

## Michelle Franks-Smith • Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Kansas City

Michelle Franks-Smith has been involved with Boys & Girls Clubs, the Wyandotte Branch for the last five years. She gives Boys & Girls Clubs her valuable time and her talents.

Her generous spirit has helped support the Youth of the Year program, SMART Girls, and the annual fashion show.

It should be noted that the fashion show is a major fund-raiser for Boys and Girls Clubs. In addition Franks-Smith directs some of her financial support to membership so that families during tough economic times can continue to have their children involved.

Franks-Smith has given of her



time to stay involved with the youth in the "dress for success" efforts. Her very presence garners respect and appreciation from the youth who come in contact with her. She is a true mentor and great role model for the young women. Her role as

president of her own company, HMC Enterprises, shows our young women what is achievable if they have desire and a willingness to work hard. Franks-Smith has also been instrumental in bringing key players like Dillard's and Providence Medical Center to the volunteer pool.

## Mitch Stevenson • Sunflower House

Mitch Stevenson has been a volunteer for just over a year and half but he has accomplished a lot for Sunflower House. He will drop anything to be at Sunflower House when needed. He has moved furniture, changed light bulbs, solicited donations, and has even been seen around town as "Happy Bear." Mitch is a member of the Friends of Sunflower House, a volunteer group.

Happy Bear is a lovable character that visits preschool and kindergarten classrooms in both Johnson and Wyandotte counties in Kansas. Stevenson has volunteered on numerous occasions to be "Happy Bear." The costume



is not the most comfortable attire. Mitch doesn't mind. He loves the opportunity to interact with the children. He is passionate about preventing child abuse in the community.

Another role Stevenson took on this year was to serve on the Valentine Gala Committee. He holds the distinction of bringing in the most auction items of anyone on the committee.

Besides his dedication to Sunflower House, Stevenson has a good heart and is a good friend to volunteers and staff. Stevenson is a selfless person who cares about the well-being of our children and would do anything to ensure that the kids of Wyandotte and Johnson counties are safe.

## Patricia Brune • YWCA

Pat Brune has been an active board member for the past four years. She has been chair of the YWCA Personnel Committee, updating policies and job descriptions. Brune was a strong supporter of the YWCA's capital campaign, both financially and strategically. But her major commitment has come at a critical transition for the YWCA.

This year, Brune, just seven days after retirement as court executive for the U.S. District Court of Western Missouri, stepped up and accepted the position of interim executive director of the YWCA in a volunteer capacity. The YWCA is extremely fortunate to have someone with Brune's business experience and community commitment as a volunteer. She is passionate about the YWCA's mission of empowering women and girls and promoting racial justice. For Brune it is a "mission



match" reflecting her personal values.

The YWCA of Greater Kansas City is in its second century of empowering women and girls and their families. The organization serves as an advocate and model for positive change in the community. Pat Brune is the right person at the right time to help lead the YWCA through an important transition and promote

the YWCA's mission and services.

## Phyllis Towne • Bethel Center

Phyllis Towne is a retired science teacher who taught in District 500. She also serves as a board member for Bethel Neighborhood Center. She started volunteering because she really missed working with youth and she wanted to use her time to help others.

Currently, Towne volunteers with 14-19-year-old youth at Bethel Neighborhood Center. She teaches financial literacy and cooking, two necessities for emerging adults. She leads the teens in art projects and involves the youth in community service. Her compassion for young people is visible



in every weekly visit she makes to Bethel Neighborhood Center. She has the ability to reach out and connect with the adolescents in the Bethel program.

In November and December of 2008, Towne volunteered to step in when a staff member was out of the country. Towne led the youth group in a variety of group discussions and activities. Towne is consistent and dedicated to help

each young person reach full potential. Bethel Neighborhood Center is fortunate to have Phyllis Towne as a volunteer to help bring about positive change in the community.

Thank You to all our  
Community Volunteers!

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