

THE FHVC VOLUNTEER BULLETIN



Veterans Day

**Guardians of our Nation:
Honoring the Reserve Forces**

Flint Hills Veterans Day Parade

Tuesday, November 11th at 9:30am along Poyntz

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@flinthillsvolunteercenter



Lori Bishop,
Executive
Director

*"The holiday season is
a perfect time to
reflect on our
blessings and seek out
ways to make life
better for those
around us."*
—Anonymous

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 veteran volunteers, and all who have served, or are serving, our country. Thank you for your service and your continued service through volunteering.

The annual Veterans Day parade begins at 9:30 am on Tuesday, November 11th. Following the parade there will be a Veterans Day ceremony at 11 a.m. inside Peace Memorial Auditorium at City Hall.

With the holidays upon us, let's remember to think of those who will be alone and those that could benefit from food or a gift. The need for volunteers is still important during the holidays!

Thanksgiving is celebrated to give thanks for a successful harvest and other blessings of the past year. As we think about the word "thanks", what are you thankful for? Our staff is thankful for our volunteers and the work you do to help others in need.

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. I will be taking some much-needed time off in December to relax and spend time with my grandchildren.

I hope you all have a joyous Thanksgiving and Holiday season. Reach out to a neighbor or friend during this time who might not have a support system. Our office will be closed from December 22nd – January 2, 2026, so that staff can enjoy time with our family and friends. We will resume office hours on January 5, 2026.

Thank you, VOLUNTEERS, for all you do!

Lori

Coordinator Update

A heartfelt thank you to all the amazing volunteers who helped make our 9/11 Day of Remembrance Family Event and Picnic a huge success. Your time, energy, and compassion made all the difference!

It's hard to believe the holidays are right around the corner. We're busy planning for our Home for the Holidays fundraiser in November and Santa City in December. We hope you're finding time to give back in your own ways during this busy season.

As we enter the holidays, let's remember those who may be alone or struggling. A small act of kindness a meal, a card, a simple visit can brighten someone's day more than you know.

Wishing you all a joyful, restful holiday season surrounded by loved ones. Thank you for everything you do!

-Meghan



Meghan Loverude,
Program Services
Coordinator

In October, I had the pleasure of engaging with students from the local middle schools and high schools to start preparing our Santa City goodie bags. The students were incredibly enthusiastic and eager to participate, making it a truly delightful experience for everyone involved. As we look ahead to the next couple of months, we are excited to continue to work on organizing outreach events and craft days in preparation for Santa City!

We have been finding many places for our volunteers ages 18-54 recently, as the amount of enrollment forms and individuals interested in helping out the community has been immense! My particular goal is to engage more middle school students in volunteering in their free time. In light of this, we have had our JAG team, as well as the IGNITE homeschool group, both reach out to us in hopes of partnering with our organization to organize volunteering opportunities for their student bodies, and have already started working on projects that we hope to continue prospering.

With all these initiatives on the horizon, I am beyond excited about what the future holds. The upcoming events promise to be rewarding, not just for the volunteers but also for the community we aim to serve. I can't wait to see how our plans unfold and the positive impact we will create together!

-Hannah



Hannah May,
Volunteer
Coordinator



**AmeriCorps
Seniors**

171 AmeriCorps Seniors volunteers have reported 3,157 volunteer hours for August & September!

Featured in our pictures this month are pictures from our 9/11 Day of Remembrance Family Event shoe distribution. Volunteers of all ages throughout our community joined us in distributing over 200 pairs of shoes to local youth. Our AmeriCorps Seniors volunteers specifically helped get shoes to each volunteer helping children with their new shoes and with our annual picnic. We also had volunteers provide fresh baked cookies for all of our attendees!

Have a photo you'd like to share in a future issue? Email it to Meghan!

Upcoming Events & Ongoing Opportunities

Friendship Meals (High Need!)

The Senior Center is needing volunteers to help with meals on wheels. They are need of delivery drivers, meal preppers and dining room servers. Volunteers are needed between 11am and 1pm. If interested please let us know and we will get you in touch with the meal coordinator.

Medical Transportation Drivers

We're looking for volunteer drivers to help local residents get to medical appointments within Manhattan. As requests for rides continue to grow, your support is essential to keep this important program going strong. This is a flexible opportunity that works around your schedule, but you'll need a reliable vehicle, a safe driving record, and current insurance. Your time and kindness can make a real difference in someone's life.

Peace-Full Pantry

Monday & Thursday: 4:45pm to 7:15pm
Tuesday & Sunday : 1:45pm-4:15pm

Volunteers are greatly needed to help with at least one shift each month to help visitors shop the pantry for food and household items. Help with unloading deliveries and keeping the pantry shelves stocked is also needed.

Via Christi Hospital

Volunteers are needed to help at the Gift Shop, Patient Admissions, Birth and Women's Waiting Room and more if interested please email Meghan at fhvcmhk@gmail.com.



Learn More:

Meghan Loverude

Program Services Coordinator

fhvcmhk@gmail.com

(785) 776-7787



In the top photo, we have a couple of the kids who attended our 9/11 Day of Remembrance Event for Families and Picnic. They had a blast getting to know our CSC volunteers who manned the coloring booth and temporary tattoo stand, and were excited to take their finished coloring pages home. In the middle photo, we have one of the IGNITE students who made one of the many birdhouses that were taken to the nursing homes around Manhattan. In the last photo, we have a couple of our CSC volunteers in action, helping organize and put together some of our many gifts we are preparing for the Santa City Event that is coming up in December.

Upcoming Events & Ongoing Opportunities

During November, we will continue to have many craft days where students can help volunteer in Santa City Prep Projects, so that our Santa City event in December will be a huge success, and be able to once again help our community love each other in easy and accessible ways. Our IGNITE group also plans to be working on a seasonal project that they can share festive joy with those in local nursing homes, so we look forward to partnering with them in that cause.



At Santa City, children ages 4-10 embark on a magical shopping adventure designed just for them. Upon arrival, parents are guided to a waiting area outside the main shopping zone. The elves help the kids explore various gift stations, where items range from \$0.50 to \$10. Once the gifts are selected and wrapped, the elves handle the checkout process. After shopping, children leave with their gifts, excited to share their selections with their families.



Learn More:

Hannah May
Volunteer Coordinator
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(785) 776-7787



HOLIDAY DAY FOOD DRIVE

Honoring Our Soldiers and Their Families

We'll be hosting a Food Drive November 1st - November 24th to support our soldiers and their families at Fort Riley.

We're Collecting:

Non-perishable food items — cereal, ramen noodles, mac & cheese, canned meats, peanut butter, dried potatoes, pasta, rice, oatmeal, granola bars, cooking oil, cake mixes, snacks and other shelf-stable foods.

Drop-off Location:

Manhattan Town Center, Suite 160 (beside Dillard's)

Hours:

Monday – Friday | 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM

A collection box will be available outside our gate for after-hours drop-offs.

Thank you for helping us support those who have served our country!

Happy Holiday Days

Volunteer Opportunities

November:

2nd: Daylight Savings Time Ends- move clocks ahead 1 hour!
11th: Veterans Day- Office Closed
14th: Harvesters; 3:30pm, Blue Valley Memorial UMC
18th: Harvesters; 9:00am, Cico Park
25th: Harvesters; 9:30am, Ogden Community Center
25th: Harvesters; 11:30pm, Downtown Manhattan (by Dillard's)
27th-28th: Office Closed for Thanksgiving Holiday

December:

6th: Santa City; 1-4pm, Pottorf Hall
12th: Harvesters; 3:30pm, Blue Valley Memorial UMC
16th: Harvesters; 9:00am, Cico Park
23rd: Harvesters; 9:30am, Ogden Community Center
23rd: Harvesters; 11:30pm, Downtown Manhattan (by Dillard's)
Dec. 22nd - Jan. 2nd Office Closed for Winter Holiday Break

Upcoming Opportunities:

Festival of Lights: The Hilton Garden Inn & Manhattan Conference Center is looking for 12 volunteers to help with the Festival of Lights event on Friday, November 28th. Volunteers arrive at 5:30 PM, event starts at 7:00 PM. Roles include serving hot chocolate and cookies from 5:30 PM to 8:00 PM, assisting with the breakdown and cleanup of the stands from approximately 8:00 PM to 8:30 PM, walking the event area to pick up trash, and helping block off the back parking lot during the drone show. The goal is to have everything wrapped up by 8:30 PM. If you're interested in volunteering, please let Meghan know at fhvcmhk@gmail.com.

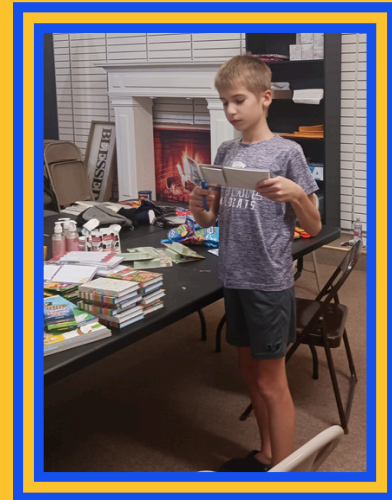
The Ogden Friendship House of Hope Ministry: Is in need of volunteers to help in their food pantry. The pantry is open on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM, and on Saturdays from 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM. If you're interested in helping, please let us know.

Cookie Brigade:

November 13

December- no Cookie Brigade this month

Cookies should be freshly baked within 24 hours of delivery to our office at 100 Manhattan Town Center, Suite 160 (Thursday by 1pm or the Wednesday before). Volunteers will package the cookies at the office before delivery.



*Welcome to
our 54 new
volunteers &
groups who
have enrolled in
September &
October!*

Flint Hills Volunteer Center

100 Manhattan Town Center, Suite 160
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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 RSVP of Riley County 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
fhvcmhk@gmail.com
flinthillsvolunteercenter.com

Our communities depend on great volunteers like you!