

DMARC E-Bulletin

For the week of December 15, 2008

Here are this week's announcements. Please help publicize these events in your congregation's bulletin, newsletter or bulletin board or pass the information to someone who can benefit from it.

DMARC ANNOUNCEMENTS

DMARC PREFERRED PERSONAL PRODUCTS DONATION SITES:

Needed items include: *diapers, baby wipes, baby powder, deodorant, toothbrushes, toothpaste, shampoo, bars of soap, razors and feminine hygiene products.*

BIDWELL RIVERSIDE CENTER, 1203 Hartford Ave., DM 50315 244-6251 Contact: Josh/Cassie

CITY OF WEST D.M. HUMAN SERVICES, 318 5th St., WDM 50265 222-3660
Contact: Tammy Lage

DOWNTOWN FOOD PANTRY SITE, 701 Grand Ave., DM 50309 243-1381 Contact: Sherry Kepner

FOREST AVENUE COMM. CENTER, 2011 Forest Ave., DM 50311 248-6241
Contact: Danita Parker

IOWA HOMELESS YOUTH CENTERS, 1219 Buchanan St., DM 503126 or 265-1222 Contact: Nikki Dempsey

RED ROCK COMMUNITY ACTION PROGRAM, Neveln Resource Center, # 305, 406 SW School St., Ankeny, 50023 965-0433 Contact: Sharon Brooks

ST. MARY FAMILY CENTER, 1815 Hubbell Ave., D.M. 50316 262-7290 Contact: Susie Paloma

SALVATION ARMY SOCIAL SERVICES, 1300 6th Ave or 1216 E 25th Ct., DM 50314/ 50317- 282-3422/ 266-3156 Contact: Shireen Braman/Joanne Norelius

All preferred sites report collections to DMARC which allows us to track distribution and to better serve those in need.

Sack Saturday Opportunities

Are you looking for a way to get more involved in the community? Each month the Des Moines Area Religious Council seeks volunteers to participate in Sack Saturdays.

Participants are asked to commit two hours to greeting shoppers at local grocery stores and encouraging either their purchase of sacks of food items costing \$5.00, individual items of food (such as peanut butter, cereal, pasta, soups) or cash. The food items collected are used to supply local food pantries in the Des Moines area. Money collected is used to purchase additional food items. This is an ideal opportunity for church, business or civic groups to work together to help meet a need in our community.

Please contact Cindy Morton, DMARC Red Barrel Coordinator at 277-6969 or 238-4593 to sign up for a sack Saturday.

DMARC Emergency Food Pantry Needs Paper Grocery Bags

DMARC's nine food pantries are in need of paper grocery bags in good condition. The pantries reuse paper sacks for packing food items to be given out to those in need. Large quantities of these paper sacks are consumed in the process, and the need is ongoing. Purchasing paper grocery sacks is not possible due to cost, and therefore, recycling paper sacks for this purpose is our only option. If you have extra paper sacks, you can drop them off at DMARC or any of our nine pantry locations.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Next Deadline - December 26

The Des Moines Area Religious Council makes every effort to provide accurate and useful general information in its E-bulletin but accepts no liability for the use of the material by individuals or organizations. We gladly distribute information from individuals, congregations and other agencies but our inclusion of such material should not be construed as sponsorship or endorsement by DMARC.

DECEMBER

Kwanzaa Community Celebrations 2008

1. **Friday 12/26/08**, 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. at Logan Boys & Girls Club, 1740 E. Garfield Des Moines.

Hosted by the Boys & Girls Clubs of Central Iowa, Kwanzaa Committee.

UMOJA (Unity) To Strive for and maintain unity in the family, community, nation and race.

2. **Saturday 12/27/08**, 4:00 to 5:30 p.m. at 315 E. 5th Street, Des Moines.

Hosted by the Gateway Dance Theater, IMMAWII, NAACP (Des Moines Branch), Youth Incentives, Inc.

KUJICHAGULIA (Self-determination) To define ourselves, name ourselves, create for ourselves, and speak for ourselves instead of being defined, named, created for, and spoken for by others.

3. **Sunday 12/28/08**, 4:00 to 5:30 p.m. at 3619 6th Avenue, Des Moines

Hosted by Cultural Inc.

UJIMA (Collective Work and Responsibility) To build and maintain our community together and make our sister's and brother's problems our problems and to solve them together.

4. Monday 12/29/08, 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. at Eddie Davis Community Center, 1312 Maple Street, West Des Moines
Hosted by the African American Business Assoc., Alliance Black Telecommunications Professionals, Delta Sigma Theta.

UJAMAA (Cooperative Economics) To build and maintain our own stores, shops, and other businesses and to profit from them together.

5. Tuesday 12/30/08, 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. at Grubb YMCA, 1611-11th Street, Des Moines.
Hosted by the John R. Grubb YMCA, The Links, Inc. (Des Moines Chapter).

NIA (Purpose) To make our collective vocation the building and developing of our community in order to restore our people to their traditional greatness.

6. Wednesday 12/31/08, 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. at Willkie House, 900-17th Street, Des Moines.
Hosted by Creative Visions, Martin Foundation, Concerned Citizens for Justice.

KUUMBA (Creativity) To do always as much as we can, in the way we can, in order to leave our community more beautiful and beneficial than we inherited it.

7. Thursday 1/1/08, 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. at King of Kings Missionary Baptist Church, 619 SE 15th Street, Des Moines.
Hosted by the African American Leadership Coalition.

IMANI (Faith) To believe with all our heart in our people, our parents, our teachers, our leaders, and the righteousness and victory of our struggle.

Tuesday, December 16

ADVENT PRAYERS FOR PEACE

St. John's Lutheran Church is hosting this service presented by the Rt. Rev. Alan Scarfe, Episcopal Bishop of Iowa. The service begins at noon. Enter at Southwest office door (ground level). Off-street parking is very limited.

Sunday, December 21

CHRISTMAS CANTATA

St. Mark Lutheran Church presents The Incarnation by K. Lee Scott. The concert includes choir, brass, organ and timpani. St. Mark is located at 1115 Grand Avenue in West Des Moines, and the concert starts at 9:00 a.m.

For more information, visit www.stmarkwdm.org or call 223 -4208.

Sunday, December 28

A PRAYER SERVICE FOR PEACE

December 28 is the Feast of the Holy Innocents. Service will be held at St. Catherine of Sienna Catholic Church at 7:00 p.m.

JANUARY

Saturday, January 10 **POVERTY SIMULATION**

The Catholic Pastoral Center and the Iowa State University Extension Office present this simulation designed to help participants begin to understand what it might be like to live in a typical low-income family trying to survive from month to month. Participants assume the roles of different families facing poverty. The task of all families is to provide for basic necessities and shelter during the course of four 15 minute weeks.

For info visit www.CatholicCharitiesDM.org or call Susie Paloma at 262-7290.

January 30 - 31

OPEN MIND, LISTENING HEART: DISCOVERING GOD'S VOICE IN EVERYDAY LIFE

The Rev. Jane Vennard will present this workshop. Jane Vennard is ordained to a special ministry of teaching and spiritual direction in the UCC and is senior adjunct faculty at the Iliff School of Theology in Denver. Rev. Vennard is a retreat leader, author and spiritual director. Registration begins Friday at 6:30 p.m. The cost for Friday only is \$15.00, Saturday only is \$25.00, and both sessions is \$35.00. Friday, the conference runs from 7:00 ó 8:30 p.m. and on Saturday from 9:00 a.m. to noon.

Register early at 255-3149 or mhawkins@plymouthchurch.com by Wed. Jan 27.

FEBRUARY

February 22

DES MOINES AREA RELIGIOUS COUNCIL FOOD PANTRY

DMARC's third annual Soup Supper at will be held at St. John's Lutheran Church from 4:30 ó 7:00 p.m. The cost is \$10.00 per person and includes a free ceramic bowl made by local artist.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SCAN AWAY HUNGER : Friday, Nov. 28th through December.

Scan away hunger plates are available at your Hy-Vee store. Each time your checker scans the code on your Scan Away Hunger plate, \$2.05 is added to your bill to feed and care for homeless and hungry people at Hope Ministries.

All funds received through Scan Away Hunger will be used to help feed and care for homeless and hungry men, women and children in central Iowa throughout the year. Stop in to participating Hy-Vee stores before Christmas, Dec. 25 to support those in need throughout the holiday season.

Visiting Nurse Services (VNS)

VNS has provided public health services in Polk County for 100 years. Today we are witnessing the health care crisis unfolding among our clients especially in our Adult Health Program. The Adult Health Program, a public health funded program, works with clients who are uninsured and underinsured and in desperate need of medical attention. Through public health funding, VNS can assist those who have no other ability to get care, yet, the numbers of clients needing help has tripled while the public health dollars to provide services has been cut. The need for supplies is crucial.

VNS is seeking support from area churches and civic groups to hold a supply drive for our Adult Health Program. The following items are high need items for our program:

Sterile dressings in the following dimensions:

4ö x 4ö

5ö x 9ö

2ö x 2ö

Band-Aids

Medication Organizers

Petroleum jelly

Antibiotic creams such as:

Bacitracin

Neosporin

Triple antibiotic ointment

Multivitamins

Hand sanitizers

Clorox wipes

Cash donations are always appreciated so we can target specific needs. Examples of special needs include colostomy supplies; gift cards for medications, and cab vouchers to get to medical appointments. Please make checks payable to Visiting Nurse Services, 1111 9th Street, Suite 320, Des Moines, Iowa 50314.

For supply drop off or pick up contact Mary Pink at 558-9948 or maryp@vnsdm.org.

LEGISLATION EXTENDS TAX-FREE IRA DISTRIBUTIONS TO CHURCHES

Due to new legislation you may continue to make tax-free gifts directly to your church from your IRA. If you are over the age of 70 ½ and you own a traditional or Roth IRA you may roll over up to \$100,000 per year to the church. This new tax law is set to expire at the end of 2009.

This charitable IRA rollover provision makes it easy for you to give generously with no tax consequences to you, the donor. The transfer of funds to the church will not be included in your taxable income, nor will you claim the gift as an income tax deduction. An additional benefit is that the transfer of funds to the church counts towards your annual required minimum distribution from your IRA.

Consult your IRA custodian for details on how to transfer the amount of your choosing to your church

Tending Your Inner Garden

NEW PROGRAM FOR WOMEN IN MINISTRY – nationally recognized program of spirituality and creativity will offer a 2009 series of retreats and monthly gatherings especially for women pastors and others in church leadership positions. Women pastors have encouraged us to create a group designed specifically for those whose life work is guiding others on their spiritual journeys. Presented by Diane Glass and Deb Engle. **Diane Glass**, is a spiritual director, trained at St. Joseph's Educ. Center and Creighton Univ.

Deb Engle is the author of *Grace from the Garden: Changing the World One Garden at a Time (Rodale, 2003)*

Retreats are on Tuesdays, Feb 3, Apr 21, July 14 and Oct 20. Annual fee \$720 payable up front or through monthly credit card installments. Sessions held at PineSpirit in Carlisle, Iowa. Enrollment limited to 14.

Go to innergardener.com or contact Diane at 515 989-4532 or diane@innergardnerer.com.

Monday, June 22, 2009

WORLD RENOWNED MORMON TABERNACLE CHOIR

This concert will be at the Wells Fargo Arena. Tickets are currently on sale at the Iowa Events Center box office.

Call 1-866-553-2457 or visit www.dahlstickets.com for more information.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

VOLUNTEER INCOME TAX ASSISTANCE

Tax time presents an annual challenge for low-income workers and the elderly. Many cannot afford to hire professional assistance. The average income of VITA clients was \$16,000 per year. More than 47,000 central Iowans earn an income below the federal poverty level of \$40,000.

In 2008 the VITA site volunteers helped 3,500 taxpayers in the Des Moines area returning about \$4 million in refunds and tax credits back to hard working residents.

Contact Rachel Brown at 554s1417 or rbrown@unitedwaydm.org for more information.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

CHOIR DIRECTOR AT CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

Duties will include rehearsals at 9:00 a.m. on Sundays followed by worship at 10:00 a.m.

Send resume to Pastor Brad Miller at lccbrad@msn.com or Jane White at janepaul3918@juno.com.

DRAKE UNIVERSITY EARLY HEAD START – PROGRAM ASSISTANT

This position is part time (16 hours per week) and located at Highland Park Christian Church, 4260 SW 6th Drive in Des Moines and Covenant Presbyterian Church, 1025 28th Street in West Des Moines. Early Head Start is a comprehensive early childhood program seeking professional candidate to join team in assisting specialists and young children and families.

The Program Assistant will work directly with young children and families, prepare food, and do some paperwork. A High School diploma or GED is required. Accurate computer skills with Windows format preferred. Head Start experience preferred. Drake is an EEO/AA employer.

Submit resume and cover letter to

*Mary Middleton, Human Resource Manager, Drake University Head Start
3206 University Ave., D.M. 50311 or email mary.middleton@drake.edu.*