



RESOURCE CENTER

for independent living
Consumer Newsletter • Winter 2013

Upcoming Events

Low Vision Support Groups

Council Grove - at Morris County Senior Center

Time: 1:00pm

When:

January 30, 2014

February 27, 2014

March 27, 2014

Wamego - at Three Rivers

Time: 1:00pm

When:

January 29, 2014

February 26, 2014

March 26, 2014

RCIL Friends Group
Schedule on page 4

Office Closures

**December 24 & 25 -
Christmas**

**January 1 -
New Year's Day**

**January 20 -
Martin Luther King, Jr. Day**

KanCare Annual Open Enrollment

KanCare is the State of Kansas health program that provides medical, mental health, dental, substance abuse and long term care services. Once a year the State of Kansas gives individuals who are receiving KanCare an opportunity to review their health plan and to switch to a different health plan of their choice if necessary. As of December 1, 2013, individuals will be receiving a letter and a KanCare enrollment packet in the mail about their annual open enrollment. Then they will have 60 days to keep or change their health plan.

Before making a quick decision on which health plans is best for you, follow the three steps below to determine if you need to make a change in your KanCare health plan.

The first step is to look at the enrollment form in the packet to find out who are enrolled and may choose to change their health plan. Also look for the deadline to change health plans which will be the choice period end date on the form.

Second step is to review three health plans and their highlights. The three health plans are Amerigroup, Sunflower,

and United Healthcare. It is best to find out which plans have your doctors, hospitals, pharmacies, or other providers that you use to help you determine which plan best fit your needs for the upcoming year. Also, if you need a specialist, make sure the specialist you want to see is in your health plan as well.

Third step is to change your health plan if necessary before the choice period end date on the enrollment form. There are three options on how to change your health plan. They are:

1. Enroll online at <https://www.kmap-state-ks.us/hcp/member>
2. Complete the enrollment form and return it in the enclosed envelope
3. Call the Enrollment Center at 1-866-305-5147

If you change your health plan, it will

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RCIL Directors

Deone Wilson
Executive Director

Becky Brewer
*Director of HCBS
Programs & Services*

Adam Burnett
Director of Core Services

Tania Harrington
*Director of Disability
Services*

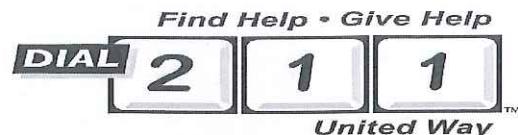
Mike Pitts
*Director of Finance &
Technology*

Susan Warner Scheid
*Director of Payroll
& Benefits*

Are You Prepared?

Does your health and independence depend on assistive technology equipment? What would you do in case of a natural disaster and an extended period without electricity? Your scooter or powerchair battery dies, your communication device loses power, your internet services are down and your heater fails. The roads are closed due to snow or flooding. You are stuck and in a mess of trouble! What about in case of a mandatory evacuation? Would you need special assistance loading your essentials? Would you need accessible transportation?

All of these things may sound far-fetched, but they happen every year to people with disabilities. Do you have a plan? Here's a resource that may help. www.helpmekansas.org The United Way has partnered with state emergency management agencies to develop a system allowing people with disabilities



to enter their information into a database for special assistance in emergency situations. The information is not available to the public or other agencies and is only used to plan and take action before, during, and after emergencies.

During an emergency the system alerts responding agencies to the unique needs and circumstances that an individual may have. The agencies can then use that information to provide a specialized individual response and can even help restore services such as electricity in a faster manner.

To sign up for this service, or for more information, please go online to helpmekansas.org or just call the United Way 2-1-1 hotline by dialing 211. United Way will then contact you annually to ensure your information is up to date! ☎

The Kansas Low Income Energy Assistance Program



LIEAP is a federally funded program that helps qualifying households pay a portion of their home energy costs by providing a one-time per year benefit. The 2014 application period for LIEAP is January 21, 2014 through March 31, 2014.

In order to qualify, applicants must meet the following requirements:

1. An adult living at the address must be personally responsible for paying the heating costs incurred at the current residence, payable either to the landlord or to the fuel vendor.

2. Applicants must demonstrate a recent history of payments toward purchase of the primary heating energy.

3. The combined gross income (before deductions) of all persons living at the address may not exceed 130% of the federal poverty level.

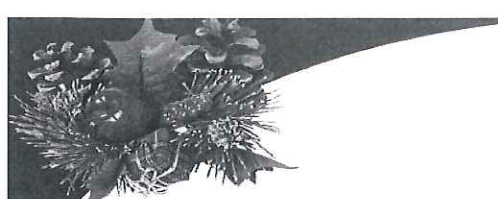
4. Benefit levels vary according to household income, number of persons living at the address, type of dwelling, and type of heating fuel.

Contact your local Department for Children and Families (DCF) office for more information. ☎

Alternate Formats

To receive a copy of this newsletter in an alternate format, please call 1.800.580.7245.

Consumer Christmas Parties



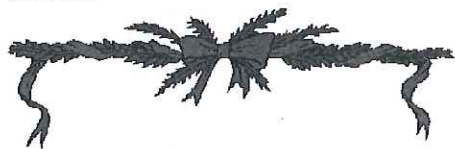
It's that time of year again! The holidays are around the corner. Everyone is busy preparing their delicious foods and buying gifts to give their family and friends. Other annual events include the RCIL consumer Christmas parties!

Below is a listing of the dates and locations of the parties. Pick the event you would like to attend and RSVP to the RCIL office hosting that event at least one week prior. Please be sure to request special accommodations when you RSVP.

The Christmas parties are being held in-conjunction with the December RCIL Friends meetings.

There will be fun activities and foods provided. If you have questions or would like more information, feel free to contact your local RCIL office.

RCIL staff would like to wish you a Happy Holiday Season and safe travels.



Christmas Parties Schedule

Osage City - Dec. 11 at the Park Place Apartments (207 S. 6th St.) from 1:00pm - 3:00pm

El Dorado - Dec. 18 at the RCIL Office (615 1/2 N. Main) from 1:00pm - 3:00pm

Fort Scott - Dec. 18 at the High Rise Apartments (315 Scott Ave.) from 1:00pm - 3:00pm

Eureka - Dec. 17 at the Magic Circle in the South Community Room (301 Magic Circle Rd.) from 1:00pm - 3:00pm

Iola - Dec. 17 at the Townhouse Apartments (217 N. Washington Ave.) from 1:00pm - 3:00pm

Paola - Dec. 20 at the Paola Senior Center (121 W. Wea St.) from 1:00pm - 3:00pm

Emporia - Dec. 30 at the Broadview Towers Apartments (110 W. 6th Ave.) from 1:30pm - 3:30pm

MS. Wheelchair Kansas Seeking Contestants

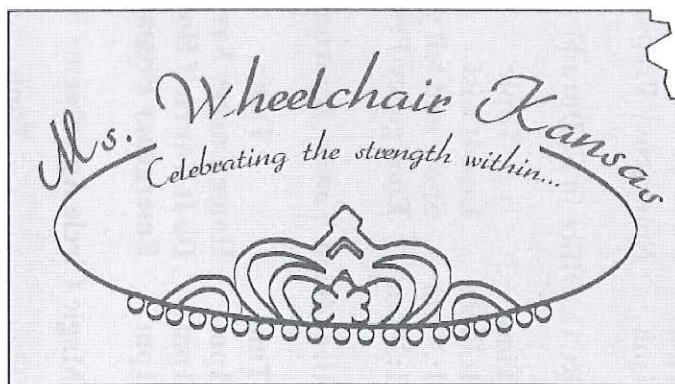
The Ms. Wheelchair Kansas Program (MWKS) is currently searching for women of achievement, who are wheelchair mobile, to serve as contestants in the 10th Annual Ms. Wheelchair Kansas event on March 14-16, 2014 at the Capitol Plaza in Topeka, Kansas.

The Ms. Wheelchair Kansas mission is to annually select one woman, who is wheelchair mobile, which will successfully advocate, educate, and empower all people on a state level. It is not a beauty contest, but rather a competition to select the most articulate, accomplished delegate who will serve as a role model and spokesperson for people

with disabilities in Kansas. This woman of achievement will have various opportunities to be heard in the community. She will serve as an advocate and will share her cho-

have lived in Kansas for at least six months, and be willing to fulfill the MWKS mission.

Interested participants must send in a completed application with a \$150 entry fee, a written letter of recommendation, and a portrait to be used in the program by January 7, 2014. To learn more about the Ms. Wheelchair Kansas Program or to become a contestant, please visit their website at www.mswheelchairkansas.org



sen platform with groups throughout the state. All contestants must be US citizen between the ages of 21 and 60, utilize a wheelchair for 100% of daily community mobility,

or contact Carrie Greenwood, State Coordinator, at 785-267-5982 or via e-mail at mswheelchairkansas@yahoo.com.

Consumer Success Story: "Always Believe"

To all the blessed readers of this newsletter:

When we think of angels, we think of heavenly angels up in heaven. For those of us who believe, we know there are truly earth angels as well.

On July 26, 2011 I had a very life changing back surgery that went wrong over days into months. As the days went by it became crystal clear, I was in deep trouble being able to walk or function in everyday life. The pain was *free*, no charge.

Thanks to Macy from RCIL. She came to my rescue by putting me in touch with the Build-A-Ramp program. As the months passed by, I was pulled into deeper despair over my back problems. Nothing can be done to correct the back anymore. Just when I thought matters couldn't get any worse, they *did*! On July 4, 2013 brought with it, the untimely death of my beloved son.

Falling deeper into blackness and darkness, I felt...,"Why me Lord? What had I done to deserve this kind of fate in life?" Then it happened! With all the love and care from

RCIL
and the
Build-

A-Ramp program I was given a new hope and purpose in life, when work started on September 17, 2013 to build a ramp just for me. The ramp was completed on September 18, 2013 which was also my beloved son's birthday.

I was puzzled by this, so I asked the Lord to bless this home to where the ramp would bless others and help them after my time on earth was done. That's when I knew, God had sent me his personal band of earth angels from RCIL and the Build-A-Ramp program to watch out for me in their selfless, profound way of care. For this, I'm so thankful and humble.

Thanks for taking the time to read this and pass the blessing on. 🙏

Shelia H.
El Dorado, Kansas



Funding for the Build-A-Ramp program is provided by United Way of El Dorado.



You Asked for It

What is Project DESERVE?

Project DESERVE helps pay the Westar Energy electric bills of people with a disability (children or adults meeting Social Security disability criteria) and older adults (people 60 years or older). Eligible households may receive one-time annual payments of up to \$100 to be applied toward their Westar Energy electric bills. If you think you might be eligible for one of the ways Project DESERVE can help, please contact the American Red Cross at 1-316-219-4000 or call Westar Energy at 1-800-383-1183.

What is the KanCare Consumer Assistance Phone Number?

1-866-305-5147. They can answer general questions and accept requests to change KanCare health plans.

Contact the Information & Referral Specialist at 1.800.580.7245 to apply or have questions.

KanCare Annual Enrollment Cont.

Continued from page 1

come to an effect on the first day of the next month. If you *choose not* to change your health plan before the choice period end date, your current plan will remain the same until the next annual open enrollment period. You do not need to call or return your enrollment form if you decide to keep your current health plan.

For assistance or more information

about KanCare Annual Open Enrollment, you can call KanCare Enrollment Center at 1-866-305-5147 or visit their website at www.kancare.ks.gov. 🙏





RESOURCE CENTER
for independent living

PO Box 257
Osage City, KS 66523

Non-Profit
Organization
U.S. Postage

PAID

Osage City, KS
Permit No. 93

Moved?

If you've moved or changed your phone number, name, or email address, call 1.800.580.7245 so we can keep in contact with you!

We're on the Web!

Visit us at:
www.rcilinc.org

Find us on:



RCIL Home Office

Address

P.O. Box 257
1137 Laing
Osage City, KS 66523

Phone

1.785.528.3105 Voice
1.800.580.7245 Toll Free
1.785.528.3106 TDD

Fax

1.785.528.3665

Satellite Offices

El Dorado

615 1/2 N. Main
El Dorado, KS 67042
1.316.322.7853 Voice
1.800.960.7853 Toll Free
1.316.322.7888 Fax

Emporia

215 W. 6th Ave., Suite 208
Emporia, KS 66801
1.620.342.1648 Voice
1.888.261.4024 Toll Free
1.620.342.1821 Fax

Iola

335 N. Cottonwood St., Suite C
Iola, KS 66749
1.620.365.8144 Voice
1.877.944.8144 Toll Free
1.620.365.7726 Fax

Topeka

1507 SW 21st St., Suite 203
Topeka, KS 66604
1.785.267.1717 Voice
1.877.719.1717 Toll Free
1.785.267.1711 Fax