

Welcome!

Welcome to the Spring 2013 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 816-532-3178 or 816-592-1181 (cell) or downsk@smithville.k12.mo.us**! I am happy to help connect you to the places and things 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, Family Resource Specialist



A mobile carrier is offering free cellphones and wireless service to low-income Missourians.

Assurance Wireless, an arm of Sprint, is offering 250 free voice minutes and 250 free text messages to eligible residents.

The company says 900,000 Missourians may be eligible if they meet income guidelines.

A family of four would need an income of no more than \$31,793. Residents also can qualify if they're on certain public assistance programs, such as Medicaid, food stamps or government-subsidized school meals.

Visit this link to learn more!

<http://www.assurancewireless.com/Public/Welcome.aspx>

Solutions for Parents

Raising teenagers can be tough and leave you asking yourself 'who is this alien that has invaded my child's body??'. The Clay County Juvenile Services staff psychologist, Sue Southworth, leads Anger Management and Solutions for Parents and Teens classes at their office in Liberty. These classes are available to any teen and parent/guardian in Clay County. A new class is starting in April! Contact Sue Southworth directly for information and to reserve your spot: Sue Southworth, Psy.D., Licensed Psychologist, Clay County Family Court, (816) 736-8405, Sue.Southworth@courts.mo.gov

You Are Invited to a Special Event

“WOMEN AND MONEY”

We know as women that our relationship with money is different. We earn it differently, use it differently and we handle it differently. Join us for lunch to learn from one another while developing and adding to our individual financial skills. Explore myths concerning women and money. Examine five strategic financial steps to take at any age. Discover the power of the purse. Led by Becky Gripp, Coordinator for the Economic Security Program at Catholic Charities of Kansas City—St. Joseph.

DATES:

April 10, 17, and 24, 2013

TIME:

11:30PM – 1:00PM

LOCATION:

Central Office Conference Room

Save the dates. Make the time. Bring a friend. You'll be glad you did.

WHO:

Moms and Guardians of students in Smithville

RSVP AND QUESTIONS:

Kim Downs, MSW, District Family Resource Specialist

Downsk@smithville.k12.mo.us

816-592-1181 (cell)

Resources for Emergency Assistance:

Salvation Army	816-452-5663	Missouri Valley Community Action	816-776-6057
St. Therese	816-741-2800	United Services	816-858-5153
Metropolitan Lutheran Ministries	816-454-5295	Northland Assistance Center	816-421-2243

Are you raising a Grandchild....or other relative?

Invaluable support, information, and resources are available to you at the Grandparent and Relative Caregivers Northland Support Groups! Sponsored by University of Missouri Extension, all groups are confidential and free of charge. Call Christine Brunkow or Diana Milne at 816-407-3490 for information, dates, and times.

Do you need health insurance?

Through the MO HealthNet for Kids program, children receive full, comprehensive coverage including primary, acute and preventative care, hospital care, dental and vision care as well as prescription coverage. There are income guidelines to qualify. For more information and/or an application, call 1-888-275-5908 or visit www.dss.mo.gov/mhk/

Local Food Pantries!

First Baptist Church	Call ahead for details	532-0164
First Christian Church	Call ahead for details	532-0773
Metropolitan Lutheran Ministries		
<i>1104 NE Vivion Road, Kansas City, MO</i>	Call ahead for details	452-5295
St. Therese Catholic Church		
<i>7207 NW Highway 9, Kansas City, MO 64152</i>	Call ahead for details	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.

Solace House <http://www.solacehouse.org/>

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 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. Call now for summer camp dates and information! 816-363-2600

Prom Boutique

April 2nd thru 6th, 2013

Need a Prom dress? Woods Chapel Church hosts a Prom Boutique each spring for over 1,000 area-wide teen girls. New or gently-used formal dresses are provided free of charge to local high school girls who are unable to purchase their own prom dress. The dresses are sorted by size and the girls are able to try them on in private areas. A team of skilled seamstresses is on hand to ensure that each dress fits just right. For detailed information, dates, times, an online peek into the boutique, instructions for donating to the boutique, directions, and more, visit: <http://woods chapelchurch.org/#/serve/special-events>. Scroll down to 'Prom Boutique'.

Have you ever had questions about the SNAP program? Shelley Paul, the SNAP Outreach Coordinator for Harvesters, will be at The Warrior Closet from 5-7pm on April 2nd to visit with people about the opportunities that the SNAP (formerly known as Food Stamps) Program can bring. She is able to take and submit applications without ever needing to go down to the county office. She will be able to answer all of your questions and give you the necessary tools to complete the process with ease and convenience.



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.



Announcing the Warrior Closet Summer Blowout Date!

Stock up on summer clothes, swimsuits, and all the summer essentials!

Saturday, May 18th, 2013

10:00am-1:00pm

Email Kim Downs downsk@smithville.k12.mo.us or 816-592-1181 with any questions!