

OF SERVICE

Sept. 2008

The Center for Service Learning

V. 6 NO. 2

The Center for Service Learning is your resource for connecting with community service opportunities. Every other week we compile and distribute *Of Service* for the Rockhurst community to discover opportunities for service. When calling to inquire about projects off campus, be sure to mention that you're from Rockhurst University. Also, don't forget to complete and submit your service transcript forms after completing projects. Thanks!

OFF-CAMPUS, ONE-TIME PROJECTS:

- **Mattie Rhodes** bridges culture and communities through arts, mental health, and social services. Mattie Rhodes empowers individuals and families through culturally competent, bilingual services in a respectful and compassionate environment. In the past, volunteers from Rockhurst have assisted with after school programs, worked in the art gallery and at events (such as the Day of the Day celebration and the Plaza Art Fair). This year the Plaza Art Fair is on **Friday, September 19, Saturday, September 20, and Sunday, September 21**. Mattie Rhodes is also a service-learning partner site for service-learning courses at Rockhurst. To find out more information, contact **Maria Belsito** at **(816) 471-2536** or via email at mbelsito@mattierhodes.org.
- **National Public Lands Day**- Please join Bridging the Gap and their affiliates Heartland Tree Alliance, Kansas City Wild Lands, and Keep Kansas City Beautiful as they host a working celebration of one of Kansas City's most scenic public areas, Swope Park in KC, MO. Bridging the Gap and their affiliates will work together with other community volunteers to pick up litter, remove invasive honeysuckle and plant trees throughout the park. The clean-up takes place, **Saturday, September 27, 9:00am to noon**. Volunteers may help with the projects listed above, help staff the event, or both! **Pre-registration is required to participate**, contact Laura O'Brien at **(816) 561-1061, ext. 109** or by email at lobrien@bridgingthegap.org.
- **Accessible Arts; 99 Drums** is a great opportunity to experience the rich history, customs, and foods of African, Caribbean, American Indian, and Mexican cultures through music and dance. Accessible Arts believes it is essential for children with and without disabilities to learn together in an active environment. The program takes place **October 11 and 12**. Volunteers are needed in three (3) different areas:
 - **Meals:** volunteers set tables, serve meals, and cleanup/re-set the dining room for the next meal.
 - **Workshops:** Volunteers assist the participants in moving between and participating in exciting music and dance workshops. Approximately half of the participants have disabilities and may require help in drumming or understanding directions, etc. Specific duties will be clarified at a later date.
 - **Overnight Shifts:** camp participants stay overnight on Saturday in the dorms on the campus of the Kansas State School for the Blind. Volunteers are the adult supervisors; they ensure children have a safe overnight experience.

***All volunteers must be over 18, and over 21 to work with the children, and attend one of three training sessions in the week before the event; training sessions occur **October 4 at 1:00pm** or **October 7 at 5:30pm**. Overnight

volunteers will be asked for information for a background check, and meals will be offered with each shift worked. Please contact Andi Meyer if interested at **(913) 281-1133** or at arts@accessiblearts.org.

COMMUNITY SERVICE, ON-GOING OPPORTUNITIES:

- **City Union Mission** is an organization that meets the many needs of the poor and homeless of Kansas City. City Union Mission is in need of volunteers to tutor one night a week. Contact Kalie George if you are interested at **(816)-329-1430** or Kalie.George@cumission.org. Three different programs are available to choose from:
 - The after school program is designed especially for elementary school students, ranging from 2nd-6th grade. The program takes place Monday-Thursday from 3:30-5:00pm.
 - Another tutoring program is offered for elementary school children who cannot attend the earlier session. This session takes place on Tuesday and Thursday night from 5-7pm.
 - A program is also in place to tutor middle school and high school youth. Students attend the program on Monday and Wednesday nights from 5-7 pm. Time spent with the students will focus not only on academics, but also on Scriptures and learning life skills. Dinner is provided for all who attend.

- **Cristo Rey Kansas City High School** is a private, Catholic college prep high school that provides an education to culturally diverse students with economic need. Most students help to pay for their education by participating in a corporate work-study program. Cristo Rey is a service-learning partner site for service-learning courses at Rockhurst. Volunteers are needed to tutor students and to help with various administrative tasks. For more information, contact **Diane Charity** at **(816) 457-6044** or via email at dcharity@cristoreykc.org and visit their website at <http://www.cristoreykc.org/>.

- **Operation Breakthrough** strives to help children who are living in poverty develop to their fullest potential by providing them a safe, loving, and educational environment. They provide before and after school programs for school age children, and childcare and preschool programs for younger children. In addition, they provide many onsite social service and emergency aid to families. Volunteers are needed to read to preschoolers, tutor school-age children, mentor children who would benefit from spending time with a caring adult, and share hobbies, such as cake decorating or stamp collecting, with small groups of children. Operation Breakthrough is a service-learning partner site for service-learning courses at Rockhurst. To find out how you can help contact **Debbie Skaggs** (Debbie@operationbreakthrough.org) or **David Jaeger** (David@operationbreakthrough.org) at **(816) 329-5233**.

- **Reach Out and Read Kansas City** is a pediatric early literacy program serving Kansas City's most vulnerable children. The program partners with pediatric doctors to make free books available for children at every well-child visit from birth to five years of age. Volunteers help by reading to children and modeling reading techniques to parents in the waiting room. By building on the unique relationship between parents and medical providers, Read Out and Read helps families and communities encourage early literacy skills so children enter school prepared for success.

- **Books + Kids = Fun in Pediatric Waiting Room** provides volunteers who love books and reading to children an opportunity to have a great time as a waiting room reader in one of 40 pediatric clinics in the KC area. Read aloud from favorites like 'Good Night Moon' to 'Green Eggs & Ham' with children waiting to see their pediatrician. Readers are asked to commit to a minimum of 3 months of reading, preferably at least 1x a week for 1-2 hours. Most shifts are Mon-Fri between 9am-4pm. Some evenings and Saturdays are available. Call **(913) 588-2793** or email LLong2@kumc.edu for more information or an application.
 - **Book Room Crew** help to label new and gently used childrens' books and assemble kindergarten book bags that will be handed out in 40 pediatric clinics. Help is needed for 1-2 hours, 1-2 times a month on Tuesday morning between 9am-12pm or Wednesdays between 12 pm-2pm in the offices at KU Med Center, near Westport. Every so often the book coordinator also needs help preparing book bags and packing books in boxes. If you love kids books and are interested in volunteering an hour or two ever week, call **(913) 588-2793** or email LLong2@kumc.edu for more information or an application.
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- **El Centro** aims to create and sustain educational, social, and economic opportunities for families. In the past, volunteers from Rockhurst have helped with tutoring school age children and GED students, or assisted with Citizenship Preparation Classes and after school programs. El Centro is a service-learning partner site for service-learning courses at Rockhurst. For more information on how you can help contact **Della Muzquiz** (dmuzquiz@elcentroinc.com) or **Maria Reyes** (mreyes@elcentroinc.com) at **(913) 281- 1186**.
 - **The Ronald McDonald House Charities** provides a home away from home for families of seriously ill children receiving treatment at nearby hospitals. RMHC needs volunteers to adopt a shift in one of two houses, twice a month or once a week throughout the year. In addition, volunteers are needed to help managing the front desk, checking in families, simple chores, and light laundry, in 40 hour shifts. If you would like more information about these opportunities please contact **Kerry Stein** at **(816) 842-8321. Ext. 101** or via email at kstein@rmhckc.org.
 - **The Kansas City Urban Youth Center** empowers youth with resources to develop faith, character, knowledge, and skills. The Center could use volunteers/mentors to help with the following activities daily programming, basketball coaching, IT, health programming, and grading. For more information, contact **Jared Willemin** at **(816) 221-1002** or via email at jared@kcurbanyouthcenter.org.
 - **Spofford Place** provides hope and healing to abused and neglected children as well as preventative, community-based services that build family strength and foster child success at home, school, and in the community. In the past, volunteers have helped read individually to kids and mentor children. Additionally, student groups have helped with fundraisers and other activities. If you would like more information, please contact **Paige Wickwire** at **(816) 508-3408** or via email at paige.wickwire@ihop.org
 - **St. James Place** is a food pantry and soup kitchen that services the community a round Rockhurst University. St. James can always use volunteers to help clean, cook, and serve diner. For more information, please contact **Mike Mathews** at **(816) 561-8515** or via email at mmathews@bishopsullivan.org.

- **Kansas City Free Health Clinic** promotes health and wellness by providing quality services, at no charge, to people without access to basic care. In the past, students have helped the clinic by filing, completing administrative tasks, helping with special projects, and reading to children in the waiting room. For more information, call **(816) 777-2761**.
- **KC Wildlands/Bridging the Gap** promotes conservation, protections and restoration of the natural communities of the Kansas City region. Currently, Bridging the Gap is looking for people to help plant trees across the metro. Everyone is invited to help plant 25-50 trees on public property. Training is provided prior to planting. For more information, contact **Angel Schreffler** at **(816) 561-1061, ext. 110** or via email at angela.schreffler@bridgingthegap.org.
- **Tulips on Troost** is a community organization dedicated to renewing a sense of hope and renewed interest to Kansas City's Historic Troost Avenue one tulip at a time. The organization holds weekend planting sessions in the fall and spring. If you would like more information on how you can help contact **Durwin Rice** at **(816) 812- 8530**.
- **Blue Hills Family Life Center** is dedicated to supporting and responding to the needs of its community by helping to meet the physical, mental, and spiritual needs of people in need regardless of race, creed, or culture. To help meet these needs the center provides the following services: a food and clothing pantry, social services, referrals, a family thrift store and more. The Center is a partner of Rockhurst for both community service projects and the Rockhurst-run after-school program, RU College Bound. The Center is located a short walk from campus at 5547 Troost. For more information on how you can help contact **Glenda Jones** at **(816) 523-2833** or bluehill@swbell.net.

CENTER FOR SERVICE LEARNING – YOUR RESOURCE FOR COMMUNITY SERVICE

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