



SAINT LOUIS COUNTY
Human Services

NEWSLETTER

SAINT LOUIS COUNTY | HUMAN SERVICES



Pictured above: Weinman Staff Wear Purple

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THE POWER OF PURPLE

Supporting victims, celebrating survivors, and raising awareness of domestic and intimate partner violence

With October just around the corner, the anticipation of fall weather, Halloween festivities, and pumpkin-spiced everything is at peak levels. And with the arrival of fall comes the changing of leaves to a bright array of colors. But as we head into October, DHS and the Kathy J. Weinman Shelter for victims of intimate partner violence will have just one color on the mind - PURPLE!

October is National Domestic Violence Awareness Month including National Week without Violence (October 20-25). County employees are likely familiar with our annual call to action to show support for victims of intimate partner violence and raise awareness.

A Message from the Director

Happy September!

Ambur L. Banner
Director of Human Services



As we welcome the milder days of Fall, we have much to celebrate and a lot of exciting work ahead at DHS.

I am excited to announce that DHS has officially kicked off DHS 2030 – an ambitious 5-year Strategic Evaluation and Plan focused on enhancing DHS’ impact by sustaining high-quality services, leveraging resources, and aligning our objectives with the County’s priorities for the future. Understanding the priorities, needs and experiences of our team, our partners, and those we serve is key in this process. We are looking forward to a busy September engaging our community and stakeholders in this effort. I extend my appreciation to the County Executive and County Council for their support and look forward to sharing more as we move forward.

With October just around the corner, DHS and the Kathy J. Weinman Shelter for victims of intimate partner violence want to remind everyone that October is National Domestic Violence Awareness Month including National Week without Violence October 20-25. We will be making St. Louis County PURPLE and invite you all to join us in raising awareness, promoting services for victims, and showing your support for survivors!

On behalf of our team here at DHS, thank you for your continued support.

With appreciation,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ambur L. Banner". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Ambur L. Banner
Director of Human Services



THE POWER OF PURPLE (CONT.)

Each year, the County Executive, County Council, and employees across County government partake in Wear Purple Day. This year, we hope to broaden our engagement in National DV Awareness Month through additional activities and promotions to help raise awareness and promote information about supportive services throughout the community. This October, we invite you all to join us in Painting St. Louis County Purple!

Since efforts to raise awareness and increase access to support for DV survivors began, purple has been the standard color in representation of bravery, courage, survival and peace. These traits are critical for victims and their children as they began their journey to freedom, and are the foundations of just about everything the Kathy J. Weinman Shelter provides for those in need.

In addition to emergency shelter and access to basic needs in times of crisis, KJW emphasizes wholistic, wrap-around services for victims including group and individual therapy, dedicated case management, career and family counseling, and much more.

The prevalence of DV incidents is alarming, with Missouri ranking 3rd highest in the nation for domestic violence incidents. It is estimated that 1 in 4 women and 1 in 7 men experience severe DV in their lifetime. Kathy J. Weinman is the only such shelter for victims of intimate partner violence in St. Louis County, making its role in raising awareness and promoting services is even more critical, not just in October.



Pictured above: DHS staff on Wear Purple Day



THE POWER OF PURPLE (CONT.)

Carla Bradley, Residential Services Manager at KJW, says that in 2025, the Weinman Shelter is hoping to spread the word and encourage as many more people as possible to join the campaign. Though the ask is simple, Bradley says **“it means so much to victims and their families...to the survivors in our community.”** Bradley is a member of the St. Louis Ending Domestic and Sexual Violence Network (SLEDSVN), a collective of individuals, agencies, and organizations who serve in the interest of victims of DV & sexual violence. This year, SLEDSVN is raising the stakes this October through their campaign to shine a collective spotlight on DV Awareness and survivor empowerment.



Pictured above: County Youth Program Staff Wear Purple

The initiative, known as **#PaintTheLouPurple**, calls on local media outlets, public figures, and influencers to stand together and bring visibility to this urgent issue during the month of October. The campaign will ramp up the week of October 20-25 for National Week without Violence. Those looking to get involved can show their support in many ways, says Bradley, such as swapping out exterior lightbulbs with purple bulbs or adding purple lights to storefronts and windows to visibly show support for survivors and the effort to end DV and sexual violence. And of course, participants are encouraged to sport every piece of purple in their wardrobe throughout the month and can bring the movement online by using the hashtag **#PaintTheLouPurple** to join.

As Ms. Bradley reminds, “just speaking about it goes a long way,” and encourages everyone to take a moment this October to learn more about DV and intimate partner violence and spread the word so survivors know there is help available. Stay tuned to County social media throughout the month of October to stay up to date on all DV Awareness Month Activities.



ADVANCING OPPORTUNITIES THROUGH AFFORDABLE HOUSING DEVELOPMENT



Pictured above: Shed U City Housing Development

The Office of Community Development (OCD) administers Home Investment Partnerships (HOME) funds, provided by the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), to produce affordable housing throughout St. Louis County. Many people in our community are familiar with HUD's HOME program and may also be familiar with the County OCD HOME program's Downpayment Assistance Program.

But the county OCD and HOME team are often driving affordable housing initiatives and other opportunities for low- and moderate-income individuals throughout the County. Just last month, OCD visited the Open House for Sustainable Housing and Equitable Development (SHED) as they unveiled their first ever low-to-moderate income house constructed for a first-time home buying family.

This project was made possible due to the use of HOME funding to leverage private and public investment dollars to acquire, renovate and/or build new housing for low- and moderate-income households.

For this project, OCD partnered with SHED to construct a new single-family home in University City that will soon be purchased by an eligible homebuyer. OCD provided \$269,600 in HOME funds to partially finance the construction of this home.

This project is one of many in our community advanced through strategic collaboration between OCD and various Community Housing Development Originations and other key stakeholders. The strategic allocation of HUD dollars provides an opportunity to continually add new affordable housing to the housing stock throughout the region each year.



CLASS IS IN SESSION: DHS shows support for students year-round

With class back in session, we want to wish all of the students and families across St. Louis County a safe, exciting, and successful school year. At DHS, we recognize that support and resources for young scholars is vital throughout the school year and, most important, that not all students have the same access to those resources.

For some students, the start of a new year comes with excitement and joy. However, for other students, specifically those experiencing housing instability, fleeing a domestic violence and traumatic situations, and/or instability of finances, this time of year can bring on anxiety, frustration, and depression.



The Kathy J. Weinman shelter, for instance, held its annual Back-to-School event in August where each child residing at the shelter gets a new backpack, school supplies, and school clothes/uniforms. As Dr. Teresa Quarles, Division Manager for KJW states, “children love to pick out a brand-new backpack for the new school year.” They “deserve it,” Dr. Quarles continued, “and for us it’s important that the school year is just as exciting and joyous for students in our shelter, without the worry of clothes and school supply expenses.”



Pictured above: Weinman Back to School



CLASS IS IN SESSION: DHS shows support for students year-round



Beyond providing supportive services, DHS is proud to partner with regional institutions and community partners to support youth in their academic pursuits as well.

The County Youth Program (CYP) provides year-round support to students in need, including facilitating HiSET Alternative Education courses and regular case management for students. This includes connecting students to needed supplies or resources. Additionally, CYP noticed that many students forget about the need for new or replenished supplies heading into the Spring semesters and provides a special event around January as a reminder for students and an opportunity to stock up for the last half of the year.

Additionally, CYP facilitates Mindset Mondays at the Hazelwood School District, a weekly, school-based program initiative designed to strengthen students' social-emotional learning (SEL), academic motivation, and personal resilience. The primary goal of Mindset Mondays is to equip 6th-8th grade students with the tools they need to navigate academic and personal challenges using a growth mindset. Through weekly interactive sessions, students build skills in self-awareness, emotional regulation, goal setting, communication, and responsible decision-making. The program is tailored to address the developmental needs and real-life experiences of middle school youth, while reinforcing school-wide behavioral and SEL objectives.



CORP FOR THE COMMUNITY

Celebrating 50 Years of CORP Volunteers

From giving rides to doctor’s appointments, assisting with tax preparation, helping complete day-to-day tasks, and simply providing companionship, the County Older Resident Programs’ (CORP) Volunteer network is a treasure like no other. This year, CORP will be celebrating 50 years of its volunteer program, and we can not thank these dedicated and selfless servants enough.

To be sure, CORP does a lot throughout the year to shine a light on these heroes in the community and celebrate them with events like our annual Cardinals Game Appreciation Day and frequent Volunteer Luncheons.

In August, a group of dedicated aging adults gathered at Applebee’s Restaurant for a well-deserved monthly luncheon filled with food, laughter, and connection.



More than just a social outing, the event celebrated these active adults who regularly volunteer their time by transporting other aging adults to their essential appointments among other socialization events such as book club and game night.

These activities are just a small act of appreciation and a chance for volunteers to unwind, share stories and strengthen their community ties. For many these moments of fellowship are very meaningful.

We are so excited to celebrate the program at an upcoming 50th anniversary Celebration, and we also encourage our community to reach out and learn more about ways that you can get involved. These volunteer efforts not only ensure vital access to healthcare for those who need it most but also reflect the powerful impact of community driven support and senior engagement.

Pictured above: CORP Volunteers at luncheon



COMING SOON!

2025 Stand Up-Stand Down Veteran Services Event

On September 27, 2025, from 9 am to 1 pm, join the DHS County Veterans Program and the Greater St. Louis Veteran’s Leadership Committee at Soldier’s Memorial in Downtown St. Louis for the 2025 Stand Up-Stand Down Veteran Services Event. This powerful day of networking and support will bring together local service providers, community organizations, and volunteers to offer essential resources to those who have served our nation. Whether a Veteran is seeking help with housing, career assistance, utility assistance, mental health, legal aid, VA benefits, or a haircut, this event will deliver real support in a single, welcoming location.



Soldiers Memorial Military Museum

Saturday, September 27 2025 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

All attending Veterans are invited to enjoy a free lunch following the event!

On site services include: housing assessments, hair cuts, food giveaway, DoD Surplus, VA eligibility/benefits, and more.

Hosted By The Greater St. Louis Veteran's Leadership Committee

For questions or more information, contact Ashley at Ashley@TheKaufmanFund.org



MISSOURI HISTORICAL SOCIETY



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
Veterans Health Administration
VA St. Louis Health Care System



33RD ANNUAL ADOPT-A-FAMILY PROGRAM



This year marks the **33rd anniversary of the St. Louis County Adopt-A-Family Project**. Since its inception, more than 4,500 families and thousands of children have received holiday support—thanks to the dedication of nominators like you. Your ongoing efforts, along with the generosity of St. Louis County employees and community partners, have brought joy and hope to many during the holiday season.

For the past 33 years, hundreds of Saint Louis County Government employees—representing dozens of departments and divisions—have led efforts to provide food,



clothing, toys, household items, and support with rent and utilities to more than 4,500 families in need during the holiday season.



Pictured Above: Adopt-A-Family Gift Distribution 2024

Each year, County employees are joined by local businesses, faith-based groups, civic organizations, and private citizens, all coming together to make this impactful project a success. The Department of Human Services (DHS) coordinates the initiative and compiles a catalog of nominated families and their specific needs.



PUMPKIN BREAD WITH MAPLE GLAZE

Easy, flavorful and addicting this Pumpkin Bread with Maple Glaze is a delicious fall bread with a sweet topping that no one can refuse!



Instructions

1. Preheat the oven to 350.
2. Spray a 9x5" loaf pan with cooking spray and set aside.
3. In bowl, combine your butter, brown sugar, pumpkin and eggs and beat with hand mixer until combined.
4. In another bowl whisk together your flour, baking powder, baking soda, salt, cinnamon, and pumpkin pie spice until blended and then add into your wet ingredients and mix until combined.
5. Spread into prepared pan and bake for about 50 minutes or until toothpick comes out clean then remove from oven to cool.
6. To make your glaze you mix together your powdered sugar, maple syrup and vanilla and pour it over your cooled bread and let it set for a few minutes then cut and serve.

Ingredients

- 1/2 cup butter softened
- 1 cup brown sugar
- 1 cup canned pumpkin
- 2 eggs
- 1 1/2 cup flour
- 1 tsp baking powder
- 1 tsp baking soda
- 1 tsp salt
- 1 1/2 tsp ground cinnamon
- 1 1/2 tsp ground pumpkin pie spice

Glaze:

- 1 cup powdered sugar
- 1/4 cup maple syrup
- 1/2 tsp vanilla



UPCOMING EVENTS



STAND UP-STAND DOWN VETERANS SERVICES EVENT



Sept. 27, 2025
9AM - 1PM



Missouri Job Center
715 NW Plaza Dr., St. Ann, MO 63074

**NATIONAL DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
AWARENESS MONTH** - All October

**NATIONAL WEEK WITHOUT
VIOLENCE** - October 20th-25th



FALL PALOOZA: FALL FESTIVAL AND GAMING TOURNAMENT



Oct. 30, 2025
1PM - 4PM



Center for Youth on the Rise