

# SERVE, Inc. Newsletter

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Volume 2

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“Serving others  
is our mission.”



## NEW IMPROVEMENTS COMING...

SERVE, Inc. is expecting to receive additional monies in the next 2-4 weeks for the Food Pantry Capital and Gardening Initiative Support Grant, all made possible by a grant from an anonymous foundation! This will allow us to purchase a new walk-in freezer, which will replace several older freezer units, for storage of food items for distribution from our food pan-

try. In addition, we will be able to purchase steel tables, repackaging supplies, and make initial bulk food purchases for setting up an area in the pantry for repackaging of bulk food items for later distribution. And finally, we will be able to purchase tools and supplies to support our garden project, as well as improve upon an existing storage shed and the acquisition of a new storage

shed. These projects will further enhance our ability to provide badly-needed frozen food items and fresh garden produce to our pantry clients. Last year the SERVE food pantry assisted an average of 1,971 Callaway residents per month with food, and these new improvements will allow us to continue this service to Callaway County residents in need.

## UPDATES

### FEINSTEIN CHALLENGE A HUGE SUCCESS!

Serve, Inc. has just completed its first Feinstein Challenge. 2009 was the 12th year for the challenge, although this is the first year that the SERVE food pantry has participated. Each year the Feinstein Foundation gives away \$1 million dollars to hunger relief organizations. To participate, agencies solicit pledges and donations to support the challenge during the months of March and April. The million dollars is then divided proportionately among all agencies that

participate in the challenge. The minimum award is \$250 and the maximum any agency can receive is \$40,000.

We are pleased to announce SERVE, Inc. was able to raise \$8,523.40 for the challenge this year and collect 7,045.1 pounds of food. The challenge rules allow each pound to be counted as one dollar, bringing the total we reported for the challenge to \$15,568.80! We cannot say, “Thank you!” enough to all of the individuals, churches, organizations, and businesses that took up the challenge for us. All of us at SERVE are over-

whelmed by the generosity and support of the Callaway County community!

### CAL-TRAN NEWS

Due to the President’s stimulus plan, SERVE’s CAL-TRAN Program will be receiving five new, modified buses equipped with chair lifts to replace five high-mileage, costly-to-repair vehicles in our current fleet. These new buses are one hundred percent funded by federal dollars. We are expecting delivery of these new buses very soon!

## MISSOURI HOUSING TRUST FUND UPDATE

As announced earlier, SERVE, Inc. Callaway Action Network is the proud recipient of a \$39,000 grant from the Missouri Housing Trust Fund to prevent homelessness. These funds will be utilized to assist clients who are at or below 50% of the area median income with emergencies such as utility bills & deposits, rental costs & deposits, and hotel & motel vouchers.

As of June 18, 2009, the Callaway Action Network has utilized \$19,500 of the \$39,000 grant. This money, in addition to other emergency funds received through various channels, including benevolent giving and private donors, makes a large impact in our mission to provide quality services to the low income population of Callaway County.



## NALC FOOD DRIVE—NOT JUST A LETTER CARRIER!

This year's National Association of Letter Carrier's Food Drive (NALC) held on May 9, 2009 was a huge success! Through the efforts of local letter carriers, over 13,000 pounds of food and nearly \$3,000 dollars were raised. The food and funds benefited the SERVE food pantry, which serves Callaway County residents facing food insecurity.

Like most hunger relief agencies, SERVE has seen a sharp increase in need over the past year. This May alone, the pantry assisted 2,070 Callaway County residents with food. About 60% of those served through the pantry are not eligible for any public assistance, yet still meet the income guidelines to utilize the food pantry. The availability

of the food pantry allows these families to use precious resources to make the family budget stretch a little farther. In today's economy, that may mean the difference for some families between being able to meet their financial obligations or not being able to pay monthly bills.

Due to the generosity of the community, we gladly report the food pantry is currently well stocked—which is in stark contrast to the empty shelves we had last year at this time. Also, the SERVE pantry garden is planted and growing, and we can always use volunteers willing to help care for the garden and deliver fresh produce to the pantry! We also greatly appreciate the donation of any excess

produce from home gardens during the growing season. In addition, we anticipate funding through a grant to allow us to add a new walk-in freezer to the pantry, allowing us to receive even more frozen foods. Currently we have to turn away freezer items on occasion due to lack of freezer capacity.



## INTRODUCING OUR NEW RSVP DIRECTOR!

### Meet Mary Gordon

We are proud to announce a new addition to our SERVE, Inc. staff beginning July 6, 2009! Mary Gordon, formerly of CMCA, will be joining SERVE as the new RSVP Program Director. She will be a great asset to SERVE and the RSVP program. She comes to us with a wealth of knowledge of community resources and already has strong contacts within many of those agencies. As those on staff and on our board who know her will attest, she is able to work well with just about any group and her warm personality will naturally draw in volunteers to the program. Her extensive knowledge of federal programs and the grant system will also be an asset to the program. She is also looking for-

ward to her new role and is already coming up with great ideas for attracting new volunteers and re-energizing ones who may not be as active as they could be.

We are very excited about having her on board and look forward to introducing her to those of you who do not already know her well. She will make a great addition to our already very amazing team of directors! Welcome, Mary!



### VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

- ◆ When planting your garden this year, please plant a row for SERVE's food pantry!
- ◆ Volunteer to work in our garden, weeding, picking, etc.
- ◆ Volunteer to help with the completion of Wiley House. Contact Linda Clemens at 642-6766 for more information.
- ◆ Volunteer to mentor a child! Contact Mary Gordon after July 6 at 642-9452 for more information.

## Upcoming Events

Check out our website [www.serveinc.net](http://www.serveinc.net) for more upcoming events!

### July 19-25

Cost Cutters will be holding their 2<sup>nd</sup> annual "Pick Your Charity Week" during the week of July 19<sup>th</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup>. Every customer who gets a haircut during this week will be given a "ballot" with each charity listed. The customers will be asked to check the box next to the charity that they would like to have \$5.00 from the cost of their haircut contributed to. The \$5.00 will come from Cost Cutters. Be sure to pick SERVE as your charity of choice!

### UPCOMING GRANT AWARDS to SERVE, Inc.

- ◆ Callaway County United Way—\$59,000
- ◆ Catholic Diocese—\$3900
- ◆ Missouri Housing Trust Fund—\$39,000
- ◆ FEMA—\$9318
- ◆ Callaway Electric—\$18,800
- ◆ City of Fulton—\$2500

**Pack the Bus**

**Coming Soon!**

**Watch our website and  
KRCG 13 for details!**

## BACK-TO-SCHOOL 2009

Callaway Action Network has begun soliciting donations for the annual Back-to-School Program for 2009! Last year's program provided a new backpack filled with school supplies FREE to 337 children whose families completed the application and screening process, and an additional 35 children whose

families had not anticipated needing assistance. We could not have succeeded without the community's generous support! Please take a moment and consider what you can do to help. Your tax-deductible donation will bring happiness to many children and ease the worry of many parents who are encountering financial hardship. Please make

your donation by August 5, 2009, payable to SERVE, Inc. Back-to-School Program. To receive a list of most-needed school supplies, visit our website in July, 2009. Thank you!



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**Thanks to all of the businesses, churches, community & civic groups, individuals, schools, area colleges, and volunteers who help make our programs successful!**



*"Serving others is our mission."*

*Let us not be satisfied with just giving money. Money is not enough, money can be got, but they need your hearts to love them. So, spread your love everywhere you go.*

*Mother Teresa*

**We're on the web!**  
**[www.serveinc.net](http://www.serveinc.net)**

To make a donation to SERVE, Inc., you may send your check to 4901 County Road 304, Fulton, MO 65251 and designate on the memo line which program you would like your donation to benefit or donate online at [www.serveinc.net](http://www.serveinc.net).