

# Douglass COMMUNITY SERVICES

## QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

Issue 001

October 6, 2025

## Welcome to our DCS Quarterly Newsletter!

As the seasons change, we're reminded that with care and commitment, our community can continue to grow and thrive. Every day, we see neighbors helping neighbors, volunteers giving their time, and small acts of kindness making a big difference.

In this issue, you'll find updates on what we've been working on, a peek at what's ahead, and stories that show the heart of our mission in action. We hope these snapshots inspire you as much as they inspire us.

Thank you for walking alongside us and for being such an important part of this community. Together, we're building something truly special.

### Toys for Tots

Toys for Tots Collection boxes are out in the community!

Registration is Open.

Distribution is set for **December 9 & 10th** at the Admiral Coontz Rec Center in Hannibal & **December 15th** at the Pike County Fair Grounds.



Scan me to:  
Request Toys, Volunteer or Donate

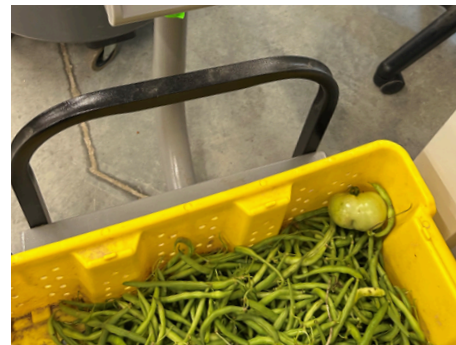


### Farmer's Market & SNAP

It was a successful market season for SNAP clients, vendors, and the food pantry. Fresh, local produce from the Hannibal Central Park Farmer's Market was donated weekly by the vendors to distribute at the Food Pantry. All season long, SNAP benefits were accepted and with the Double Up Food Bucks program, every SNAP dollar spent earned a matching dollar for fresh fruits and vegetables.

### Community Garden

In its first year, the Community Garden provided the Food Pantry with a variety of fresh produce, including green beans, tomatoes, cucumbers, and peppers. Beyond supplying healthy food for local families, the garden also created an educational opportunity for Kids in Motion participants, who gained hands-on experience in growing and harvesting fresh produce.



[www.douglassonline.org](http://www.douglassonline.org)  
573-221-3892

711 Grand Ave. Hannibal, MO 63401  
909 Broadway Hannibal, MO 63401

# Douglass COMMUNITY SERVICES

## QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

Issue 001

October 6, 2025



### Foster Grandparents Program

Gayle Thompson has returned as our Foster Grandparent Coordinator! Under her leadership new volunteers have been interviewed and enrolled in the program. We look forward to placing volunteers into our new Monroe City Early Head Start Center and others as they open later this year. The program currently has 18 grandparents with an additional three waiting to go through the onboarding process for a total of 21.

### October is Head Start Awareness Month!

There are many community events that we will be participating in, including Homecoming parades, Trunk or Treats, and school events. Watch for us in your community.

Throughout October, we're celebrating Head Start and its upcoming 60th anniversary in 2025! Staff and families are invited to join the Birthday Card Signature Challenge and a 60th Birthday Scavenger Hunt by visiting at least three community partners and posting the Birthday QR flyer. These activities help promote Head Start, recruit families and staff, and raise awareness in our communities.

**Happy Birthday Head Start!**

**Scan the QR code to sign the birthday card**



**CASA**

Court Appointed Special Advocates  
FOR CHILDREN

DOUGLASS COMMUNITY SERVICES CASA

September has been a busy and exciting month for our CASA Program! We are thrilled to welcome David Boyd as our new part-time CASA Volunteer Coordinator. With our program continuing to grow, the need for dedicated volunteers is greater than ever as new cases come in daily.

This month, I also completed my required TOF training, which means I am now able to begin training new volunteers. This is an exciting step forward in strengthening our program and ensuring that more children in foster care have an advocate by their side.

Looking ahead, we have several important events and opportunities for growth:

- In **October**, we will meet with local Judges and support groups to discuss Youth Upstream Mapping.
- In **November**, board member Karen Bickel, volunteer Patty Voepel, and CASA Volunteer Director Katie Neff will attend the MOCASA Conference in the Ozarks. Karen Bickel will be representing our program as a breakout session presenter.

Under the current leadership, the CASA program is making great strides in supporting those children in foster care. We are grateful for the continued support of our volunteers, board members, and community partners. Together, we are making a lasting difference in the lives of children in foster care.

Issue 001

October 6, 2025

## DCS Volunteer Services Program Launch

As a result of this year's strategic planning session, we're excited to share that Douglass Community Services has launched a new Volunteer Services Program!

This multi-generational program is designed to bring people of all ages together in service to our community – creating opportunities for individuals, families, and groups to connect, give back, and make a difference side by side.

Whether it's stocking shelves in the food pantry, tending the community garden, raking playground mulch, or helping with seasonal events, there's a place for everyone to get involved

### Housing and Utility Assistance

The Housing Program continues to support families in Marion and Ralls counties with rental and utility assistance. 53 households have been assisted with \$96,882 with the funding from our current ESG and MHTF grants in 2025.

Through our partnership with the Hannibal Board of Public Works we have helped 96 households with utility assistance to help them avoid disconnection or to get utilities restored.

Working with local partners through the Tri-County Alliance for Unmet Needs, Coordinated Entry, and Project Community Connect, we connect families to vital resources and improve quality of life in our community.

## Community Outreach Events–Join Us!

- Hannibal Partents as Teachers Big Truck and Safety Night October 6 2025 5:30-7:00pm Parking Lot in front of Hannibal Middle School
- 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Career Expo October 15 2025 8:30-12:30pm Admiral Coontz Recreation Center
- Hannibal High School Partners in Our Community: Exploring Community Agencies & Resources Tuesday, October 28 2025 3:00 – 6:30 Hannibal High School
- Giving Tuesday – Matching Fund Kick-Off Charcuterie Party December 2 12-1 Rialto Banquet Hall

