

Welcome!

Welcome to the Fall/Winter issue of The Family Connection Times! In this newsletter, you will find resources and tips for your family!

If you find yourself needing further information on any resource or information on something not included, please call **Kim Downs, District Family Resource Specialist, at 816-835-1174(cell) or downsk@smithville.k12.mo.us**! I am happy to help connect you to resources in our community and surrounding areas.

I am always willing to brainstorm with you on the needs of your family and help ensure that any barrier to your child's learning finds a solution. —Kim Downs, MSW, District Family Resource Specialist

HOLIDAYS 2013!



If your family, with students in the Smithville School District, is in need of Holiday assistance please contact Kim Downs by November 11, 2013.

If your family or group would like to assist with the District's Holiday Help efforts, please contact Kim Downs for information on how to participate! We are in need of donors!



Need a winter coat?

If your student is in need of a winter coat and/or clothing, please plan on visiting the Warrior Closet on November 5th from 10-Noon or 5-7pm. We are stocked up and ready for you! See WC details below!

Healthy Snack Ideas

Looking for healthy snack ideas or healthy ideas for parties? Click here for some great suggestions!

http://www.healthykidsmo.org/services_community/SnackGreatforClassroomPartiesTooAFHKMO09.pdf

Resources for Emergency Utility Assistance:

Salvation Army	816-452-5663	Good Samaritan Center	816-630-2718
St. Therese	816-741-2800	United Services	816-858-5153
Metropolitan Lutheran Ministries	816-454-5295	Northland Assistance Center	816-421-2243

UTILITY BILL ASSISTANCE

The Missouri Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) is designed to provide financial assistance to help pay heating bills for Missourians during the months of October, November, December, January, February, and March. Eligibility requirements for EA are based on income, household size, available resources and responsibility for payment of home heating costs.

Applications are taken on November 1st!

Information and applications for assistance can be found here: <http://www.choose-hope.org/programs/liheap-energy-assistance/>

Kid tips for being healthy, kind, and un-bored!

Rake the yard for your neighbor

Have friends over and make up a skit

Have friends over for a scavenger hunt

Invite Mom and Dad outside for a walk

Have a hula hoop contest, see who can jump rope the longest

Teach somebody something new, teach your pet a new trick

Local Food Pantries!

Vineyard Church	Mon, Wed 9-11:30 and Sat 9-11	734-8100
First Christian Church	Open Tuesdays and Thursdays 8:30-11:30	532-0773
Smithville Baptist Church	Open Mon, Tues, and Thurs 9:00-1:00	532-0164
Metropolitan Lutheran Ministries		
1104 NE Vivion Road, Kansas City, MO	Call ahead for details, SS card(s) required	454-5295
St. Therese Catholic Church		
7207 NW Highway 9, Kansas City, MO 64152	Open M-F 9-Noon, ID required, Call ahead	741-2800

Is your family facing a serious illness or dealing with the loss of a loved one?

Below are resources to assist with some of life's most challenging obstacles.

Turning Point www.turningpointkc.org

Turning Point's mission is to empower and transform the mind, body, and spirit of individuals, families, and friends living with serious or chronic physical illness. We provide innovative education services and tools that inspire people to take charge of their illness and live life to its fullest.

Gilda's Club <http://www.gildasclubkc.org/>

A free community of support for men, women, and children diagnosed with cancer, as well as their families and close friends. Gilda's Club is a comprehensive and professional program of emotional support and education designed to enhance the mind, body, and spirit of people whose lives have been impacted by cancer. Educational workshops, healthy lifestyle programs, online groups, and social activities, as well as professionally led support and networking groups are available.

Solace House <http://www.kansascityhospice.org/GriefSupport/Index.asp?Reference=SolaceHouse&~=>

Solace House is designed to be a caring place where children and their families can relax, listen, share, and heal. Support group rooms and group placement are determined according to the developmental stages of children and take into account the needs of the entire family.

Camp Erin <http://www.kansascityhospice.org/GriefSupport-Camp%20Erin/Index.htm>

Camp Erin is a free, weekend, overnight summer camp for children and teens, ages 6 to 17, who have experienced the death of someone close to them. It is a traditional, fun, high-energy camp combined with grief education and emotional support. 816-363-2600

Cancer Support Community <http://www.cancersupportcommunity.org/>

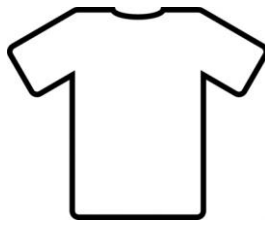
Resources, online support communities, and a cancer support hotline "so that no one faces cancer alone".

List of Additional Resources

<http://www.kansascityhospice.org/GriefSupport-ResourcesLinks/Index.htm>



A Harvesters representative from the SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program—Food Stamps) will be visiting the Warrior Closet on November 5th from 5-7 to assist anyone with questions, applications, and serve as a liaison with the state regarding government food assistance programs. If you have ever had questions about eligibility or just how the program works, come ask! If you are unable to join us that evening, help is also available at snap@harvesters.org and via the Harvesters SNAP Hotline (816-929-3300).



The Warrior Closet!

The Warrior Closet is a clothing center in the Smithville School District with donated, used clothing, available to all students who attend Smithville Schools! The center houses size 5 through young adult, appropriate for students in Kindergarten to High School.

The Warrior Closet is open on the first Tuesday of every month from 10-Noon and 5-7.

The Warrior Closet is located at The Primary Elementary, in a mobile classroom next to the playground. When you visit the center during school hours, please visit the Primary front office first to obtain a visitor's pass and get directions. After school hours, follow the signs in the circle drive.

When you visit the clothing center, please bring proof of attendance with you. Items such as a school ID, grade card, lunch receipt, note from your child's school principal or counselor, or school correspondence is appropriate.

Questions? Kim Downs 816-835-3178 or downsk@smithville.k12.mo.us

WARRIOR CLOSET DONATIONS

Do you have new or used clothing donations to make to the Warrior Closet? Find the 'Warrior Closet Donation Bin' at the Upper Elementary—located in front of the trailers. Please see the guidelines below for donating and use the tips to help our volunteers!

- Clean, odor/smoke free clothing only
 - Free of stains, rips, and/or tears
- Use the rule of thumb 'would I send my child to school in this?'
- School year appropriate clothing: September-May
 - 'Current' styles
- School age sizes and styles: Size 5 kids to Junior/Young Adult
- Packages of new socks and underwear: boxers for boys, bikinis for girls, ankle socks
- Note: Any clothing found inappropriate for The Warrior Closet's current needs will be donated to a local charity

TIP: When placing clothing into the bin, please put all items in a bag! **TIP:** Pre-sorting clothing is VERY helpful for our volunteers—donate clothing that *doesn't* meet the above guidelines to one of the many other quality non-profit agencies in the area.

Interested in volunteering??? WE NEED VOLUNTEERS!!! Contact Kim for details!