

# The Family Connection Times

Kim Downs, MSW, District Family Resource Specialist

T: 816-835-1174 cell 816-532-3178 office,

downsk@smithville.k12.mo.us

---

Welcome to the Spring/Summer 2014 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 contact **Kim Downs**.

Connecting you to the 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.

---

## Summer is HERE!

### Fun, free and nearly free things to add to your Summer Bucket List!

1. Catch fireflies.
2. Draw with sidewalk chalk.
3. Set up a lemonade stand.
4. Build an indoor fort.
5. Go on a treasure hunt.
6. Make your own popsicles out of your favorite juice.
7. Make a birdfeeder.
8. Tie Dye.
9. Play charades.
10. Keep a summer journal.

Looking for places to visit? Try this list:

<http://kansascity.about.com/od/entertainmentattractions/tp/KCFreeThings.htm>



## Upcoming Events—

### May 31

Warrior Closet Summer Event

### All Summer

Miles of Smiles Summer  
Schedule

### July 28

Clay County Immunization  
Clinic 816-595-4355

---

## Warrior Closet Summer Event!

It's time to stock up on shorts, tanks, suits, and more! Join us **Saturday, May 31<sup>st</sup>** from **10:00-1:00!**

The Warrior Closet is located at The Primary Elementary, in a mobile classroom next to the playground. FREE clothing is available to all students enrolled in the Smithville School District.

---

## 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, KC, MO

Call ahead for details, SS card(s) required 454-5295

*St. Therese Catholic Church* 7207 NW Highway 9, KC, MO

Open M-F 9-Noon, ID required, Call ahead 741-2800

## Child Abuse Prevention

Spring is a time to make yourself aware of Child Abuse Prevention. All of us have a role to play within our world for child abuse prevention, sometimes by taking time to help a stressed family, or to volunteer in the community or to simply take the time to become more educated on the importance of healthy childhood experiences and environments to the successful transition of a child to a contributing member of a community.

Each year, child abuse costs the U.S. upward of \$80 billion. But if we prevent the abuse and neglect from ever occurring in the first place, that same amount of money could:

- Help send 1 million children to college
- Pay the yearly salaries of 2 million teachers
- Eliminate the hospital bills for 8 million new parents (cot'd)



---

## Miles of Smiles— Summer Dates

### **May 27 to June 11**

Excelsior Springs Westview  
Elementary  
500 N. Jesse James  
Excelsior Springs, MO 64024

### **June 12 to July 31**

Salvation Army North  
5306 N Oak Trfwy  
KC, MO 64118

### **August 1 to August 15**

Parvin Estates  
4033 N Bellaire Ave  
KC, MO 64117

Call (816) 413-9009 to  
schedule an appointment.

Urgent Care Walk In Patients  
Welcome!

Free dental care to those that  
qualify.

Visit: [www.milesOfSmilesInc.org](http://www.milesOfSmilesInc.org)  
for more information

(cot'd) Educate yourself on healthy child development and be aware of your surroundings. *Report abuse if you suspect it.* And talk to your own children about being body aware and empower them to be able to tell an adult if something bad happens to them.

### **Resources for Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment**

<http://missourikidsfirst.org/>

<http://www.preventchildabusekc.org/>

<http://www.cpckc.org/resources/prevent-child-abuse>

### **REPORT abuse if you witness it or suspect it:**

<http://dss.mo.gov/cd/can.htm>

The toll-free number is 1-800-392-3738

Persons calling from outside Missouri should dial 573-751-3448

Text telephone number: 1-800-669-8689

### **Book resources for speaking to your children about appropriate touch and body awareness:**

*I Said No! A kid-to-kid guide to keeping your private parts private* by Kimberly King

*My Body Belongs to Me: A book about body safety* by Jill Starishevsky

---

## **Need Health Insurance?**

Apply for Medicaid here:

<https://www.healthcare.gov/how-can-i-get-coverage-outside-of-open-enrollment/#part=3>

Don't qualify for Medicaid? No insurance? Need to see a doctor right away? Try Northland Health Care Access: [www.nhcakc.org](http://www.nhcakc.org) 816-880-6700

---

## **FUN SITE**

Looking for a book or toy for a specific issues like social issues, personal development, empowerment, or just fun stuff? Try 'A Mighty Girl'—you can search for products via subject matter. And while the site leans towards 'girl power', there's lots there for boys too! I just purchased a mom and daughter journal for my girls and I and we are loving it! See what you can find for your family! <http://www.amightygirl.com/>