

The Volunteer Voice



**KINGDOM
HOUSE**
CHANGE BEGINS WITHIN

MONTHLY VOLUNTEER NEWSLETTER

Volume 5, Issue 2

Senior Editor: Julie Strassman Associate Editor: Natalie Gemberling February 2017

MLK Day at Kingdom House - Volunteers Lead the Way

With the help of volunteers, Kingdom House and Manchester United Methodist Church continued the success of their annual Martin Luther King Jr. Day event! The event brought over 60 people of all backgrounds and ages together, including participants and volunteers from Manchester UMC, Woodlawn Chapel Presbyterian Church, Alpha Kappa Alpha (AKA) sorority, and Kingdom House and its surrounding neighborhood.

After a fellowship lunch, the adults watched the 2016 movie "Race," based on the true story of track and field athlete Jesse Owens at the 1936 Summer Olympics in Berlin. After the movie, the adults discussed the importance of Jesse Owens, both at the Berlin Olympics (where his four gold medal wins proved the Nazi ideology of Aryan superiority to be false) and for the Civil Rights movement in America.

Meanwhile, the sorority sisters of AKA, the oldest Greek-letter organization established in America by Black college women, facilitated the children's activities. The children watched the movie "The Watsons Go to Birmingham" and learned about the Children's March, which helped to end segregation in Birmingham, Alabama and across the United States. After the movie, the children imagined that they were going to participate in the Children's March. They made signs protesting school segrega-



tion and learned the Civil Rights song "We Shall Overcome." Then, they sang and marched for the adults, who were taking a break between their movie and discussion. Thanks to the volunteers, the participants were able to spend MLK Day learning more about influential African Americans and their great contributions to our country: Jesse Owens' Olympic wins and the Birmingham children's march for civil rights. Thank you to everyone who attended and volunteered!

Happy Valentine's Day!

Thank you for showing love to the families we serve, through your time and support.

Volunteers are love in motion.

- Author Unknown



New Volunteers

- ♦ Alejandro Martinez
- ♦ Summer Sun
- ♦ McKenzie Telthorst
- ♦ Dora Xie

Welcome to the KH Team!

February Birthdays

- ♦ Katherine Nicoloff
- ♦ Rachel Sanford
- ♦ Leanne Silva

Happy Birthday!

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Volunteer Spotlight - After School Assistant Ashlee Ayers

How long have you been volunteering with us and what keeps you coming back to volunteer at Kingdom House?

I started volunteering with the After School Program in Oct. 2014. The kids have had such an impact on my life. Their smiling faces keep me coming back every week. I miss them so much during the summer! If I can make one of their days better each week, then I know I've done a part in advancing Kingdom House's mission.

How did you first hear about/get involved with volunteering at Kingdom House?

I searched high and low for a volunteer opportunity in 2014. I scoured the internet and told friends about the type of volunteer experience I was looking for. After months of looking, a friend told me about a place her boyfriend had volunteered at during Christmas time. She knew they had a youth program and it was located downtown. That's all she could remember! I eventually figured out it was Kingdom House. After my first meeting with Dan it felt like the right spot for me.

How has volunteering at Kingdom House benefited you?

It has helped me become more aware of how I can connect and engage with others outside of my community. It is so easy to live in a bubble and put up blinders to the world. But I don't want to live that way. I ask God constantly to break my heart by showing me what breaks his. Volunteering at Kingdom House allows me to take a small step toward being his hands and feet.

How do you enjoy spending your free time (when not volunteering at KH)?

I love to be outside! Hiking, kayaking, gardening, swimming - any excuse to be in the sunshine and the trees is a good one to me! I also serve as a youth leader and co-lead a Bible study for 30 some things at Metro Community Church in Edwardsville.



Save the Date for Spring Bling - Women Empowering Women



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5th Annual
Spring Bling

Thursday
MARCH 9, 2017
6 - 9 p.m.



Live & Silent Auction featuring
Designer Handbags & Accessories

TICKETS: \$50 ADVANCE | \$60 DAY OF
KINGDOMHOUSE.ORG

Through holistic programs, we empower
women to achieve economic independence
and self-sufficiency.



THIS YEAR'S EVENT WILL BE HELD AT THE
ORIGINAL HOME TO THE ST. LOUIS ARTISTS' GUILD,
NOW NAMED THE BOO CAT CLUB

812 Union Blvd., St Louis, MO 63108

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