



**December
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Contact us at:
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Vibrant communities with a positive future.

IN THIS ISSUE:

- ❖ UPDATE ON ENROLLMENT
- ❖ Terrific Travels
- ❖ Good Apples, Bad Apples...
- ❖ Opportunities
- ❖ Events Calendar

UPDATE: Enrollment



Our database will be moved to another server over the holidays, so please do not try to enroll before January 10th as your information will be displaced. This means that your quarterly reports will no longer be linked to your community. It also means that you will end up needing to re-enroll if you try before January 10th. I apologize for the inconvenience and I am here for any questions or concerns!

Thank you for all that you do! **–Jaime Menon, K-State Research and Extension PRIDE Program Manager**
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Terrific Travels

As you know, I do quite a bit of traveling across the state. When I have the opportunity, I reach out to communities in the area in which I will be visiting, and I am never disappointed when I do. In mid-November I met with the PRIDE organizations of Iola, Humboldt, LeRoy and Haysville.

In Iola I visited the Allen County Extension Office to honor Carla Nemecek, Southwind District Director, for her work to bring 4-H and Extension to the table at the Allen County Week of PRIDE that was arranged by Barbara Anderson, South East Kansas Department of Commerce Regional Project Manager, in May 2016 ([as featured in our June Newsletter](#)).



Local Allen County Masons came to celebrate Carla Nemecek

It is my practice to bring all of the partners to the table, much like Barbara, when celebrations are in order. I gave a call to the three Masonic Lodges in Allen County: Iola Lodge #38, Marmaton Lodge #245 (out of Moran), and

the Virginia Lodge #315 (out of Savonburg) and all three sent representatives to join in our humble celebration.

Carla related that since the May meeting contact has been maintained and resulted in a community cleanup was coordinated in LaHarpe with 4-H and PRIDE collaboration.

The Allen County Masonic Lodge representative spoke of how the local PRIDE groups do such great things in their communities, how Masonic Lodges have contributed to their communities and expressed their excitement that the Masons are now partnering with Kansas PRIDE. Their motto is: *“What happens outside of the Lodge is what counts”* which is not so far from how Kansas PRIDE communities operate. In truth so far I have found through my meetings with local PRIDE organizations and Masonic Lodges, community is center and important to all present. Many times PRIDE organizations have been those that have been working “behind the scenes” to improve their community. This also holds true for the works of local Kansas Masons. Visibility is rarely contemplated when volunteers set to their work, but it is something that we all need to think about. Advertising your group while you work can be as impactful as your project, garnering recognition and opportunities to attract other potential volunteers.



Donna shows off the beautiful Iola Riverside Walking Trail

The next day, when it was light, I was treated to a tour of Iola by Donna Houser, local Iola Community Involvement Task Force or CITF/PRIDE volunteer. There seemed to be endless work that had been done by Iola PRIDE for the community (this is so true of ALL PRIDE communities!). I was delighted to see projects such as the Riverside Park, restoration of historic buildings, the Disc Golf Park and so

much more that I had only witnessed through photos. Donna expressed many times that the City of Iola is extremely involved and supportive of their community improvement efforts.



Later that morning I met with the Kansas PRIDE, Inc. Board in Humboldt, and learned about the history of the partnerships that Humboldt PRIDE maintains with their Chamber and local businesses, that have contributed to the success of Humboldt. I was also able to take a quick jaunt out to get a wonderful pic of the Neosho River Park before my meeting in LeRoy.

In LeRoy I met with representatives of LeRoy PRIDE and local Masonic Lodge, Neosho Lodge #27. The most recent event that the group highlighted was the LeRoy Homecoming. LeRoy PRIDE and local Masons partnered to raise funds for the local High School music department. LeRoy PRIDE was also working on a Christmas Open House in their community. It was in LeRoy that I was able to learn more about the Neosho Masonic Lodge Honor Flight, an opportunity for Veterans and High School students travel to Washington, D.C. to honor their local Veterans and view their Memorials.



CLICK on the video above to view the mission and work of Kansas Masons, the Honor Flight is one of the many highlights of the video.

When meeting with representatives of Haysville PRIDE (you may remember them – Haysville won the cover of the [Kansas Government Journal](#) last year with a picture of their PRIDE Park Fountain) I learned all about the wonderful works and a great long list of annual events that their organization participates in or supports. Their annual projects include a Bierock Fundraiser, Car Seat Safety Checks, Citywide Cleanup, Document Shredding, a Free Pool Day, and Yard of the Month. They also utilize seasonal street banners. These are but a few examples of what they are involved in. With the dollars that they generate at fundraisers they contribute to a Community Expo, the Haysville Fall Festival, the Haysville Aviators, a Living History Rendezvous, and a Village Christmas...again only a few examples of what they contribute to in their community. [CLICK HERE](#) to check out their webpage for more information.

Thank you to all of the PRIDE communities that I have had the honor of visiting this year for accommodating my schedule, and thank you as always for all that you do! Have a safe and happy Holiday Season! **–Jaime Menon, K-State Research and Extension PRIDE Program Manager jmenon@ksu.edu**

Good Apples, Bad Apples, The Heart of a Leader and Untying the Knot



Sandy, Jaime and Emily take a break for a selfie

What do good apples, bad apples, the heart of a leader and untying the knot have to do with community development? **Warning:** the answer is heartwarming.

On November 1, I visited Mission Valley Schools in Eskridge, KS. The Schools had requested my presence at their Alternative Day to talk about Kansas PRIDE and volunteerism. As an adult educator I was quite worried

about how I would engage youth. Enter John Jobe of Riley County Extension, who replied to my email cry for help with a phone call concerning an intern and an opportunity.

Emily Meyer, Intern for Riley County Extension, was brought into the conversation. Emily created three activities to engage K-6 on what it means to be a good citizen. But what of volunteerism...? After a quick call to Sandy Eskridge, former Eskridge PRIDE Chairperson, we had the perfect volunteer to talk to the local youth about such a topic. That’s because Sandy coordinates the local Veterans Day Parade, a function that all of the youth at Mission Valley are involved in every year.



K-2 learned about Good Apples and Bad Apples. They got to pin good or bad apples concerning examples of good versus bad citizenship practices. Third and fourth grades constructed The Heart of a Leader by writing down examples of what it means to be caring, respectful, responsible, fair, trustworthy, and to be a good citizen.



Fifth and sixth graders were asked to stand in a circle and link hands with people across from them, although

not the same person. They were then asked to untie themselves from the tangle they were in without letting go of one another, and by using their words only. After the initial complaints of having to touch one another, they were off and chatting, trying to figure out how they could get out of this mess. After a lot of laughs we had a discussion on how communication is important, and if we do not communicate effectively and wisely, how hard it could be to effectively address community issues.

Sandy then spoke to each group about the importance of Veterans Day, and how volunteers such as herself donate their time to make sure that the Veterans in their community are celebrated and honored.

Mission Valley K-6 were an excellent and attentive group. It warmed our hearts to see light bulbs go off over the heads of the youth as they realized that amazing things don't just happen in their community, the truth is that there are a lot of people that make it happen!

Thank you to Mission Valley Schools, Riley County Extension and Sandy Williams of Eskridge for a wonderful day of learning! **–Jaime Menon, K-State Research and Extension PRIDE Program Manager jmenon@ksu.edu**

Opportunities



New resources such as how to receive logos and new Useful Community Funding Resources can be found on our Resource Page. [CLICK HERE to visit it.](#)

Will your community be in the path of the 2017 solar eclipse? [CLICK HERE](#) to find out. AND [CLICK HERE to see what is happening in a small town in Kentucky, which will also be in the path of the solar eclipse.](#)

Events Calendar 2017

January 10 - Enrollment Begins

February 15 - Growth and Action Grant Applications Due

February 15 - Community Capital Award Applications Due

February 15 - Partners in PRIDE Grants Due