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Keller Library Summer Reading Program Kicks Off With Magic

JUNE 15TH 2016 BY DEE LOFLIN

Keller Library Summer Reading Program Kicks Off With Magic

Dexter, Missouri - Keller Library Summer Reading Program kicked off today with an impressive 174 people in attendance. Marty Hahne, the Reading Magician was on hand to amaze the children and their parents, grandparents, and librarians.

/images/2016 Images/Marty 2.jpg

Marty's new magic tricks were geared to this year's theme "On Your Mark, Get Set....Read". His latest magic trick called My Favorite Sport allowed audience participation. One child came up to assist while the other children were let in on the secret, then at the end there was a surprise finish that left everyone baffled.

Marty also had a trick in which bottles of old fashioned root beer multiply one after the other until there are several and then there was a surprise at the end.

Marty had another routine involving exercising not only your muscles, but your imagination and brain. He told a very funny story about a boy named Rudy and how he lost his head watching too much television. The children really enjoyed this story and how Rudy's head kept shrinking in the t.v. Even Casey, the magical rabbit, made an appearance in his magical library.

The Summer Reading Program continues next Wednesday, June 22nd at 11:00 a.m. with Karate Kickin' with Carillo's Martial Arts in Dexter. Keller Public Library is located at 402 W. Grant Street. The Summer Reading Program is sponsored by the Friends of the Library.

If you would like to hire Marty for a birthday party, church event, school event, or library event contact him on his website by clicking [HERE](#).

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Rachel Strickland Receives Volunteering Works Grant

JUNE 06TH 2016 BY DEE LOFLIN

[Rachel Strickland Receives Volunteering Works Grant](#)

REALTOR® Magazine and the Good Neighbor Society have announced the recipients of the eighth annual Volunteering Works grants and mentoring; the program matches Realtors® who work on small-scale charitable efforts with mentors and awards them grant money.

The five Volunteering Works recipients will receive a \$1,000 seed grant and a year of one-on-one mentoring from a member of the Good Neighbor Society, comprised of past recipients of the National Association of Realtors®’ annual REALTOR® Magazine Good Neighbor Award for volunteer service.

“Realtors® are committed to helping homebuyers achieve their dreams of owning a home and building communities, and many are just as committed to building that sense of

community through volunteer and charitable work,” said NAR President Tom Salomone, broker-owner of Real Estate II Inc. in Margate, Florida. “The Volunteering Works program provides a way for Realtors® who are helping in their communities to team up with mentors who can help their charitable efforts grow and thrive.”

The Volunteering Works recipients were selected based on their devotion to their communities through volunteer work and the potential for their good works to be expanded or improved with the help of an expert mentor. Their mentors are past winners of the Good Neighbor Awards, the highest honor that NAR awards to Realtors® involved in community service.

2015 Volunteering Works recipient Kerry Constantine, Power Brokers Real Estate Inc., Ft. Myers, Florida, says the Volunteering Works experience has been a great way to increase exposure for a cause near and dear to her heart: homelessness. Constantine says the \$1,000 grant enabled her to distribute over 500 packets of toiletries to the homeless in her community.

“We are looking at expanding our services to help homeless families with emergency housing,” she said. “I am thankful for my mentor Cynthia Shafer and blessed that she lives nearby.”

“The Volunteering Works mentoring program gives the recipients the tools they need to face the upcoming challenges and to make their charities bigger, stronger and more complete,” said LeRoy Bendickson, Edina Realty, Minneapolis, Minnesota, who is a 2011 Good Neighbor Award winner and the chair of the Good Neighbor Society Advisory Council.

The 2016 recipients of Volunteering Works grants and mentoring are:

Diana Bowler, Allen Tate Company, Charlotte, North Carolina

Since 2014, Bowler has served Wesley Chapel Friends of Parks and Recreation, a community organization that promotes cooperation among businesses and nonprofits through events and fundraisers. As co-coordinator, Bowler has been instrumental in planning and implementing the grand opening, Christmas in the Park, Easter egg hunt, BBQ cook-off and fall festival. Bowler will receive advice from her mentor, 2015 Good Neighbor Award Winner Susan Stearns, Berkshire Hathaway HomeService, Calabasas, California, about motivating volunteers.

Candi DeMoura, Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage, La Jolla, California

In 2013, DeMoura founded Candi’s Holiday Food Drive as a way of bringing her community together during the holiday season. To raise awareness, DeMoura walks the

neighborhoods and accepts donations at her weekly open houses. Her commitment to fighting hunger is evident: 1,247 pounds of food provided 1,039 meals for children, seniors, physically challenged and families throughout San Diego County. DeMoura will seek guidance from her mentor, 2012 Good Neighbor Award Winner Rocky Balsamo, Long & Foster Real Estate Inc., Princeton, New Jersey, on how to build a strategic plan.

Tamara “Tami” Hicks, Century 21 Signature Real Estate, Ames, Iowa

Since 2012, Hicks has given countless hours, financial donations and marketing efforts to help grow awareness of the Overflow Thrift Store. She collects quality items when people move out of an apartment or house; she repurposes and sells the items and then gives the profits to nonprofits that provide housing, food and education. Hicks will be advised from her mentor, 2014 Good Neighbor Honorable Mention Beth Smoot, NextHome City of Oaks, Raleigh, North Carolina, on how to overcome hurdles of funding, systems for reusing excess materials and training board members.

Ben Jones, Prime Mountain Properties, Gatlinburg, Tennessee

In 2014, Jones and his wife co-founded Angel Wings Memory Gowns as a way of bringing comfort to grieving families who have lost a child. He repurposes formal attire and wedding dresses into complimentary burial gowns for babies and toddlers up to five years old. He has brought together more than 45 volunteers and serves 25 local hospitals. Jones will benefit from guidance from his mentor, 2012 Good Neighbor Honorable Mention Kathleen Peck, All in One Realty Group Inc., Naples, Florida, about getting more exposure and financial support.

Rachel Strickland, Young Real Estate LLC, Dexter, Missouri

Six years ago, Strickland founded Manger Full of Toys, a volunteer organization that collects gently used children’s toys and donates them to families in need at Christmas time. In 2012-the best year so far-more than 7,000 toys were given to 371 families. She hopes to find a permanent facility to store the toys and host the giveaways. Strickland will be counseled by her mentor, 2000 Good Neighbor Award Winner Linda Booker, Realty Executives, Glendale, Arizona, about recruiting volunteers and obtaining nonprofit status.

Volunteering Works is funded by The Stuart & Jill Siegel Charitable Foundation. To learn more about Volunteering Works or the Good Neighbor Awards, go to www.REALTOR.org/gna.

The National Association of Realtors®, “The Voice for Real Estate,” is America’s largest trade association, representing more than 1.1 million members involved in all aspects of the residential and commercial real estate industries.

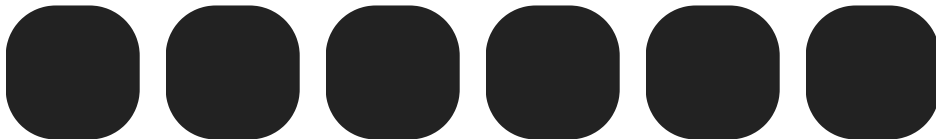
Information about NAR is available at www.realtor.org. This and other news releases are posted in the “News, Blogs and Video” tab on the website.

Press Release: Realtor from Dexter Receives 2016 Volunteering Works Mentoring and Grant

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2016 ShowMe Times June Calendar Girl - Miss Taylor Anthony

JUNE 06TH 2016 BY DEE LOFLIN

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Bernie, Missouri - Taylor Anthony has been chosen as the 2016 ShowMe Times June Calendar Girl!

Taylor was Miss Bernie 2016. She is the 14-year-old daughter of Jon and Kelli Anthony of Bernie and attends Bernie High School.

She is in the Beta club, Fellowship of Christian Athletes and is a member of the cheer team. She is also active in Volleyball and Softball and plays for the Heartland Travelers Softball team out of Jackson, MO.

Taylor's future plans are to attend Baylor University and major in Radiology.

For winning Miss Bernie, she was awarded a gift basket from Southern Swag in Malden. Taylor will also receive a \$500 scholarship funded by the Miss Bernie Organization, Brown Automotive, and Bernie Storage upon fulfilling her duties as Miss Bernie and graduating high school.

Congratulations Taylor! The Dexter community is extremely proud of you and your accomplishments.

Photo courtesy of Paige Williams.

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Rocky Bleier to Speak at 18FORE Life Banquet

JUNE 02ND 2016 BY DEE LOFLIN

Rocky Bleier to Speak at 18FORE Life Banquet

Dexter, Missouri - The 16th Annual Ben Kruse 18 FORE Life Banquet and Golf Event are slated for Friday, June 3rd and Saturday, June 4th. The annual banquet will feature Rocky Bleier at the Dexter Elks Lodge on Friday evening.

Bleier is a former Pittsburgh Steelers halfback and four-time Super Bowl Champion. After his 1968 rookie season he was drafted into the U.S. Army during the Vietnam War. On August 20, 1969 while on patrol he was wounded in the left thigh by an enemy rifle bullet when his platoon was ambushed in a rice paddy. While he was down, an enemy grenade landed nearby and after bouncing off a fellow soldier sent shrapnel into his lower right leg. He actually lost part of his right foot in the blast. He was awarded the Bronze Star and the Purple Heart. Bleier rejoined the Steelers in 1971.

The 18 FORE Life organization raises money and distributes gifts in the amount of \$1,000 to people battling cancer. This year the charity is expected to give out their 2 millionth dollar!

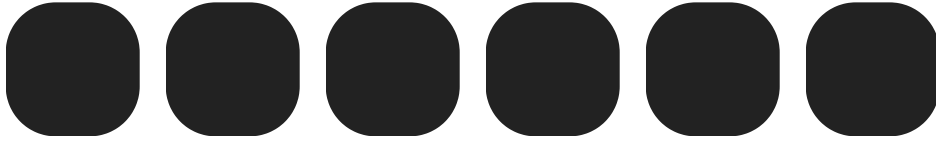
"This is our 16th year and if it goes as planned," commented Scott Kruse, "We should send out our \$2 millionth dollar by the end of 2016."

"We have been blessed with amazing support from this community and beyond," continued Kruse. "We have people attending the banquet and golf tournament from Oregon, Pennsylvania, Georgia, Florida and all in between. We even have folks flying in from Germany and Japan! I am honored and humbled by the support."

Right now there are about 60 names on the waiting list for donations this year and the numbers are rising. That's \$60,000 that will be sent out shortly.

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Annual Memorial Day Program at Bloomfield

MAY 29TH 2016 BY DEE LOFLIN

[Annual Memorial Day Program at Bloomfield](#)

Bloomfield, Missouri - The Annual Memorial Day Program will begin at 1 p.m. on Monday, May 30, 2016 at the Missouri State Veterans Cemetery in Bloomfield.

Monday is Memorial Day in the United States. It is a day to reflect and remember those who sacrificed so much for our freedoms.

Retired members of the Marine Corps, U.S. Army, Air Force, Navy and Coast Guard will perform a ceremony at a beautifully decorated POW/MIA Table while Gary Kitchen SFC USA Retired will narrate. The table symbolizes the fact that members of our armed forces are missing from our ranks. They are unable to be with their loved ones and families today.

Memorial Day will be celebrated around our country as a day of laughter and joy with our families as we celebrate our freedom. Just take a few moments to remember those who gave all so that you may have this day with your family and friends. REMEMBER! All gave some, but some gave all!

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