



ST. FRANCOIS COUNTY COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP'S

# Partnership Report



**February 2024**

## Partnership News!

### Our Mission

To build, nurture, and strengthen families, insuring that every person has the opportunity to become a healthy, productive, and contributing member of the community.

### Our Goals:

- Parents Working
- Healthy Children & Families
- Children & Families Safe in Homes & Communities
- Children Prepared to Enter School
- Children & Youth Succeeding in School

Dear Friends of the Partnership,

February brings us well into the year of 2024 with many exciting things to look forward to.

The Partnership is gearing up for our 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Health and Resource Expo. This year we have moved the location of the Expo from the Mineral Area College Field House into the new Mineral Area College Industry and Technology Center. We are very excited to have the use of this new facility, and help MAC spotlight this through our Expo as one of their amazing resources for those interested in entering the trades professions. We have also expanded the Expo from simply Health, to Health and Resources. It is very important that the people of our community have knowledge of all of the resources available to them in the area, to help them live better. Many of the resources that will be showcased at the expo are Health Care, Mental Health, local outdoor activities, education, job and career resources, financial and insurance resources, transportation resources, as well as many many others.

If you have an organization or business that provides a resource to our area, we would love to invite you to the expo. If you are not able to attend as a vendor or sponsor, there are other ways to be involved. We are looking for monetary sponsorship and donations of door prizes to help make this event the biggest and best we have ever had. 25 years is really something to celebrate.

Brandon with Prevention Consultants will be teaching the "Too Good for Drugs" program in Central R-3, North County R-1 and Bismarck R-5 School districts this month. This program was designed to help students from Kindergarten to 12<sup>th</sup> grade develop life skills, character values, as well as resistance skills to peer pressure that can lead to bad decisions of all kinds.

The Little Red Reader Program, directed by Kimberly Weakley is growing in leaps and bounds. Many books were donated over the Holiday Season. This program is designed to help with literacy from an early age. The Little Red Reader book shelves are set up at several locations in St. Francois County and are stocked with books for children to take home for free.

We are also working on Season of Hope 2024. Our first planning meeting for the 2024 season was on January 23<sup>rd</sup>, and we are will be adding many exciting things for this year's Season of Hope. More announcements to come in the near future about Season of Hope.

Our mission statement says, "...to build, nurture, and strengthen families, ensuring that every person has the opportunity to become a healthy, productive, and contributing member of the community." And this year our mission will be our focus as we go forward making new friends for the partnership, forming new relationships with businesses and organizations in the St. Francois County service area.

Dawn Sander,  
Office Manager, Project Coordinator

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**SFCCP Board Meeting**  
**Wednesday at Noon,**  
**February 14, 2024**  
**Public Welcome to Attend**  
**1101 Weber Rd., Room 102, Farmington**

**Tune In To Our Monthly Radio**  
**Program on KFMO with**  
**Mike Ramsey**  
**Community Partnership Radio Show**  
**on the last Monday, 7:35 a.m.**

## Shared Blessings, Inc: Perspectives of a Volunteer

Over the past five years, as a volunteer at Shared Blessings Transitional Housing Ministry Shared Blessings, Inc., 518 partner organizations shelters men, women, and children facing myriad reasons for being unhoused, reasons that have often accumulated over a lifetime. While originally intended to serve people falling on hard times or being temporarily displaced from their home due to fires or other crisis events, Shared Blessings is increasingly serving people with more complicated issues related to childhood trauma, mental health challenges, addictions, persistent poverty, and other personal and financial barriers to happiness, productivity, family stability, and broader self-reliance. Other shelters of all types are facing the same kinds of challenges when trying to do as much as they can to help people identify and address their needs and lead them toward success.

Shared Blessings staff and volunteers address each resident's challenges differently, depending on the individual and/or family situation and the resources best-suited to meet their future needs and secure long-term independence. When evaluating the intake information provided on the phone by prospective residents, staff and volunteers determine if more intense, directed services are needed upfront to help the applicant be most successful. When these services are deemed necessary, applicants are often referred to other organizations, such as those focusing on addiction, mental health, and domestic violence. When applicants are accepted into the program, Shared Blessings embraces the opportunity to best serve its residents for up to approximately 90 days, depending on one's particular situation and the resources needed to sustain their independence upon their departure. Unfortunately, some of those accepted into the program decide they don't want to live in a shelter at all, or upon arriving to the shelter and learning how to live with other people and practice life-skills activities in a more communal setting, even for only a few months, they decide to leave prematurely and return to deleterious environments. People need to want to change and be open to how this might be done in order for the Shared Blessings program to be as successful as it can possibly be. In a safe, secure facility, we cover everyone's basic needs, including access to health care, allowing a resident to focus more specifically on his/her challenges and opportunities.

Why do I believe that volunteering at Shared Blessings continues to be worthwhile after five years? It is an important learning experience that teaches us to better understand society's pressing issues and often, unpleasant challenges and experiences of people struggling in our own community. It teaches us to be more tolerant of people who have been raised differently than many of us and who typically have little or no resources to adequately address their challenges and change their lives. It teaches us to be more aware, just, and charitable in our daily lives, overall, as we must be able to co-exist with so many people from varying situations. Yes, our patience is tested each day at Shared Blessings and out on the streets of our communities. Our outreach efforts have been rejected by some of those we aim to serve. That can hurt when we care and try so hard; however, there are the success stories of people learning how to build up resources, along with their own self-esteem, and secure their prospects for the future. Even the small gains made by the children and adults in our presence, which can feel like a lot to them, makes our work meaningful and worthwhile. To see how we do this, we invite you to tour Shared Blessings and explore how you can help at a level most comfortable to you, either as a volunteer inside the shelter or one working externally in a multitude of ways. There are flexible shifts and numerous avenues for volunteering and providing support. Please give us a call at 573-358-2998 and get acquainted with Shared Blessings Transitional Housing Ministry. I know there is something for everyone at Shared Blessings.



**Local Attractions**

**The Space Museum and Grissom Center:** 118 East School Street, Bonne Terre, MO 63628. 573-358-1200 [www.space-mo.org](http://www.space-mo.org)

**St. Francois County Raceway:** 114 Woodlawn Dr, Park Hills, Mo. [www.sfcraceway.com](http://www.sfcraceway.com)

**Missouri Mines State Historic Site:** 4000 MO-32, Park Hills, Mo Learn the history of Lead Mining in the Missouri Ozarks and tour the former St. Joe Lead Co. lead processing plant. Open 9-5 Wednesday through Sunday April through October. Be sure to visit [www.mostateparks.com](http://www.mostateparks.com) for more information.

**Johnson Shut Ins State Park:** 148 Taum Sauk Trail, Middle Brook, Mo. Experience the geological wonder of the Shut-Ins. Make it a day trip or a camping trip, there is lots to explore. For more information visit [www.mostateparks.com](http://www.mostateparks.com)

**Elephant Rock State Park:** 7406 MO-21, Belleview, MO. Check out the 1.5-million-year-old granite rocks that resemble a line of elephants in a circus. Don't forget to check out the ruins of the old railroad engine house, and experience a bit of the quarrying and railroad history in the area. For more information visit [www.mostateparks.com](http://www.mostateparks.com)

**St. Francois State Park:** 8920 US Highway 67 North, Bonne Terre, MO. Forested ridgetops and cool hollows offer a great retreat from the day to day life. The park offers many activities such as camping, hiking, picnic, and swimming. Visit [www.mostateparks.com](http://www.mostateparks.com) for more information.

**St. Joe State Park:** 2800 Pimville Rd, Park Hills, Mo. One of the only 2 off-road parks in the Missouri State Park System. Other activities offered at St. Joe park include: hiking, camping, equestrian trails, picnic sites, fishing, and swimming just to name a few. For more information visit [www.mostateparks.com](http://www.mostateparks.com)

**Stanley M. Overall Bikeway Trail:** 651 Vargo Road, Farmington, Mo. A 7.5 mile main route with several loops with varying length. Take the family for a day outing along this trail and enjoy the time together outdoors. For more information got to [www.farmington-mo.gov](http://www.farmington-mo.gov)



United Way of St. Francois County



Don't forget to Like, Share, and Follow us on Facebook. And invite all your friends to do the



Hope 4 Autism



Preferred Family Healthcare

The Partnership Report is published twelve times a year by:

St. Francois County Community Partnership

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*Adding Value, Bringing Hope*



St. Francois County Health Center

*Prevent. Promote. Protect.*



*If you would like to be removed from our mailing list, please call 573-760-0212 or email [dawn@sfccp.org](mailto:dawn@sfccp.org)*

## SFCCP Board of Directors

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## RECURRING CLASSES & OTHER EVENTS

- **Life After Loss Support Group:** Sponsored by Heart & Soul Hospice, the group is a safe place to process grief, learn healthy coping skills & connect with others. Open to public. **3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of each month**, 4:30-6:00 p.m. at 412 Cayce St., Farmington. Please call 573-756-7066 or email [farmingtonhospice@pmma.org](mailto:farmingtonhospice@pmma.org).
- **GriefShare:** Held at Grace Presbyterian Fellowship 1414 Jennings Dr, Park Hill, MO Every **Tuesday from 6PM-8PM** Starting August 8 running through November 7. Cost is \$15 for materials. For more information go to [www.griefshare.org](http://www.griefshare.org)
- **Caregiver Support Group:** Every 3rd Thursday from 5:30PM-6:30PM at NHC Desloge, 801 Brim Street, Desloge MO. Free to the community.
- **MOPS This is Motherhood:** Held the 1st and 3rd Tuesday each month at 5:30pm at Memorial United Methodist Church, Farmington Mo. Contact Pastor Chris Reyes via email at [chris.reyes@memorialumc.church](mailto:chris.reyes@memorialumc.church)
- **VFW Breakfast:** Every Wednesday from 7am to 9:30am in Farmington VFW hall. Dine in, ALL YOU CAN EAT \$7, carry out available. OPEN TO THE PUBLIC.
- **Celebrate Recovery:** Every Friday Night at 5:30, At Parkland Chapel, 1260 Karsch Blvd. Farmington, Mo 63640 [www.ParklandChapel.org](http://www.ParklandChapel.org) Contact Coordinator Jerrod Tune at [CelebrateRecovery@ParklandChapel.org](mailto:CelebrateRecovery@ParklandChapel.org)

### CLASSES OFFERED BY PARKLAND HEALTH CENTER:

- **Breastfeeding Classes** Call 573-756-6451 to register for classes!
- **Diabetes Self-Management Class** Call 573-756-5779 to register for classes!

# 25th ANNUAL HEALTH AND RESOURCE EXPO

Our 25th Annual Health and Resource Expo will be held Saturday, April 13, 2024 from 8am to noon at Mineral Area College.

If you have participated in our Expo before, you know this is a great event showcasing the resources available in our community.

If you have not participated before, then we want to invite you to come and show the attendees what you have to offer.

This is a completely free event for the public, so we ask that you not bring anything to sell, but simply bring samples of your product or information about your resource.

You can register by filling out the form on the back of this flyer, and either mailing it to St. Francois County Community Partnership, 1101 Weber Road, Suite 202, Farmington, MO 63640 or email it to dawn@sfccp.org.

You can make payment by either sending in a check made out to St. Francois County Community Partnership with 2024 Expo in the memo, or you can go to our website [www.sfccp.org](http://www.sfccp.org) to pay via credit or debit card. Simply click on the Projects tab at the top and click on Annual Health in the drop down. The payment box is on that page.



