



**ST. JOHN'S MERCY
NEIGHBORHOOD MINISTRY**

3660 Gravois, St. Louis, MO 63116
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NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

November 2009

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- **November is Homeless Awareness Month**
- **Hope is Moving In**
- **What's New on MNM's Website**
- **Welcome Sr. Jonella Rhoda**
- **Cold Weather Needs**
- **Weatherization Program**
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Mission:

St. John's Mercy Neighborhood Ministry, a department of St. John's Mercy Health Care, connects the economically underserved with appropriate health and social service resources. In partnership with community organizations, we improve access to care and quality of life for those in need.

NOVEMBER IS HOMELESS AWARENESS MONTH

Please consider participating in some of the many Homeless Awareness events planned.



1. Race for Home – 5K, 10K, and 1 mile races – Saturday, November 7, 2009, 8:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

Location: St. Louis Riverfront Trail, 21 O'Fallon, St. Louis, MO 63102, Old North St. Louis

Race for Home is a 5K/10K Run and 1 mile walk benefiting the work of Peter & Paul Community Services, a non-profit agency providing housing and supportive services for those who are homeless, especially those who live with mental illness and HIV.

REGISTRATION: \$20.00 per person. You may register online at <http://www.ppcsinc.org/Events/RaceforHome/index.html>. Call Emily Wanner, 314-588-7111 ext. 203 or email her at ewanner@ppcsinc.org for additional information.

2. Walking Home – “Walk in their shoes. Tell their stories. Change the world” – Sat., November 14, 10 a.m.

Location: The Bridge, Centenary United Methodist Church, 1610 Olive St., 63103

To bring awareness and information during National Homeless Awareness Month. Donation only walk. Complimentary lunch. Agencies and guests invited to attend and distribute information about services and programs. Contact Deb Crowe, 314-421-3136, ext. 107 or dcrowe@bridgestl.org

3. Governor's Committee to End Homelessness Announces Homelessness Awareness Event to be Held at Missouri State Capitol <http://www.masw.org/HMIS/> – November 19, 2009

The Governor's Committee to End Homelessness will hold its fourth annual Homelessness Awareness Day Event on November 19, 2009 on the first floor rotunda of the Capitol building in Jefferson City. Will include educational workshops for agency staff and agencies are invited to register for display tables to provide information on what they are doing in their communities to address the issue of homelessness.



The workshops are scheduled from 10:30 a.m.—11:30 a.m. and then will repeat in the afternoon from 1:15 p.m.—2:15 p.m. following the main program.

(continued on next page)

Workshops Offered

HEARTH Act

The HEARTH Act workshop will provide an overview of changes in the Continuum of Care Homeless Assistance Programs and the new HUD definition of homelessness.

How To Raise Awareness in Your Community

This session will offer ways for you or your agency to create awareness about homelessness in your community. The workshop will discuss national models of awareness events taking place in communities across the country. Resources for creating and implementing awareness activities will be provided. The

workshop will also include information on designing, coordinating, and executing a Project Homeless Connect event in your community.

Educational Needs and Rights of Homeless Children

In Missouri, over 12,000 children were identified as homeless during the 2008-09 school year. Participants will learn the definition of homelessness for the implementation of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Act and the unique needs of homeless children and youth who experience homelessness on a daily basis.

To register for any of the above workshops or set up a free information table, send an email to jivey@masw.org indicating the name of the workshop as well as morning or afternoon session including your name, agency name, address, phone number. Deadline is November 13.

4. Project Homeless Connect – December 8, 2009, 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

The City of St. Louis will conduct its 5th Annual Project Homeless Connect as part of a nationwide initiative. The goal is to connect homeless individuals to benefits, medical care, substance abuse and mental health counseling and a variety of social services which can lead to housing and self-sufficiency. It will be held at Harris-Stowe State University, Emerson Building/Gymnasium, 3026 Laclede Ave., 63103.

The event is free and open to all who are homeless. If you would like to participate as a vendor, please contact Katherine Pyron of St. Louis City Homeless Services, pyronk@stlouiscity.com or 314-657-1712.

5. Longest Night Memorial Service – Monday, December 21, 2009, 4:00 p.m.



The Bridge will host the Longest Night Memorial Service at Centenary United Methodist Church to remember homeless individuals who passed away during 2009. Complimentary dinner to follow service. Contact Natalie Ray at nray@stlidd.org with any names of homeless individuals you wish to add to program. "Everyone is important. Everyone should be remembered."

HOPE IS MOVING IN – St. Louis City Continuum of Care



"Hope is Moving In" will provide prevention assistance to households who would otherwise become homeless – primarily due to the economic crisis – and will rapidly re-house persons who are homeless.

The following hubs will begin opening during the month of November. Hours vary. **APPOINTMENTS ARE NECESSARY!** Call 1-877-354-6734 or 1-877-704-6734 for Prevention, and 314-802-5444 for Rapid Re-housing services.

Rapid Re-housing – 314-802-5444

Housing Resource Center, 800 N. Tucker, 63101

Prevention Hubs:

Southwest Homelessness Prevention

Siegel Elementary School, 2039 Russell Blvd., 63104
Opening 11/3/09: Serving Wards 6,7,9,11,15,20,25

Northwest Homelessness Prevention

Stevens Middle School, 1033 Whittier Street, 63113
Opening 11/10/09: Serving Wards 1,17,18,22,24,26,28

Southeast Homelessness Prevention

Mullanphy Elementary School, 42221 Shaw Blvd., 63110
Opening 11/17/09: Serving Wards 8,10,12,13,14,16,23

Northeast Homelessness Prevention

Clay Elementary School, 3820 N. 14th Street, 63107
Opening 11/24/09: Serving Wards 2,3,4,5,19,21,27

To determine your ward, visit the City of St. Louis website:
<http://stlcin.missouri.org/alderman/WardMap.cfm>

Check out the Continuum of Care website: www.hopeismovingin.com.

WHAT'S NEW ON MNM'S WEBSITE

New Resource Lists found on St. John' Mercy Neighborhood Ministry's (MNM) website include:

- Domestic Violence
- Hepatitis A Vaccine

www.stjohnsmc.org/services/neighborhoodministry/

WELCOME SR. JONELLA RHODA



Please join us in welcoming Jonella Rhoda, RSM, to the Neighborhood Ministry. Sr. Jonella was born in St. Louis, MO and attended St. Catherine's High School in Webster Groves which was run by the Sisters of Mercy. At the age of 21 she entered the convent. She received her Bachelor's Degree from Webster College and her Master's in Math from St. Louis University. She was a teacher and principal for many years and spent seven years serving on the Sisters of Mercy Leadership Team. Sr. Jonella speaks fondly of her time in Australia with the Sisters of Mercy and in Jerusalem for a bible study during an 11 month sabbatical. Most recently she has worked with the retired Sisters.

The Ministry is excited to have Sr. Jonella on board. WELCOME!

COLD WEATHER NEEDS



The cold weather is coming (like it or not) and some in our community will be in need of items to keep them warm. The Volunteer Winter Outreach Teams will meet at The Bridge on cold winter nights, load their cars with supplies of blankets, water, etc., and check on those who are sleeping in the elements. If you are interested in making a donation of any of the following items or volunteering, please contact the Neighborhood Ministry at 314-865-0927.

Outside: heavy socks, scarves, hats, winter coats, gloves, winter boots, Chap Stick.

Gear: blankets, sleeping bags, backpacks.

Inside: Coffee, cocoa, tea bags, coffee cups with lids, pop-top soup in cans.

ATTENTION MERCY CO-WORKERS: The Mission Department at St. John's Mercy Medical Center will be collecting new hats, gloves/mittens and scarves, as well as new or gently used winter coats for the JFK Clinic and the Neighborhood Ministry. For more information, contact Christine Jacobs at 314-251-4640.

WEATHERIZATION PROGRAM

Help keep Old Man Winter outside and keep utility bills down. The Urban League has a Weatherization Assistance Program for low-income homeowners or renters.



Assistance may include insulation, window & door caulking, dryer venting, furnace repair/replacement, and hot water tank repair. There is an application process and the following documents must be supplied:

Picture ID
Proof of home ownership
Signed homeowner authorization form
Gas bill
Electric bill

Consent to participate form must be signed
EPA lead poisoning notice must be read and signed

Call the Urban League at 314-615-3612 for more information.

HALLOWEEN COSTUME DONATIONS

Thank you, St. John's Mercy Co-workers who donated gently used Halloween and dance costumes to the Neighborhood Ministry. The costumes were given to Neighborhood Houses - Caroline Mission and Isaiah 58 Ministries. Pictured is Tricia Gooden, Center Director, and Josephine Fields, Parish Nurse at Caroline Mission.



Tricia Gooden and Josephine Fields

WEBSITE FEATURE

www.stjohnsmercy.org/services/neighborhoodministry/bulletin_boards.asp

Check out the “Ready-to-Post” **Cold Weather** information under the “Bulletin Boards” section on the MNM website. There you’ll find flyers titled:

- ❄️ *Frostbite & Hypothermia*
- ❄️ *Who is Most Affected?*
- ❄️ *Stay Safe in the Cold*



EYE CARE IS COLLECTING PERSONAL CARE ITEMS

St. John’s Mercy Eye Care will be collecting personal care items from now through Thanksgiving for the Neighborhood Ministry to distribute to the underserved in our community. Items needed include:

bath soap
body lotion
Chapstick
cotton swabs

deodorant
disposable razors
feminine products
mouthwash

shampoo
sunscreen
tissues
toilet paper

toothbrushes
toothpaste
adult socks (white)
adult undergarments

All items should be new and in their original packaging. You may drop off your items at any St. John’s Mercy Eye Care locations. For additional information you may call 314-752-2679.

BREAST HEALTH SCREENINGS

The St. John’s Mercy Mammography Van is in the community helping uninsured women access breast cancer screenings and will soon be visiting the following site:

November 4
Pilgrim Congregational UCC
826 N. Union
St. Louis, MO 63108
314-584-6447 – parish nurse



Please call the location 2-3 weeks in advance to schedule an appointment, and call St. John’s Mercy David C. Pratt Cancer Center, 314-251-6400, for more information on breast health.

Funding for this program is provided by: Missouri Show Me Healthy Women, Susan G. Komen for the Cure St. Louis Affiliate, and St. John’s Mercy David C. Pratt Cancer Center

REMINDER: Do your breast self-exam once a month.

VETERANS DAY EVENT – CEREMONY AND PARADE HONORING VETERANS



Saturday, November 7, 2009

Location: IN AND AROUND SOLDIERS MEMORIAL MILITARY MUSEUM

Address: 1315 Chestnut - Downtown

Hours: Opens at 10:30 a.m.

10:55 a.m. – Flag Raising & Wreath Laying Ceremony to honor all veterans.

12:00 noon – Parade begins.

Route - East bound Olive at 14th, South on 14th to Chestnut, East on Chestnut to Tucker (12th), South on Tucker to Market, West on Market to Union Station at 20th. Parade ends at 20th Street. Event is free and open to the public - everyone is invited to come and honor our veterans.

UPCOMING MINISTRY VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES



Below are community volunteer opportunities made available to St. John's Mercy Co-workers. Co-workers can visit the "Mercy Gives Back" website on the St. John's Mercy intranet for complete details of these events plus view additional opportunities, both internal and external of St. John's Mercy.

Agencies with volunteer needs, may call the Ministry to discuss collaborative opportunities.

St. Vincent's Church Meal Program

4:15 – 6:30 p.m.

10 – 15 co-workers needed to serve dinner to homeless or low-income individuals and families

Dec 1

Dec 29

Peter & Paul Community Services

Emergency Men's Shelter

6:15 – 8:30 p.m.

5-6 co-workers needed to spend 1 on 1 time talking with the men. Departments or groups may also sign up to cater the evening meal to 70 men.

Nov 17

Dec 16

The Bridge Meal Program

Centenary United Methodist Church

10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. or 11:00 – 1:00

2 – 3 co-workers needed to help prepare, serve and clean up lunch.

Nov 13

Dec 2

Dec 3

Dec 11

Food Outreach, Inc.

Cook & Pack

8:00 – 11:00 a.m.

10 co-workers needed to assist with food preparation, cooking, and packaging home-cooked meals for persons living with HIV/AIDS or Cancer.

Dec 5

Food Distribution

10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

5 co-workers needed to fill food orders at our on-site "grocery store" for persons living with HIV/AIDS or Cancer.

Nov 21

**CO-WORKERS SHOULD CALL THE NEIGHBORHOOD MINISTRY TO SIGN-UP
FOR ANY OF THESE OPPORTUNITIES,
314-865-0927.**

GET CONNECTED! www.stjohnsmercy.org/services/neighborhoodministry

Area resources are just a click away! *Visit the Neighborhood Ministry's website to find:*

- Clinics
- Prescription Assistance
- Utility & Rent Assistance
- Mental Health Sliding Scale programs
- Free Clothing Sites
- Employment & Training Assistance
- Downtown Homeless Resources & Map
- And More!