



MISSOURI STATE EMPLOYEES COME THROUGH AGAIN

Missouri state employees voiced their support for the Samaritan Center once again this year as they pledged contributions totaling \$60,670.42. The Missouri State Employees Charitable Campaign is more than just a source of funds for the Samaritan Center it is a vote of confidence from the people in our community. Each year the center's tally has been behind only the United Ways of St. Louis, Kansas City, and Central Missouri. To know that we have that kind of respect and support from our state employees tells us that we are doing our job well and that we are good stewards of charity in Mid Missouri. We appreciate this confidence; it is something we strive to deserve.

That these funds come from state workers, people who have gone without a raise for several years, means so much. This is a microcosm of what the Samaritan Center is about. Helping hands meeting needing hands is more than just a slogan; it is a statement of community. There are many state workers who have to keep a tight budget to stay out of the red, when you go for years without a raise, it would be easy to sacrifice charity for their own needs. They continue to support us though, each year the numbers go up for the campaign as a whole and for the Samaritan Center alone. This selfless giving allows Samaritan Center to aid our community, keeping all our funds right here at home.

The Samaritan Center operates without any direct government or United Way support, all of our funds coming from donations out of the private sector and from a few grants this makes contributions such as the MSECC all the more important without support such as this, we would be unable to work at the capacity that we do.

Thank you to all our supporters and especially to our state employees. We will do our best to continue to be good stewards of your donations and to serve the needs of Mid Missouri through the support of our community.

The Samaritan Center's Missouri State Employees Charitable Campaign number is 4026



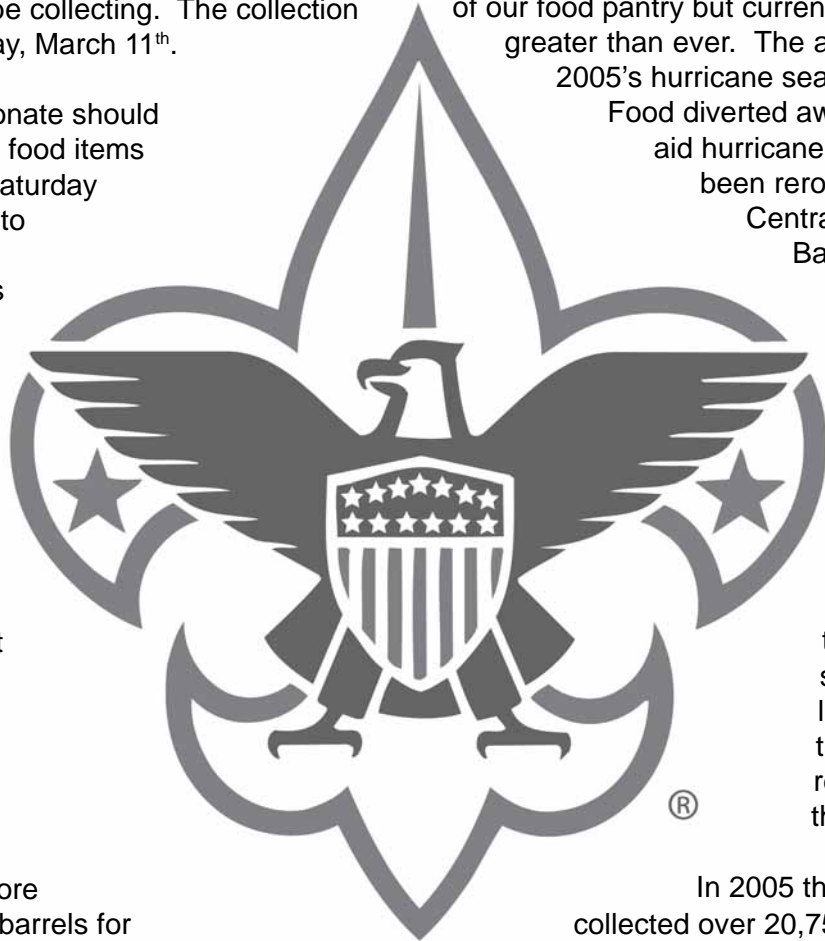
Samaritan Center Volunteer Executive Director, Marylyn DeFeo and other charity representatives receive a symbolic check from Governor Blunt representing the donations of the Missouri State Employees Charitable Campaign to non United Way Missouri Charities.

SCOUTING FOR FOOD

The Boy Scout food drive, a critical source of food for the Samaritan Center, is just around the corner. Scouts will be hitting neighborhoods the first week of March to distribute bags and fliers in the areas they will be collecting. The collection itself will be Saturday, March 11th.

Those wishing to donate should place no perishable food items outside their door Saturday morning for Scouts to pick up. The Samaritan Center is in most need of canned soups, canned meat or fish, canned fruit, and meals in a can (ravioli, spaghetti, etc.)

If your neighborhood is not covered by Scouts and you wish to donate you may bring items to any Jefferson City grocery store or Casey's General Store where there will be barrels for donations or simply bring the items to the Samaritan Center and tell us that you are contributing to the Boy Scout food drive.



Behind only the Letter Carrier's collection in May the Boy Scout food drive is the second largest food collection of the year for Samaritan Center. The food collected is always vital to the supplies of our food pantry but currently the need is greater than ever. The after effects of 2005's hurricane season are still with us.

Food diverted away from our area to aid hurricane victims has not been rerouted back. The Central Missouri Food Bank is still not able to provide the quantity or selection of food it once was. The generous support of the Mid Missouri community has allowed us to continue to aid our neighbors in need through these shortages. It looks like it will be some time before things return to normalcy if they ever do.

In 2005 the Boy Scouts collected over 20,750 pounds of food, a record tally for the event. The Scouts look to set a new record this year. Please do what you are able to help them, help us, and help our community!

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR FOOD DRIVE

The Samaritan Center will need volunteers to aid with the Boy Scout food drive. Volunteers are needed to help unload, sort, and store donated food as it is brought in by the Scouts. Shifts volunteers are needed are from 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM and from 1:00 PM – 5:00 PM. Food and drinks will be provided for all who attend. As one of two Saturdays the Samaritan Center is open in a year, this is an excellent opportunity for students to gain service hours. If you would like to volunteer please call the Samaritan Center at 634-7776 and let us know.

MARYLYN'S MESSAGE

Love is in the Air at the Samaritan Center!

Good News! Samaritan Center has been chosen again this year by so many state employees as their charity of choice. We are humbled by this fact that so many of you have put your faith in the Samaritan Center. Your gift of love for those who are in crisis in our community means that some family will have a home for their family, elderly folks will not have to choose between a warm house or their medications, kids will have lights to study by and not be afraid of the dark, cancer patients will have the gasoline they need to get to their treatment appointments in Columbia and those on fixed budgets will be able to get meat, eggs and margarine with their monthly groceries at our pantry.

We thank you again for all the extra food drives, Christmas adoptions, school supplies and a myriad of other inventive ways that you help us out throughout the year. God bless all of you for your gifts of love! Please know that we pray for all of our Donors every morning before we start work. Please pray for us too!

Thanks too to all of our Donors who give to us monthly at their churches, service organizations that have many fund raisers for us, children who hold rummage sales, students who not only come and volunteer time with us but also raise money through various creative fund raisers and others too numerous to mention. You all are the heartbeat of the Center that enables us to care for all of those in need! May God bless all of you and keep the flu bug from your door.

CHOCOLATE BUNNY TIME IS HERE

The Samaritan Center will begin collecting Easter Baskets on March 13. These Easter Baskets are distributed through our food pantry to families with children who are receiving food. Baskets can be assembled at home or of the pre-made variety. They may be for boy or girl or both and for any age group.

Easter basket distribution is a way of helping children who are less fortunate to experience holiday excitement that they otherwise may not. Baskets are distributed in sealed paper bags so that the children do not see them until the Easter Bunny delivers them.

The joy found in something as simple as an Easter basket can be critical to the development of a child. It brings a sense of normalcy to their lives that they are not passed over for holidays while friends or neighbors are not. Parents are not forced to choose between treating their children to a holiday tradition or some necessity because the budget is too tight. They are not forced to explain why the Easter Bunny did not come to their house, even though the children were well behaved and deserving.

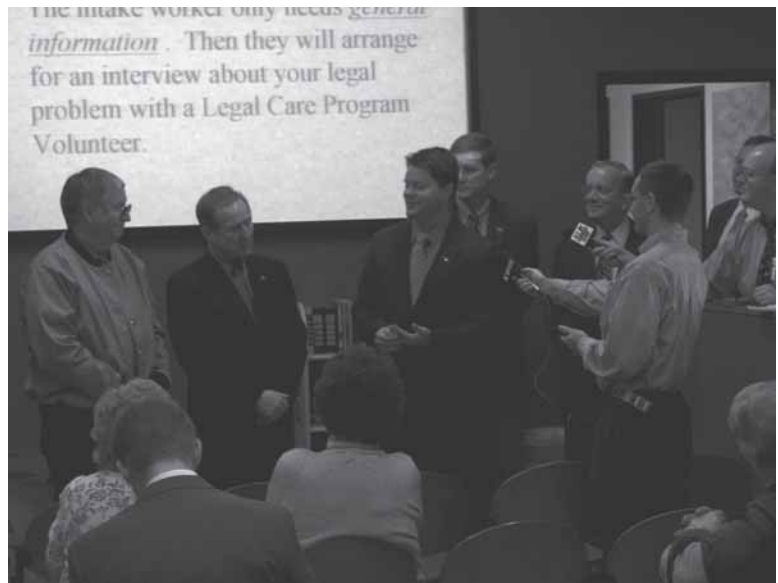
Baskets can be delivered to the Samaritan Center during normal hours: Monday, Wednesday, and Friday 8:00 AM – 4:00 PM; Tuesday and Thursday 8:00 AM – 6:00 PM.

THANKS JAYS BASKETBALL

Jefferson City High School Boys Basketball recently presented Marylyn DeFeo with a check for \$1,000. The team raised the funds to donate to the Samaritan Center.

LEGISLATORS VISIT SAMARITAN CENTER

House Speaker Rod Jetton held a press conference January 26th at the Samaritan Center to speak on new legislation being introduced to aid the elderly and others in need. One such bill is House Bill number 1581 which proposes fifty percent matching State tax credits for donations made to local food pantries such as the Samaritan Center. The credits would be limited to \$2,500.00 per taxpayer, are allowed to individuals and businesses, and total State-wide donations would be capped at two million dollars. Seen behind Speaker Jetton are representatives Mark Bruns and Bill Deeken.



DATES TO REMEMBER

March

- 3 Bags distributed for Scouting for Food
- 11 Boy Scout Food Drive
- 13 Easter Basket Collection Begins

April

- 13 No Evening Services/Clinic
- 14-17 CLOSED Easter Holiday

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www.midmosamaritan.org

1310 E McCarty Jefferson City MO 65101

Hours of Operation

Open to Public: 9:30am-11:30am Monday-Thursday
 4:00pm-6:00pm Thursday

Medical Clinic: 4:00pm-6:00pm Thursday

Dental Clinic: by appointment Only,
 call (573)761-3473 for information

Staff Office Hours: 8:00am-4:00pm Monday, Wednesday, Friday
 8:00am-6:00pm Tuesday Thursday

