

THE VOLUNTEER EDGE

JOCO DEPT. OF CORRECTIONS VOLUNTEER E-NEWS

THE FIRST EDITION!

What's Inside:

- Employee Excellence
- Policy Pop Up's
- Volunteer Spotlight
- Community Spotlight
- Fun Facts
- Training Information
- Moeder's Moment



COVID-19 UPDATE

staying healthy & safe

We hope you all are staying healthy and safe and enjoying some extra time with loved ones. At this time our facilities remain closed to the public and only essential staff are onsite. We hope to have you all back in the near future, you are greatly missed!

VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION WEEK

April 19th thru April 25th

Each year Points of Life identifies a week to celebrate volunteers who selflessly give their time. While we feel we should be celebrating you year round, this is your official week!



EMPLOYEE EXCELLENCE

Meet Shift Supervisor Jessica Banes!

Banes, as she's known, has worked at the Adult Residential Center for almost **5 years!** She's the evening and weekend supervisor, she's active in staff development initiatives, she's a Positive Behavioral Supports Advocate, AND she's on the Recreation Committee helping to provide positive and fun activities for our clients! She's also on the staff appreciation board and even holds the coveted role of being the **Easter Bunny** (when we're not in a pandemic), at the ARC family Easter Egg Hunt for our clients and their children! Banes is very appreciative of everything the volunteers do, because that support is often something our clients have never experienced. Banes loves the positive impact our volunteers have on our clients; she's seen many clients schedule their day around when the volunteer groups are meeting because they cherish that sense of belonging! When Banes isn't at work you can find her outdoors! **Hunting, hiking, fishing...**she loves it all! She also enjoys spending time with her family and her dogs. If you happen to see Banes when you're at the ARC, stop by and **introduce yourself!** She's an amazing asset to the team and would love to put faces with names!

Thank you Banes for all you do!

POLICY & PROCEDURE POP UPS:

THESE ARE UNPRECEDENTED TIMES...PLEASE REMEMBER...

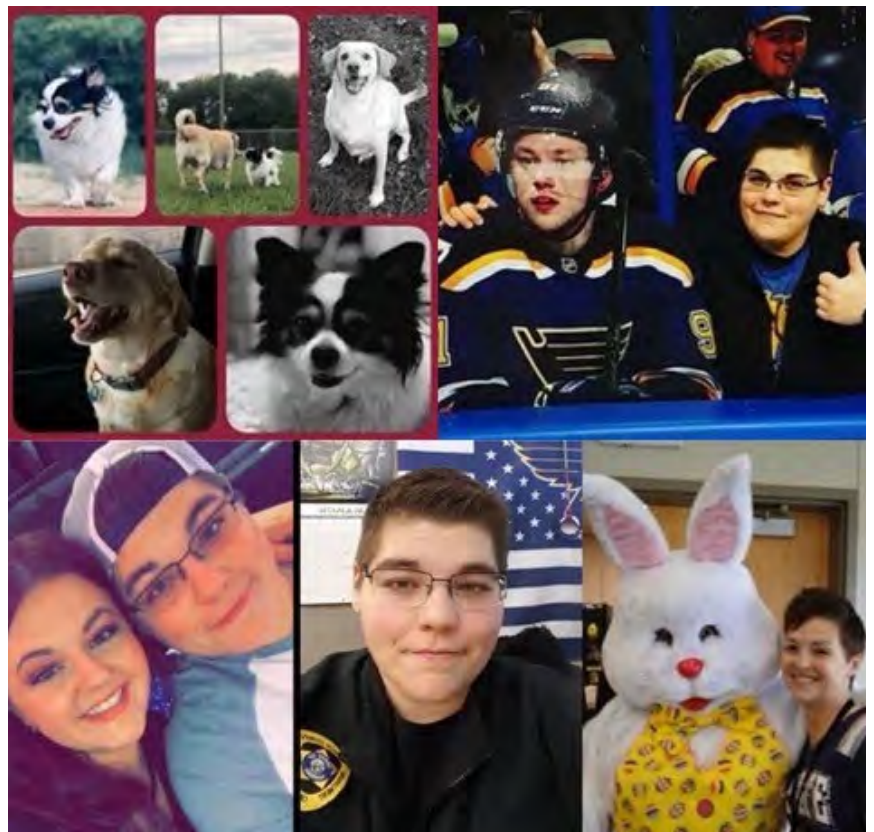
Policy 03.02A Employee Ethics & Conduct

****This policy applies to all employees, interns, volunteers, etc.****

W. No volunteer shall give personal gifts, favors, or services to any client, client's family, or close associate (special permission is given to volunteers at Christmas, but must have prior approval from VPC)

"Volunteers are an amazing asset to the facility because they bring in a diverse knowledge base and a genuine desire to assist the clients with their own personal, spiritual and professional development."

-Jessica Banes





VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

Gene Ronsick is the quiet, unassuming man behind one of the most successful mentor programs in the nation. He's the **Volunteer Mentor Coordinator** for the Kansas City Crime Commission's Second Chance Program's **Mentoring2Excel** program and also serves as the Volunteer Mentor Coordinator for the United Methodist **Church of the Resurrection's REZ Reentry** Volunteer Mentor Coordinator.

Just one of those volunteers positions would mean plenty of work, but Gene is a Volunteer Machine. He also manages some other dedicated volunteers who lead Alpha courses in the USP Leavenworth, the **ARC Therapeutic Community** and **New Creation 2020**, AND he works with **Heartland Therapeutic Riding** leading horses for 3 handicapped riders once a week so he can ride with his niece Beth, who has Downs Syndrome.

With all these amazing accomplishments, you might think Gene has been volunteering his entire adult life! In fact, he only started volunteering in 2008 after retiring from 10 years of working Military Sales for Honeywell Defense and Space. Gene says working in these ministries was meant to be:

"I discovered a need for someone to bring reality to those who had lived without a parent/mentor/sponsor/friend who could offer them a vision of the world with faith and honesty," Gene said recently, "Our clients inspire me....they have talent and potential that could change the world if someone would open their eyes to that talent and potential."

Most memorable moment in Gene's volunteer career? "I think it was when Erin and I interviewed one of our first clients in the ARC M2E program. I was doing some filing and found her name in the bulletin prayer requests' for our church. That event reinforced my need to know I was addressing the needs of our community. The match with her mentor was a perfect bond, for a while she was our poster child but she relapsed. Her mentor persisted, and she is doing OK today, but the lesson I learned is that we are in this business for the long run."

When Gene's not volunteering, he likes to "fish and hunt, train bird dogs and cowboy. Faith and family always come first."

Fun fact about Gene: Well, maybe not so fun for Gene, but 7.5 years ago he had a bilateral lung transplant!



"Facing your own mortality reprograms your priorities, you need to do what you can do for others as long as you can do it."

-Gene Ronsick

COMMUNITY BOARD - WHAT'S GOING ON?

- Thank you to everyone who has made masks and helped with supplies for the clients to make masks! It is keeping them busy and giving them a sense of accomplishment in helping their community.
- If you want to connect to help with other COVID-19 efforts, check out [Uncover KC](https://uncoverkc.org/), one of our amazing nonprofit partners to see how they are helping make these crucial connections!
<https://uncoverkc.org/>

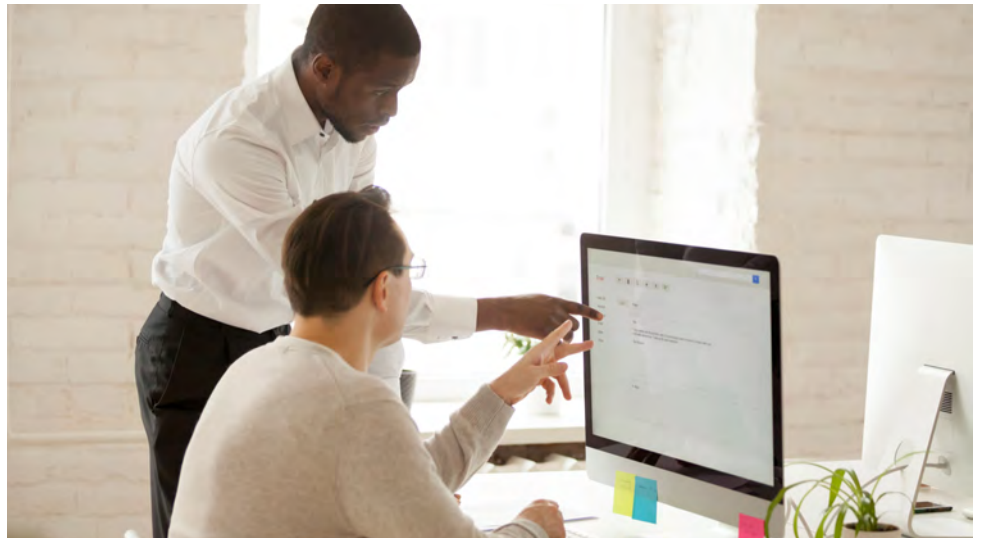
FUN FACTS

The Adult Residential Center started in 1985 with 1 building.

74 Volunteers joined Corrections in 2019.

The most requested game to play in the Juvenile Detention Center is basketball.

The most popular snack in Juvenile Detention is Flamin Hot Cheetos.



TRAINING, CERTIFICATION & SOCIAL MEDIA UPDATES

Get ready for some online training friends! As you may have recently heard ;-) all in person training and certification is currently on hold. TB tests will be postponed until further notice as well. In the meantime, we're working hard to create some easy to access, easy to follow virtual training modules to get and keep everyone up to speed. You'll receive information about our new virtual volunteer onboarding experience in the next few weeks. A Volunteer Community Facebook page will also be coming soon!

MOEDER'S MOMENT

Let me start by saying, thank you for reading the first edition of The Volunteer Edge! I've always wanted to send out a newsletter full of information and fun and now it's finally here! The COVID-19 pandemic has been an unprecedented time and I hope you all are staying healthy and safe. One of my personal goals during this time is to make the most of allllllll the time at home. We are all under one roof and things have been entertaining, chaotic, frustrating and wonderful all at the same time. But I'm finding time to do the things I've always wanted to do to make this position even better. That includes this newsletter, a Facebook community page, a website (still working on it!), and future volunteer positions I will be sharing soon. I hope you all are making the most of your time as well and I can't even begin to say how missed you all are in our facilities. Our clients appreciate the cards and pizza, our staff appreciate the special gestures of thanks. It really has meant a lot. Please keep us all in your thoughts, we are doing the same for you. From all of us at Corrections, we cannot wait until the day when we can connect again, but until then take care of yourselves! -EM

