

# DMARC E-Bulletin

For the week of January 12, 2009

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 5<sup>th</sup> St., WDM 50265 222-3660

Contact: Tammy Lage

**COMMUNITY SERVICES SITE ON 6TH**, 1618 6<sup>th</sup> Ave., DM 50311 248-6241

Contact: Danita Parker

**DOWNTOWN FOOD PANTRY SITE**, 701 Grand Ave., DM 50309 243-1381

Contact: Sherry Kepner

**IOWA HOMELESS YOUTH CENTERS**, 1219 Buchanan St., DM 503126 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 6<sup>th</sup> Ave or 1216 E 25<sup>th</sup> 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**

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.

### ***JANUARY***

#### **Saturday, January 17**

##### **CONCERT AND COFFEE**

Westminster Presbyterian's Anchor Coffee House welcomes Sharon Bousquet and Beaucoup Shakti. Sharon, an impressive vocalist and acoustic guitarist, uses powerful imagery to charm audiences with her sultry-sweet voice. Sharon was recently joined by multi-instrumentalist Eric Hurlin and vocalist Heather Love to form the trio Beaucoup Shakti. The doors open at 6:30 p.m. and show time is 7:00 p.m. Specialty coffees and delicious desserts are available for purchase, and free childcare is provided. Tickets are \$8 in advance or \$10 at the door.

*For more information, contact Jan Davison at 274-1534.*

#### **Saturday, January 17**

##### **REENTRY AFTERCARE TEAM TRAINING**

Grandview College Rasmussen Center is hosting this seminar designed to educate those helping people who have been incarcerated work their way back into society. The training will be facilitated by Paul Harrison, National Director for ReEntry AfterCare.

*To register, contact Paul or Tamyra Harrison at [tamyra.aftercare@gmail.com](mailto:tamyra.aftercare@gmail.com).*

## **Sunday, January 18**

### **CELEBRATION AND BENEFIT**

In November 2007, Derek celebrated his third birthday and at the same time was diagnosed with medulloblastoma and since that time he has had major brain surgery, a shunt, 30 radiation treatments, 9 chemo cycles, been in the hospital for a total of 42 days, and knee surgery due to an infection. Highland Park Christian Church located at 4260 NW 6th Drive, Des Moines, Iowa 50313 is sponsoring a Celebration and Benefit for Derek and his family. There will be a Spaghetti Dinner at noon, a Concert at 1:15, and a Children's Carnival at 2:15. Tickets cost \$10 for adults and \$6 for children under 12.

## **Monday, January 19**

### **REBIRTHING KING—REBIRTHING AMERICA**

Come join this candlelight march in memory of Dr. King and commemorating Barack Obama's beginning from 7:00 – 8:00 p.m. at the state Historical Building. The march is hosted by the Iowa Obama Presidential Inauguration Committee. All attendees are invited to bring canned food for the DMARC Emergency Food Pantry.

## **Saturday, January 24**

### **BALLYHOO FOXTROT ORCHESTRA**

St. Mark Lutheran Fine Arts is hosting jazz from the roaring 20's beginning at 7:00 p.m. at St. Mark Lutheran Church, 1115 Grand Avenue in West Des Moines. Founded in 2005, the Ballyhoo Foxtrot Orchestra [www.ballyhoofoxtrot.com](http://www.ballyhoofoxtrot.com) is a vintage ensemble dedicated to recreating the jazz and popular music of the 1910's and 1920's. The nine-piece ensemble is able to perform a wide variety of musical genres including foxtrots, Dixieland jazz, blues, waltzes, tangos, and cabaret. As always, this performance is free and open to the public.

## **January 30 - 31**

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

The Rev. Jane Venard 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 – 8:30 p.m. and on Saturday from 9:00 a.m. to noon.

*Register early at 255-3149 or [mhawkins@plymouthchurch.com](mailto:mhawkins@plymouthchurch.com) by Wed. Jan 27.*

## ***FEBRUARY***

### **Saturday, February 7**

#### **HEALTHY POLK 2020 COMMUNITY CAUCUS**

From 8:00 a.m. – noon anyone interested in the future health priorities for Polk County is welcome to join the caucus at the Hotel Fort Des Moines, 1000 Walnut Street in Des Moines.

*For more information, visit [www.healthypolk.org](http://www.healthypolk.org).*

### **Saturday, February 7**

#### **DANCE FOR YOUR HEART!**

Iowa Health invites you to dance your way to a healthier heart. From 1:00 – 5:00 p.m. at the Val Air Ballroom, the afternoon will be filled with exciting, interactive dance demonstrations. There will also be hands-on displays, blood pressure checks, BMI testing and much more.

*Visit [www.iowahealth.org/livewell](http://www.iowahealth.org/livewell) for more information.*

### **Saturday, 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 – 7:00 p.m. The cost is \$10.00 per person and includes a free ceramic bowl made by a local artist.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **Banquet Tables for Sale**

First Unitarian Church of Des Moines has 9 round banquet tables for sale. Some are in excellent shape, others in good shape and a couple are in ok shape (the bones are good, but the appearance isn't the best—they would need a tablecloth). They are selling them for \$40 for the ones in great shape and less for the others.

*Contact Michelle Heater at [mheater@housby.com](mailto:mheater@housby.com) if interested.*

## **Senior College Course Registration**

Senior College of Greater Des Moines has a suggestion for beating the late winter blahs: Learn something new and meet new people in a Senior College short course. Eight new classes start in March, with many additional classes to follow in the months ahead.

Several courses are of possible special interest to members of Des Moines area faith communities. A class on Hinduism and Buddhism begins April 1 at the Northwest Community Center in Des Moines. Students will study the beliefs, practices and diversity of these two religious traditions, and can take an optional field trip to Hindu and Buddhist temples.

Lenola Allen-Sommerville, retired Minister of Music and Worship at Corinthian Baptist Church in Des Moines, will be a presenter for the class “Music Across Cultures,” which starts April 1 at the Scottish Rite retirement community. She is retired from Iowa State University, where she taught Multicultural International and Curriculum Studies and African-American History.

A class on Music in Healing, beginning May 4 at The Reserve retirement community in Urbandale, will be taught by Bill Connet. He is music director at All Saints Catholic Church and for Saturday night worship at Plymouth Congregational Church.

Registrations are being accepted now for Senior College spring courses. Classes are scheduled throughout the Des Moines metro area and cost between \$40 and \$80. For more information, visit [www.myseniorcollege.com](http://www.myseniorcollege.com), or call 244-0631.

## **Project Connect Mentoring Opportunity**

Spending one hour a week to mentor a child in the Des Moines Public Schools will change a child’s life forever, and that’s a dividend worth investing in. Results show that absentee and suspension rates are cut in half, improved academic scores, improved attitude, improved school bonding and more. Project Connect mentors find the program to be tremendously rewarding, meaningful, not to mention fun.

Project Connect is a school-based program – our mentoring takes place one hour per week during the school day on school property. Presently, we have 150-200 mentors in 23 schools, but hundreds of children are waiting. Most of the children Project Connect reaches are those who live at the poverty level—the poverty rate in the Des Moines Public Schools is over 62%.

The focus of Project Connect is as much or more about friendship than homework. After a friendship is established, the goal is to eventually spend 15 minutes on homework. The schedule can be arranged for the mentor’s convenience. They can choose the day of the week, time of the day, age of the child and the school. We supply games in all of the schools and suggestions for ways to spend time with the children.

The application process for becoming a mentor is simple – one can apply on-line on our new website, [www.helpakidfly.com](http://www.helpakidfly.com). A background check is included along with a short interview and a one-time orientation. The next orientation is Tuesday, January 20 from 5:30-8:00 p.m. at the DMARC office at 3816 36th Street. Everyone is welcome. Come by if you would like to learn more about Project Connect. For more information, call Mary Beth Williams at 339-1701.

## **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 554-1417 or [rbrown@unitedwaydm.org](mailto:rbrown@unitedwaydm.org) for more information.*