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Living a life that matters.

2013 Fund Drive – Shepherd’s Center of Kansas City, Kansas

Date: _____
Name: _____ Telephone: _____ Amount Pledged: _____

As a friend of the Shepherd’s Center, I realize how important it is to live a life that matters. Below is my pledge to help the Shepherd’s Center of Kansas City, Kansas provide programs and services for older adults in our community.

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Shepherd's Trailblazer (\$1000 and over) | <input type="checkbox"/> Shepherd's Century (\$100-\$249) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Shepherd's Benefactor (\$500-\$999) | <input type="checkbox"/> Shepherd's Sustainer (\$50-\$99) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Shepherd's Patron (\$250-\$499) | <input type="checkbox"/> Shepherd's Friend _____ |

Payments will start on _____ and be made as follows:

Monthly Quarterly Semi-Annually Annually

Payment enclosed _____ Balance due _____

Signed: (x) _____ Address: _____

All gifts are tax deductible. Please sign by the (x). Then detach and return this section to:

Shepherd’s Center of Kansas City, Kansas * 757 Armstrong Ave., Kansas City, KS 66101 * 913-281-8908 *
www.sckck.org



The Shepherd's Voice

December 2013

A monthly newsletter of the Shepherd's Center of Kansas City, KS

Adventures in Learning

A free program of the Shepherd’s Center held the third Friday of every month at **Grace Lutheran Church, 3333 Wood Ave, KCK.**

Everyone is welcome.
Celebrate Christmas with us at
Adventures in Learning!

The Adventures in Learning Schedule for Friday, December 20, 2013

9:00—10:00 a.m. Health Screenings (no cost)
Blood sugar and blood pressure checks provided by
Delores Homes, LLC

10:00—Noon
We will enjoy a Christmas video
“A Currier and Ives Christmas”
Christmas music from our friends –
Laura Grace Bynum, piano

Tracy Case, organist for Welborn Community Church will entertain us with piano and voice
Mang Sonna with Bethel Neighborhood Center – singing Christmas selections

12:00 Noon: Lunch – bring a potluck item or snack
Shepherd’s Center will provide meat, bread and paper goods. Please bring a potluck item to share and we will enjoy a wonderful lunch together

12:30 p.m. Christmas Celebrating
Presiding: Rev. Ken Nettling
Invocation: Rev. Ken Nettling
Program: Ken will lead us in singing Christmas carols, and Tracy Case will accompany on the piano. Come and enjoy Christmas with us!

Join us for Adventures in Learning.
Merry Christmas
and
Happy New Year!

Another way to help the Shepherd’s Center of KCK

Did you know that the Charitable IRA rollover provision of the American Taxpayer Relief Act ends on December 31, 2013? That is important, because it allows individuals to make a tax free distribution of up to \$100,000 from a traditional or Roth IRA for charitable purposes. This could allow you to make a significant gift to the Shepherd’s Center! You must be 70 or older and may transfer up to \$100,000. Your gift will count toward your minimum distribution for 2013 and will not be taxed for federal income tax purposes (we do advise you check state tax rules, however). If you are interested in this giving opportunity, check with your financial advisor/ IRA custodian on how to help the Shepherd’s Center of KCK with this special opportunity.



Top three announcements from the Shepherd’s Center

1. Many thanks go to Margaret Steele and Kansas Gas Service/ One OK Foundation, for their generous gift!
2. Thanks go out to Diane Lee, our Parkinson’s Support Group leader, for coordinating a holiday meal for this loyal group. Diane has been so helpful with the group – and anyone interested is welcome at the support group or the Parkinson’s exercise group. Call the office at 913-281-8908 for more information.
3. Thanks to board members Carol Levers and Vernon Pierce, who are leaving our board after serving 2 terms of 3 years each. Your service is appreciated!

Annual Campaign Update

We are so very grateful to our many generous donors (more than 60 individual and corporate donors to date!) who have made a gift or pledge to the continued programming of the Shepherd's Center. So far during our campaign season we have raised almost \$12,000! But, we have a long way to go to our goal of \$25,000, so if you have not yet made a gift you can be assured we would be grateful to receive one, no matter the size! We hope you know by now that without you, there would be no Shepherd's Center. We have included a pledge form on the back of this newsletter. Please consider making a gift today – simply fill out the pledge form and mail it to us here at the Shepherd's Center of KCK – 757 Armstrong Ave., Kansas City, Kansas, 66101.

Program updates

** Our **Prayer Shawl Ministries** group continues to stay quite active. More than 25 shawls have recently been created and given to Providence Medical Center and St. Luke's Cushing Hospital in Leavenworth, Ks.

The **Prayer Shawl group could use donations of the 4-ply variety of yarn (it is sturdier)**. If you have yarn you would like to donate, you may call the office at 913-281-8908 and make arrangements to drop it off, or Melissa will come pick it up from you!

** Our **Minor Home Repair** volunteers have loyally continued to handle requests for help. Here is an excerpt from a thank you note we have received from one recipient of this service:

“Just want to thank you for your part in the recent help I got. I love my safe place to shower now. Awesome! I'm now proud of my yard and hope I'm able to do a bit of gardening this spring.... Thanks again!”



Melissa Bynum

Message from the Interim Executive Director

I keep wondering where the year 2013 has gone! I am told the older one gets, the faster time goes, and I certainly believe it. However, we have enjoyed yet another successful year here at the Shepherd's Center of KCK and there are so many individuals, organizations and churches to thank for that. I can't list everyone here, however I want to highlight a few now, and continue to acknowledge our friends and partners during the New Year. We are so grateful for our many supporting congregations – especially Grace Lutheran, Wyandotte United Methodist, University United Methodist, Trinity Community Church, Living Water United Methodist, Immanuel Lutheran, and of course First Baptist Church – for 26+ years of allowing us use of their building for Adventures in Learning. These churches have graciously

opened their doors to us and allowed the use of their wonderful buildings for our programs and meetings. So many other churches have supported us in so many ways – ministers have provided “Words of Inspiration,” shared musical talents, given monetary gifts, shared our programming information, and many other donations. Our church connections are our roots, and the mainstay of our organization. Thank you to all!

Old friends, new partnership: Continuing in our theme of church partnerships, we are excited to announce that Trinity Community Church has received a grant for “Digital Inclusion,” and they reached out to the Shepherd's Center of KCK to partner on this project aimed at increasing the digital and internet skills of those who do not currently have them, such as older adults. We are excited to begin working with Trinity to increase the “connectivity” of our target population. Stay tuned in 2014 for a schedule of opportunities to participate in this creative venture.

Do you know a friend who is unaware of the Shepherd's Center? Share our newsletter and then ask them if they would be willing to be on our newsletter mailing list. Are you aware of a church that is not receiving our communications? Send their contact information to me here at the office. Our goal is to reach out to any and all with an invite to participate in our fellowship, programs and services. Until next year..... be happy and blessed!

Margaret Steele, with Kansas Gas Service, presented the Shepherd's Center board with a generous donation at our November board meeting. These funds will support our Friends for Seniors and other home services programs. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to Margaret and Ks Gas Service!



Resources for you!

- The Mid-America Regional Council (MARC) has created www.linkforcare.org, a regional online database of resources that can help veterans, older adults, persons with disabilities and low-income residents gain access to services. The online directory has information in categories such as health, safety, care management, nutrition, transportation, mental health and many other areas.
- Our friends at The Humane Society of Greater Kansas City have developed a Pet Food Bank for pet owners who need assistance feeding their cats or dogs. Owners should present evidence of assistance (Social Security) to receive pet food while supplies last. The Humane Society is located at 5445 Parallel Pkwy, Kansas City, Ks. Call 913-596-1000 for more information. The food bank is supported by Royal Canin and the Banfield Charitable Trust.

Message from the Board President

First, I want to acknowledge Melissa Bynum as our Executive Director of the Shepherd's Center. Melissa has been interim director while we were searching to fill that position and has done a tremendous job. The Shepherd's Center will be in good hands with Melissa as the Executive Director. Second, my term as president of the Shepherd's Center has come to an end and I want to thank everyone for the privilege afforded me to serve such an honorable organization; one that promotes and supports successful aging. If you are looking for something to do to give back during this time of giving, consider one or more of our programs: Vial of Life, Minor Home Repair or Friends for Seniors would be good choices. If for some reason you cannot physically do something but want to give to help the Shepherd's Center continue what we are doing, we will appreciate your gift.

It is that time of the year when we celebrate Christmas - a season of hope and joy, a time to give thanks for the blessings that surround us, not just in December, but every day of the year. As President Kennedy said, “To whom much is given much is expected.” We have much to be thankful for in this country, and we have a responsibility to help those in need. Jesus calls us to help others, and acts of kindness toward the less fortunate fulfill the spirit of the Christmas season. Ebenezer Scrooge was unhappy, not because of a failure to get, **but to give**. This is the most important message of Christmas. **Benjamin Franklin said A good conscience is a continual Christmas. Washington Irving said Christmas is a season for kindling the fire for hospitality in the hall, the genial flame of charity in the heart. Garrison Keillor said A lovely thing about Christmas is that it's compulsory, like a thunderstorm, and we all go through it together.** I want to acknowledge the **Volunteers** who return year after year to assist us, especially the board who take time out of their busy schedules to act as fiduciary agents for this organization. I want to thank the **Donors** who remain loyal to our organization, the **Staff** who are fully engaged and productive, add value to this organization and who love working with the board and for this organization. On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Shepherd's Center of Kansas City, Kansas, I wish you our best for a Blessed and Merry Christmas.



Carol Levers