

## Opportunities to Remember

**Aug. 1-4**—Donate items for children in the YWCA Shelter to help add some excitement about preparation for the start of the school year. Bring socks, underwear, new clothes, fun school items, alarm clocks, hygiene items, makeup, etc. to YWCA, 304 N. 8<sup>th</sup> Street. 232-4481.

**Aug. 1-9**—Donate new shoes for school-age children to Soles for Christ at Northwest Missouri Community Services, 1203 N. 6<sup>th</sup> Street, 8 a.m.-5 p.m., Mon. through Fri. 364-1131.

**Aug. 4-5**—Donate school supplies for area students at either St. Joseph Walmart store during United Way STUFF THE BUS! on tax-free weekend.

**Aug. 9**—Learn about United Way Leadership St. Joseph and United Way Profit In Education<sup>®</sup> over free lunch at Taste of United Way, 118 S. 5<sup>th</sup> Street. RSVP in advance to secure a spot. 364-2381.

**Aug. 14-15**—Soles for Christ free shoe distribution for Andrew, Buchanan and Doniphan county students, kindergarten through 12<sup>th</sup> grade. Call Northwest Missouri Community Services for times, location and requirements. 364-1131.

**Aug. 23**—RSVP by today for Sept. 7 United Way Campaign Kickoff breakfast at St. Joseph Country Club, 7:15-8:15 a.m. Public is invited. \$10 per person. 364-2381.

**August**—Register at [juniorleaguesj.com](http://juniorleaguesj.com) for Sept. 30 Pony Express half marathon, 5K run/walk. Event begins at 7 a.m. at 914 Penn Street.

## Students Learn Through Summer Jobs

Thirteen high school students with disabilities gained paid work experience this summer thanks to the collaboration of Missouri Vocational Rehabilitation and United Cerebral Palsy of Northwest Missouri.

Students chose from a variety of job tasks and sites for their summer work experience. The six-week program provided a job coach at each job site for on-the-job support, and each student worked about 16 hours a week.

This year's participating employers were: St. Joseph Mustangs, East Hills Shopping Center, UCP of Northwest Missouri, Mosaic Life Care and Green Hills in Savannah.

In addition to learning tasks of a particular job, the participating students from Central, Benton, Lafayette and Savannah high schools came together for class time four hours a week. Together, they worked on developing soft skills needed to be successfully employed, regardless of the particular job, including: communication, networking, work ethic, teamwork, problem solving, critical thinking, professionalism, enthusiasm and attitude.

Jana Campbell, UCP Employment Coordinator, praised the growth of the program and said, "We are able to get to know the students over the six weeks and really help them work on skills needed for competitive employment and help them plan for what's next after high school."

This is the third year for the summer work experience program to be offered. This year's group signed up to participate as juniors during school visits with Magen Brown, Missouri Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor. Students who qualify for Vocational Rehabilitation Services are eligible to participate in the program.

Businesses interested in future participation should contact Campbell at 364-3836 or [jcampbell@ucpnwmo.org](mailto:jcampbell@ucpnwmo.org).



Thanks to participating local employers, high school students with disabilities gained important job experience this summer. Above, one of 13 students is shown learning from a job coach at Phil Welch Stadium, home of the St. Joseph Mustangs.

## Hotline Guides Callers Toward Needed Services



Staff on the other end of the Help Me Hotline (816-364-1131) are trained to guide callers toward health and human services available to help with specific needs.

"People facing personal problems often don't know where to begin," said Penny Adams, Executive Director of Northwest Missouri Community Services that operates the hotline. "Some don't like to ask for help, and others give up getting it because they tire of trying to unsuccessfully locate information they need."

By providing a one-stop shop, the Help Me Hotline removes callers' guesswork, frustration and time spent searching for help by referring them to the organizations that can best help for the situation(s) being faced.

Through the hotline, Referral Specialists are available at no charge to anyone who calls 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year. Callers learn about their options so they can better make informed decisions, and calls are confidential.

In 2016, the Help Me Hotline made 10,200 service referrals for more than 32,000 area people, including many senior citizens and children.

While most people access Help Me Hotline by phone, services are also available via email, traditional mail, through referral from another agency or by walk-in to Community Services at 1203 N. 6<sup>th</sup> Street. For more information, go to [helpmenow.org](http://helpmenow.org).

This information and referral service began in St. Joseph in 1979, evolving over the years in response to community needs.

"If you or someone you know needs to find help through a personal crisis, Help Me Hotline really should be your first call," Adams said.



United Way  
of Greater St. Joseph



You are invited to GIVE, ADVOCATE and VOLUNTEER through United Way to improve lives in Northwest Missouri and Northeast Kansas.

United Way of Greater St. Joseph supports 17 Partner Agencies and operates seven Initiatives.

(816) 364-2381  
[stjosephunitedway.org](http://stjosephunitedway.org)

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### 7 United Way Initiatives

- FamilyWize<sup>®</sup> Prescription Assistance
- Financial Stability
- Leadership St. Joseph
- Profit In Education<sup>®</sup>
- Success By 6<sup>®</sup>
- Unmet Needs Committee
- Volunteer Center

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### 17 Partner Agencies

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bartlett Center</li> <li>Big Brothers Big Sisters</li> <li>Catholic Charities of Kansas City-St. Joseph, Inc.</li> <li>The CENTER, a Samaritan Center</li> <li>Children's Mercy</li> <li>Community Missions (CMC)</li> <li>Family Guidance Center for Behavioral Healthcare</li> <li>InterServ</li> <li>Legal Aid of Western Missouri</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Northwest Missouri Community Services</li> <li>Pony Express Council, Boy Scouts of America</li> <li>St. Joseph Safety &amp; Health Council</li> <li>The Salvation Army</li> <li>Specialty Industries of St. Joseph, Inc.</li> <li>United Cerebral Palsy of Northwest Missouri</li> <li>YMCA</li> <li>YWCA</li> </ul>
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