



St. Patrick's Parrish Center
— set in silver and blue

Winter Chill 2009



A smiling dish scraper



Happy to be washing dishes?
Bless you, Volunteer!



At Winter Chill 2009, 29 volunteers helped set the tables, deck the walls with lights and giant snow flakes, wrap silverware, make punch and fire up the stoves to cook mass quantities of corn and green beans. Simultaneously, they carved the turkeys and placed them in warming pans. Above, *VISTA Karen Rohrer instructs volunteers about how to keep the lines moving and the food hot, while serving 250 invited guests and 50 performers. In the image above right, some of these volunteers belong to the **KC Warriors**, a volunteer group that lends its time to non-profit fundraisers.



City In Motion dancers, above, wait to take the floor. At right, City In Motion Artistic Co-Director Andrea Skowronek



City In Motion Children's Dance Theater (CDT) travelled from Midtown KCMO to dance and show our youth they are capable of great things. AYS youth sat mesmerized by the young dancer's performance. CDT dancers range in age from eight to 18, with 15 of them on partial scholarships. Coming to Winter Chill was a good experience for the CDT as well. It gave them another venue in which to perform and the conscious realization that there are youth nearby who may be less fortunate than they. City In Motion Dance Theater donated their performance as an in-kind contribution to Winter Chill 2009

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Thank you, Volunteers!



Gift bags for youth and Foster Care Recruiter Jacki Jackson and Case Manager Laura Byrne

For nearly 40 years, Associated Youth Services has *geared up* each fall to assure that every youth we know can celebrate the holidays — regardless of his or her circumstances. Previously, staff toiled to produce a holiday dinner party for all our foster youth and their parents, youth sheltered at Home Ties Youth Residential Center and the youth from AYS Academy.

This year, AYS staff kept working while a beautiful slew of volunteers produced a rockin' holiday party for 300 guests. In the month of December, 58 community volunteers came to AYS to help AYS Americorps *VISTA volunteers complete the pre-event preparations. Twenty-nine more volunteers helped the event run smoothly. Volunteers from Rockhurst University, led by Bill Kriege, helped the *VISTAs transport a mountain of food, gifts and decorations. Then they set tables, assembled buffet hot-lines, began cooking beans and corn and decked the halls with white lights and giant snowflakes.



Fleet Reserve Trucking Company donated 17 turkeys. Here Volunteer Coordinator Karen Rohrer and Senior Vice President Debra Terrell McKenzie receive the birds. Because AYS lacks adequate kitchen facilities to dinner for 300, our friend Tom Anderson of the Gourmet Grocer, roasted our turkeys, prepared mashed potatoes, bread stuffing, gravy and cranberry fluff. A.D.A.P.T.'s Ron Johnson and *VISTA W.T. Dittman CAREFULLY drove the turkeys across town to the St. Patrick's Parrish Center at 94th and State Avenue, where Winter Chill has been celebrated for the last few years.



Youth from the Bethel Neighborhood Center created, and sometimes — wore Rice Krispie Treats, they fashioned into 3D Christmas trees. Each table was decorated with a different craft — a craft youth could do at home or with a friend. Winter branches were hung with handmade lanterns, stars and snow flakes. At each place setting, everyone received a chocolate-dipped pretzel rod. too.



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The award-winning **Schlagle High School Concert Choir**, along with their showman conductor, volunteered their holiday time in satin and tails.



Soloist **Dion Brooks**, an AYS alumnus, volunteered his time to sing several songs *a cappella*. On "Oh Holy Night" Dion successfully reached the highest note, while the audience held their breath. Here at left, Dion cuddles his little girl.



Winter Chill is also the traditional time when AYS recognizes its dedicated staff and long-serving foster parents. With 20 years served as foster parents, AYS recognized Nazeeh and Sharon Al-Uqdah (Sharon is not pictured). Above middle, is CEO Dennis Vanderpool and Kenneth Faulkner, with 15 years experience at AYS' Home Ties. With five years as foster parents, AYS also recognized Fred and Mandy Williams, pictured above, right.

And of course, our special guest star was the ultimate volunteer — **Santa Claus**. Believe it or not, when Santa isn't busy in his workshop, he is foster dad to several AYS youth.



Teen volunteers



Mennonite Volunteer Monica Jeffrey and Monsignor Mullen



Dancers from City In Motion



KC Warriors prepare the turkey dinner trimming's



Marquez Washington, son of AYS staff



*VISTA Matt Insko