control, di-

recting and giving information, assisting with caterers, setting up classrooms, assisting with lunch/snack events, and other meaningful tasks throughout the day.

The day will also include a lot of great prizes to be given away all day long, including a diaper bag for every couple packed with baby supplies. Childcare is provided for participants all day for just \$2 per child ages 6 weeks to 7 years, and younger babies can tag along with their mothers.

Parents can spend the day having fun with other parents and bring home relationship tools that will help them through the joy and stress of a new baby.

Hitched (or not) & Hatching is \$5 per person, but *you must pre-register by August 25, 2010*. And childcare must be reserved in advance. Register online or call 417-823-3469. Space is limited, so do register today!

The event will start on: Saturday, August 28, at 8 a.m. at

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Event volunteers help with conference

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Southwest Springfield Wesley United Methodist Church, 922 W. Republic Road, and will end at 5:30 p.m.

Operation Us is a project started by Forest Institute and Ozarks Marriage Matters to pro-

mote healthy marriages, relationships and families. The work of the *Operation Us* project is sponsored by the efforts of community partners, both in Springfield and in the surrounding counties. Many events and workshops are available at re-

duced costs, thanks to a federal grant received in 2006.

Interested volunteers should contact Kim Meyer at kmeyer@forest.edu or by calling 417-823-3426.

Taney County drill tests set up of alternate care facility

Community Heroes have the primary purpose of preparing for and responding to public health emergencies. While we all hope that they are never needed for that purpose, they stand prepared and ready to respond.

Seventeen Stone County Community Heroes participated in and learned how to set up an alternative care facility in Branson Aug. 16 and 17. Aug. 16 was a set up day and the 17 was operations.

More than 100 volunteers were utilized to help set up and break down the facility, and assist with the operations of the facility, including volunteer registration,

triage, and helping with supplies. Sixty-eight volunteers had the opportunity to experience the drill from the perspective of a patient.

This drill was intended to assist Taney County in coordinating agencies and volunteers, while practicing what might happen in a real emergency.

This drill, "Aftershock Taney County Shelter and Alternative Care Site Exercise" was hosted by a joint effort between the Taney County Health Department, Stone County Health Department, Skaggs Hospital, Branson Convention Center, Southwest Independent Living, American Red Cross, Taney County (Ambulance District and Emergency Management), and the City of Branson (including Emergency Management and the Police and Fire Departments). These organizations worked together in order to better respond to the health needs of the community, should a health emergency arise. This



More than 68 volunteers participated as role players. Each volunteer pretended to be a person needing shelter after an earthquake.

drill tested how sheltering can meet the needs of individuals who are not able to stay in their homes following an emergency situation.

Stone County Community Heroes who participated are: Rosalie Tizzard (Volunteer Manager), Mark Tizzard, Theresa Molsbee, Paula Duple, Dick and Dorothy Erickson, Ross and Betty Eatherly, Jim McKenna, Jim Vrobel, Jim Elder, Dennis Skelton, Ron Gerberding, Tracy Tillman, Don DeYoung, Diane Heberer, Patsie Staake.

More than 13 hundred hours were volunteered over a two-day period to conduct the exercise.



Dorothy Erickson and Betty Eatherly (Community Heroes) worked the registration desk, where more than 200 volunteers checked in.

Volunteer Profile

Betty Eatherly



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

Q: Where do you live? I live

in Branson West, which is in Stone County.

Q: What is your family like? I have three grown married children, six grandchildren (4 to 9

years of age).

Q: Why did you decide to be a Community Hero? I have the time and there is not enough to get all of the jobs done that need to be.

Q: Why would you encourage others to volunteer? It is important to be prepared so everything will run smoothly. And, the more help we have,

the easier everything goes.

Q: What are your hobbies? Gardening and traveling.

Q: What is your favorite kind of food? Italian

Q: What is your favorite color? Green.

Q: What is your life philosophy? Strive to live as Jesus did.

Featured Service Organization

Family Violence Center

Domestic violence affects every aspect of community living including schools, neighborhoods, law enforcement, health care, social services, churches and businesses. The Family Violence Center, incorporated in 1976, provides shelter, advocacy, and education to women and children who are victims of domestic violence and promotes the principle that all individuals have the right to a life free from abuse.

The Center, which began as a grassroots all-volunteer organization and was the first organization in Missouri to specifically serve victims of domestic violence, has progressed to a professionally staffed agency of approximately 25 full and part-time staff members. The Center's 100 bed shel-

ter, *Harmony House*, offers a safe and supportive environment while women work to establish abuse-free lives. The Center's apartments house women and their families in transition for up to a year. During its 34-year history, the Family Violence Center has protected the lives of almost 10 thousand women and children.

A 24-hour Hotline, maintained by trained staff and volunteers, is the initial point of contact for most persons requesting emergency assistance from the Center. Staff provides crisis intervention, case management, intake and assessment, support, planning advocacy and information on community resources. Referrals are made to appropriate agencies

offering: medical, legal, financial, psychological, educational and vocational assistance.

The Center relies heavily on volunteers and, consequently, volunteer opportunities helping with Orders of Protection, Office Assistance, Special Events, Special Mailing Teams, Shelter/Hotline, Community Education, Shelter Youth Program, Building Maintenance, Support Group Facilitation, Kitchen Assistance or Fundraising are available to those interested in helping out. If you are interested in learning more, contact the Family Violence Center's Volunteer Coordinator, Lisa Keene by calling 417-837-7700 or visit the website, www.familyviolencecenter.org for more information.

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 Aug. 23 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

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.