

THE FHVC VOLUNTEER BULLETIN



Honoring Our Veterans



**This November, we recognize our 179
enrolled Veteran volunteers- thank you
for your continued service!**

Veterans Day Parade

November 10, 2023

9:30am

Downtown to City Hall

Featured Inside:

A Word from Lori - 2

Coordinator Update- 3

*AmeriCorps Seniors
Update- 4*

*Connecting Students
to Communities- 5*

Festival of Trees- 6

*Volunteer
Opportunities- 7*



@flinthillsvolunteercenter



**Lori Bishop,
Executive
Director**

*"Honoring the
sacrifices many have
made for our country
in the name of freedom
and democracy is the
very foundation of
Veterans Day." —
Charles B. Rangel*

Greetings Volunteers,

My favorite time of the year has arrived! I love the color of the trees and the cooler weather. You might see me more in sweatshirts...and that's allowed, right??

Veterans Day is November 11th. I want to extend my sincere appreciation to our veterans. Thank you for your service and your continued service through volunteering. The annual Veterans Day parade begins at 9:30 am on Friday, November 10th and the indoor ceremony begins at 11:00 am.

Our 9/11 Day of Remembrance was a huge success. I was so sad that I could not attend. I want to extend my sincere thanks to Karen, Aillene, and our Board of Directors, for stepping up and making sure things went smoothly.

We are celebrating 20 years with the Festival of Trees. This year, we will hold all our displays in one location (the former Dress Barn) in the Manhattan Town Center and open to the public from November 7-16. We will rely on volunteers to help us keep it open. Karen will share more details with you. I'm so excited to bring back Santa City. It's been over 20 years since we last hosted it. I remember my kids shopping. I still have some of the gifts! Now, those kids who came have children of their own so the tradition will be handed down!

I love fall, but Christmas is my favorite time of the year. I love shopping for my grandkids, family get-togethers, Hallmark movies, and more. But let's all remember those who might be alone for the holidays. Perhaps take them some cookies or leave a card at their door.

On a personal note, I want to thank all of you for the cards, calls, messages, prayers, and concern while I was in the hospital. It has been quite an adventure and now I'm working with a great team of specialists at KU Med to get treatment. I love you all!

Thank you for all you do in serving others!

Lori



Coordinator Update

Happy Fall Y'all!

It has been an exciting few months in the office as we juggled a few surprises, worked on many “behind the scenes” pieces of paperwork, and have started to ramp up our work for Festival of Trees in just a few weeks! By the time you are reading this we will be finalizing our displays to open up to the public on November 7th. I manage to avoid decorating the designs (not my strong suit), but I enjoy getting to do the creative work for our online marketing and printed materials.

I must say, I look forward to our brief breaks for Thanksgiving and the winter holidays so that I can enjoy this time with family. Although, I have taken on a larger volunteer role with the Manhattan Community Christmas Dinner this year in my personal time, so I hope to see some familiar faces join us for a meal!

-Karen

I hope this newsletter finds you well and enjoying the beautiful fall season. I have some exciting news to share with you all. The calendar for our upcoming outreach projects for Connecting Students to Communities (CSC) is now ready! We have worked hard to accommodate after-school and weekend activities so that everyone has the opportunity to volunteer and make a difference in our community.

In other updates, I had a wonderful conversation with JAG-K at Anthony Middle School, discussing CSC and volunteering. The kids were highly engaged, and it was truly a delightful experience.

Our volunteer groups have been actively busy volunteering at Be Able Community, Home of the Flint Hills, Salvation Army, Valor Honey, Stoneybrook, Hope Therapeutic Ranch, and Camp Tomah Shinga. Special thanks to the Kansas State Physician Assistant Program, Sigma Chi, Alpha Battery 1-5 FA, ARC Physical Therapy, Delta Chi, and Mortar Board Honor Society.

Lastly, I want to express my sincere gratitude for all your hard work. Your dedication to our cause is truly commendable, and we are so excited to continue volunteering together.

-Aillene



Karen Paulus,
Program Services
Coordinator



Aillene Aquino
Volunteer
Coordinator



AmeriCorps Seniors



Featured in our pictures this month are our AmeriCorps Seniors volunteers who helped at our annual 9/11 Day of Remembrance event. Elaine helps dish up the picnic dinner for our guests. Board member and AmeriCorps Seniors volunteer Lindy listens to remarks made by Lt Gov Toland in front of our field of flags. AmeriCorps Seniors Director, Atalaya Sergi, joined us from Virginia to share with our guests about her memories of September 11, 2001 and her current work with AmeriCorps Seniors.

Upcoming Events & Ongoing Opportunities

Please contact Karen if any of these upcoming opportunities interest you!

Medical Transportation Drivers

Our office is in need of volunteers who can help drive local residents to medical appointments within Manhattan. The requests for rides are rapidly growing and your help to keep this program running smoothly is greatly appreciated! This is a flexible opportunity depending on your schedule, but you must have a safe driving record, insurance, and a reliable vehicle.

Friendship Meals

Volunteers who can commit to a regular route or who can serve as substitute drivers are needed. Driver volunteers should be available to run their route(s) from 10:30am-12pm. In addition to delivery drivers, the Manhattan Senior Center also needs volunteers who can serve the meal in the dining room Monday - Friday. Servers are needed from 11:30am-1pm each day.

Festival of Trees: Public Viewing Volunteers

We will need volunteers starting November 7th to help us with our Festival of Trees public viewing opportunity at the Manhattan Town Center. This is a great opportunity for you to help with our annual fundraiser by greeting guests and watching the space while people from the public are invited in to look at our displays, ask questions, and vote for their favorites.

Open Dates & Times

November 7 & 9: 11am-2pm

November 10: 4pm-8pm

November 11: 10am-1pm

November 13 & 15: 9am-1pm



Learn More:

Karen Paulus

Program Services Coordinator

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The students have been busy preparing for the upcoming Santa City Event and making crafts. Additionally, they are also hosting a holiday basket drive for senior medical transportation clients and we are looking for boxes of tea, blankets, sudoku or word search books, sugar-free candies, lotion, Chapstick, snacks, etc. if you'd like to donate any of these items, please drop it off on or before Nov. 27.

CSC will also have an incredibly meaningful volunteering opportunity ahead. We will be visiting the Home of the Flint Hills to spend quality time with the residents, engaging in brain-o and board games and providing them with unforgettable moments of joy and companionship.

Looking ahead, an array of scheduled service projects are lined up in collaboration with notable local organizations such as Stoneybrook Health and Rehab, Hope Therapeutic Ranch, Flint Hills Discovery Center, Harvesters, Santa City, Holiday gift baskets, Blessing boxes and Teacher Appreciation boxes and many others. These initiatives aim to uplift our community and create a positive impact in the lives of those around us.

Additionally, we are proud to be working alongside Volunteer Kansas, as we contribute to their special project of curating presents in packages for our deployed Soldiers during the upcoming Christmas season. We believe that through these small gestures of gratitude, we can bring a ray of happiness and comfort to those serving our nation far from home.

The selfless acts and commitment of the team to making a positive impact on the lives of others are truly inspiring. We are confident that their dedication and passion will make a significant impact on these initiatives.

Finally, please welcome our newest team member, Abby. She recently joined us as an intern, bringing her valuable expertise. Abby will be lending a hand in our outreach projects, and we're grateful to have her on board!



Learn More:

Aillene Aquino
Volunteer Coordinator
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<https://www.flinthillsvolunteercenter.com/csc/>



Public Viewing

*November 7-16th
Select Times*

Take a stroll through our displays, participate in our visual scavenger hunt, and vote for your favorite designs!

Santa City

November 12th 2-5pm

Children ages 4-10 are welcome to shop our handcrafted gifts for their families and friends. Our elves will be standing by to help make selections and wrap.

All gifts \$0.50 - \$10

*Live Auction
Event*

November 17th at 6pm

Join us in your casual holiday wear- even your ugly sweater- at our live auction event hosted in the Manhattan Town Center.

Guests will enjoy a lively evening featuring dinner from local restaurants, a cash bar by MHK Caravan Co., live & silent auction, and a festive holiday atmosphere.

\$60 tickets; Save \$5 with FOT23NL

21+ Only Event



Festival of Trees

20th Anniversary

Volunteer Opportunities

November:

10th: Veterans Day (observed); Office Closed
10th: Harvesters; 3:30pm, Blue Valley Memorial UMC
14th: Caregivers Newsletter; 9am, 401 Houston St
21st: Harvesters; 9:30am, Cico Park
21st-25th: Thanksgiving Break; Office Closed
28th: Harvesters; 9:30am, Ogden Community Center
28th: Harvesters; 12:15pm, Downtown Manhattan (by Dillard's)

December:

8th: Harvesters; 3:30pm, Blue Valley Memorial UMC
12th: Caregivers Newsletter; 9am, 401 Houston St
19th: Harvesters; 9:30am, Cico Park
20th- Jan 2nd: Winter Holiday; Office Closed
26th: Harvesters; 9:30am, Ogden Community Center
26th: Harvesters; 12:15pm, Downtown Manhattan (by Dillard's)

Ongoing Opportunities:

Riley County Historical Society & Museum: Volunteers who are interested in Riley County history or would like to know more are encouraged to consider the Riley County Historical Society. Volunteers can help in a variety of roles- with the visiting public or behind the scenes. Volunteers can help Tuesday - Friday 8:30-5pm or Saturday - Sunday 2-5pm.

Peace-Full Pantry: The pantry has expanded their hours and volunteers are needed who can help during openings, delivery days, or between hours with restocking.

Flint Hills Breadbasket: Due to ongoing construction at the facility, they are in urgent need of volunteers. These dedicated volunteers will assist guests by helping them load and unload groceries into their cars. Other opportunities are also available!

Cookie Brigade:

November 2nd
December 7th

Cookies should be freshly baked within 24 hours of delivery to our office at 322 Houston Street, Suite 104 (Thursday by 1pm or the Wednesday before). Volunteers will package the cookies at the office before delivery.

Our December 7th Cookie Brigade will be our last traditional Cookie Brigade at this time. The USO is no longer able to accept home-baked treats, but we are actively looking for a viable long-term alternative.



*Welcome to
our 38 new
volunteers &
groups who
have enrolled in
September &
October!*

Flint Hills Volunteer Center

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AmeriCorps Seniors, Kansas Volunteer Commission, YES! Fund, Riley County Council on Aging, Greater Manhattan Community Foundation

The Flint Hills Volunteer Center is driven by its mission of connecting volunteers to the needs of our community. As our community grows rapidly, the issues we face continue to increase in providing resources for unmet basic human needs.

AmeriCorps Seniors (formerly RSVP) is one of the largest volunteer networks in the nation for people 55 and over. Volunteers use the skills and talents they've learned over the years, or they develop new ones while serving in a variety of volunteer activities within our community.

Volunteers are needed every day for a variety of opportunities in Riley, Geary, & Pottawatomie counties. If you are not currently enrolled with our program and would like to learn more about how to help, please contact us for more information.

785-776-7787
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flinthillsvolunteercenter.com

Our communities depend on great volunteers like you!