



# FSS Newsletter

## Holiday Fun Family Activities

One great thing about the holiday season is having the chance to spend valuable time with our loved ones, show our appreciation for one another and overall, give thanks. Doing Holiday activities together is another way to make family traditions. These traditions can be simple and inexpensive!

- Volunteer as a family this holiday season
- Create a gratitude tree and decorate it with gratitudes written on homemade leaves or ornaments
- Plan a family Christmas movie night with traditional treats and drinks, check out movies from your local Library for free
- Load up in the car and look at Christmas lights

## The Salvation Army

The Salvation Army Red Kettles have been a holiday tradition since 1891. But did you know, the money raised during our kettle campaign is used to bring joy and relief to those in need throughout the entire year? You or someone you know may have benefited from the assistance of The Salvation Army funds. 'Tis the season to give by volunteering your time to ring the bell.

**Coles County**—Visit [www.usc.salvationarmy.org/mattoon](http://www.usc.salvationarmy.org/mattoon) Volunteer to Ring Bells or call 217-234-3915

**Livingston County**—Visit [www.ringbells.org](http://www.ringbells.org) or the local Facebook page: The Salvation Army Bloomington IL

**McDonough County**—Call Salvation Army Macomb 309-837-4824

**Menard County**—Visit <http://signup.com/go/ringthebell> or call 217-632-7723

**Scott County**—Call Salvation Army Jacksonville 217-245-7124

### Reminders

#### MCHA Office Hours:

Monday-Thursday 8:00-4:30

Friday 8:00-Noon

MCHA is Closed December 24th and 25th in observance of Christmas and January 1st in observance of New Year's Day

### FSS Coordinator

Lindsay Wilken

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Text: 217-717-2551

## Midwest Mission Distribution Center



Midwest Mission Distribution Center opened for ministry in 2000. MMDC collects, makes, assembles and restores supplies for humanitarian and disaster relief. The work is done by volunteers who come from all over the US to serve. The 30,000 sq. ft. facility is located on an 8-acre campus 4 miles south of Springfield, Illinois. MMDC is a cooperating depot in the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) Relief Supply Network. It is related to the Illinois Great Rivers Conference and the North Central Jurisdiction of the United Methodist Church.

Volunteers make the work happen. Midwest Mission has only six staff members. Staff members are there to run the behind-the-scenes operation and, most importantly, to equip the volunteers to do the ministry. All assembly and restoration of sup-

plies is done 100% by volunteers.

Projects include kits (cleaning, hygiene, school, etc.), school desks (made from recycled wooden bleachers and counter tops for schools in the developing world), bikes (restored and sent nationally and internationally to get people to work and school) and sewing machines (restored and sent internationally to teach women a trade).

The campus includes not only the distribution center, but also a dormitory for volunteers, a picnic pavilion, camping, a storm shelter, and the Twice Giving Gift Shop which is open M-F 11 a.m.-2 p.m. and the first Saturday of the month. Twice Giving sells MM Apparel and fair trade items from around the world and from local artisans.

For more information call: 217-483-7911

*“Sending hope and empowerment around the world and around the corner.”*

[www.midwestmission.org](http://www.midwestmission.org)

### Shining Stars

The FSS Program would like to acknowledge some participants who have been working hard on their goals this year!

Rebecca was awarded Employee of the Quarter at her job!

Trista increased her hours at work and began escrowing!

Ann became a Grandma/Babysitter to her first grandchild and began escrowing!

Ramona got a new job that allows her to share her warm smile every day!

Nancy began a new job as an Assistant Manager!

Pam began a new job helping others!

Erika passed an important exam and was offered a job in her field!



## Why a Monthly Budget is so Important

It can be hard to save money. It is very hard when your expenses go up and your income does not. Here are some reasons to try to save money even when it is not easy.

- Emergencies – saving small amounts of money now might help you later. Everyone has expenses they don't expect.
- Expensive things – sometimes, we have to pay for expensive things—like a car, a trip, or a security deposit on an apartment.
- Your goals—you might want to pay for college classes. Maybe you need to visit family far away. You can plan for these goals and save money. Then you might not have to use a credit card or borrow money to pay.

Start a budget by gathering your bills and pay stubs. Think about how you spend money, besides paying your bills. For example, do you buy a cup of coffee every day or a pack of cigarettes regularly? After a month, that coffee or cigarette money could add up. When you have your bills and pay stubs:

- Write down how much money you make in a month, your income.
- Write down your expenses for the month. An expense is money you spend.
- Subtract your expenses from your income.

If the number is less than zero, you are spending more money than you make. Look for things in your budget you can change. Maybe something you don't need, or a way to spend less.

[www.consumer.gov](http://www.consumer.gov)

**You can call and schedule monthly budgets with one of our Housing Counselors  
Call 217-632-7723**

Menard County

Housing Authority

**Your Provider of  
Affordable Housing  
Services!**

Our mission is to promote and provide quality housing while encouraging upward mobility and a better quality of life.

Our vision is creating housing that families and communities can be proud of.

## Sweet December

Did you know about these “holidays” in December???

- December 1st—National Pie Day
- December 2nd—National Fritters Day
- December 4th—National Cookie Day
- December 7th—National Cotton Candy Day
- December 8th—National Brownie Day
- December 13th—National Cocoa Day
- December 17th—National Maple Syrup Day
- December 28th—National Chocolate Day

*Happy Holidays!!*

Menard County

Housing Authority

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