

THE VOLUNTEER EDGE

JOCO DEPT. OF CORRECTIONS VOLUNTEER E-NEWS

SUMMER OF SHUTDOWN

What's Inside:

- Socially Distant Connections
- Staff Spotlight, Meet Radar
- A Glimpse into Corrections
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MEET JESSICA

THANK YOU!!

Despite the challenges faced when forced to close our doors to the outside community, the support our clients continue to be shown is amazing and beyond appreciated.

This unprecedented time has forced us to adapt and recognize that we can continue providing programming for our clients if we tap into our creativity and think outside the box.

This newsletter is going to fail to mention everyone that has offered or done something for us, and we can't even begin to express our appreciation for all of it.

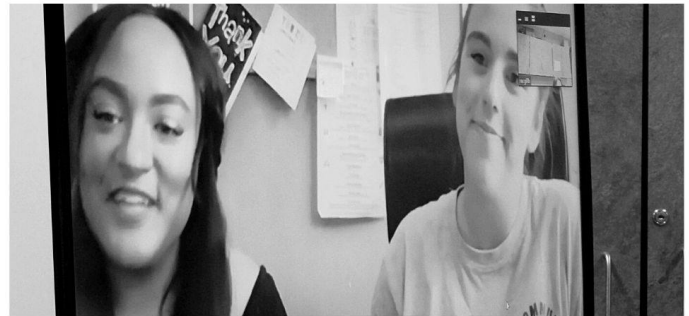
"Do what you can, with what you have, where you are." — Theodore Roosevelt

SOCIALLY DISTANT CONNECTIONS

Long Distance Connections Through Zoom



College of Trades Creative Writing Class



Juvenile Detention youth asking questions during a Q & A session with the Kansas City Community Bail Fund



Linda Kozacek, Transition Coach with JCCC Continuing Education meets with a College of Trades student during Office Hours

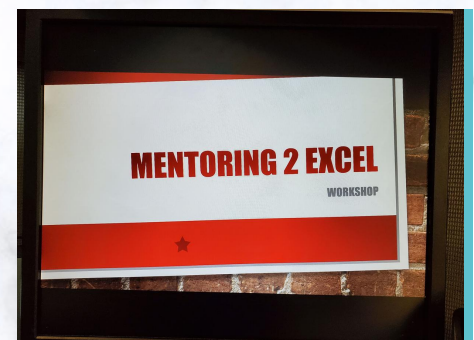


Anchor Her visits with the women in the Therapeutic Community & Residential Center women



The Johnson County Library provides Library Office Hours to the clients at the Adult Residential Center

- **Uncover KC** continues to provide programming for Service Projects in JDC, providing a Q & A session with the KC Community Bail Fund.
- The ARC clients are continuing to attend the **College of Trades** thanks to **NCircle** coordinating all of the virtual learning.
- **ACT** is providing weekly speaker meetings to the clients thanks to all the volunteers joining via Zoom.
- The **Johnson County Library** is back with their Library Office Hours (a client favorite!), setting up on Zoom for the clients to talk one on one with a librarian.
- **Anchor Her** is meeting with the ladies in the RC & TC and providing support and resources.



Thank you to all the volunteers that attended the **Mentoring 2 Excel Workshop** via Zoom last month! We had a great turnout and enjoyed hearing from **Anna**, a mentee that is very grateful for the relationship she has with her mentor.

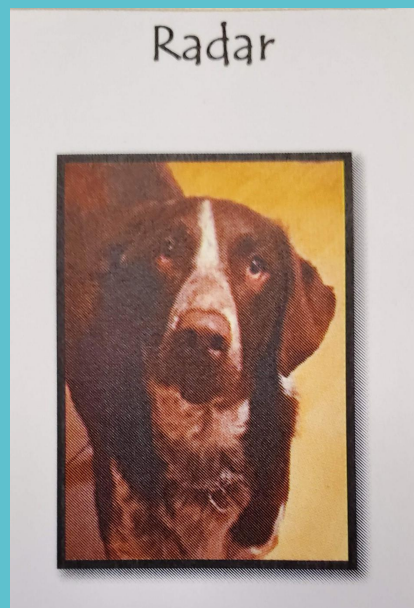
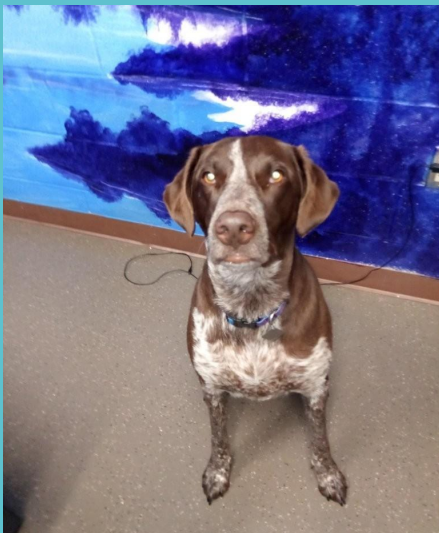
Meet Radar!

Radar - From Homeless Hound to Miracle Mutt!

Mental Health Clinician Cathy Clark always wanted to try bringing a **therapy dog** with her when she met with clients at the **Juvenile Detention Center** (JDC). She thought having a trained service dog might help kids who were dealing with very difficult circumstances feel more comfortable in her office. She couldn't have been more correct!

When Radar started on the job in 2017, Cathy was blown away by how quickly the kids fell in love with him! **Radar was a hit!** Cathy says when Radar's on the job, he's all business. "Radar's aware his job is working with the kids. If you are an adult and a kid is around you will likely be ignored, as Radar has business to attend to." **Radar is very very good at his job.** "He's really good at defusing crisis situations," Cathy shared that she was working with a child with Autism who was so emotionally dysregulated that he **could not stop crying**. When Radar entered the room, the "youth **smiled and settled right down** and was able to complete his assessment." Cathy says having Radar around helps kids she might not normally get to work with feel comfortable signing up for a visit when they know Radar will be there.

Radar was living in an animal shelter when a group of high school students with the Training to Lead program saw him and thought he'd be the right fit. Radar lived and worked with one of the high school kids and later, the high school teacher, to make sure he was ready to work in a facility with kids. Cathy says she always knew having a therapy dog would be a huge asset. But, "now that **I have seen his magic**, I cannot imagine working here without him."



"He (Radar) often will lick tears from a crying youth or bring them the ball to help them play and relax. He is very good to give a hug or kiss to anyone who needs it and has no fear of virus spread."

- Cathy Clark, JoCo Mental Health Clinician

A GLIMPSE INTO CORRECTIONS

Ever notice how you might see the same CA in a different place each time you come in? Or how you may see them regularly for a while and then not again for months? That's because they are gaining knowledge about the facility by working in different locations (or posts). Once they have mastered each area, and become more seasoned staff members, they are more likely to be assigned a post based on their skills, interest, and abilities. They may end up working with newer staff, helping to acclimate them to the facility.

As you can tell, the CA's are quite busy and hold a very important role in our department. **We are thankful for the work they do daily, ensuring our clients, staff, and community are safe, by fulfilling our agencies mission.**



"I like being a CA because I have the ability to work with a wide variety of people from various backgrounds. We have amazing staff who do a great job of working together as a team, which helps things run smoothly. There is always an opportunity to learn something new."

- Tiffany, Correctional Advisor

COMMUNITY BOARD

WE'RE ALL IN THIS TOGETHER



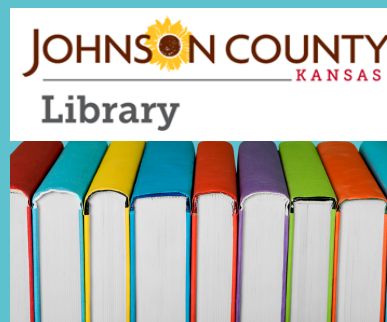
Introducing **wildHERness**! A new nonprofit focused on recruiting & retaining women and youth into the outdoors to help preserve the future of conservation. By hosting events to teach and empower, they want their participants to feel confident in activities they may not have known existed for them, such as hunting, fishing, and identifying wildlife. Learn more at www.wildherness.org

Attention all you writers out there!

The Johnson County Library will be hosting their **annual writing conference** online this year!

Check out their "for writers" page to see the lineup, submit a blog piece, and enter the monthly writers contest.

<https://www.jocolibrary.org/we-recommend/for-writers>



MOEDER'S MOMENT

As we continue on with this crazy time in our lives, I feel like the theme of this particular newsletter is gratitude. I can't tell you all how grateful I am to know that we continue to have an **incredible community of volunteers** willing to help our clients.

No matter if that help comes in the form of plugging in virtually, or waiting patiently for the day when our facilities are back open, it is **truly appreciated**.

This summer was not the summer my family and I had planned, as I'm sure all of you can relate. Our favorite place to vacation is Port Aransas, Texas, where we spend our days either on the beach or in the pool. My son, who is 7, has brought up Texas numerous times this summer, saying he can't wait until the day we can go back again and drive the golf cart through town, stock up at the candy store, and fight the waves in the ocean. It has made me grateful to have something to look forward to and know that life will get back to some kind of normalcy one day. **I hope you all have something you're looking forward to too!** In the meantime, be patient & **stay well!**

