

Fourth Quarter 2015 KHGG-AM

The Greater Fort Smith United Way is made up of 26 agencies serving a seven county area. During the months of October and November the United Way is raising money to pay for one million meals. This campaign is being spear headed by Arvest Bank. On Friday, October second at 7:40am, Beth Presley with Arvest Bank appeared on the KHGG-AM Morning News show: "Arklahoma Today" and discussed how listeners could help. Canned food drives, businesses, and people driving through the Arvest drive through windows are all easy ways to participate in this campaign. In Fort Smith and the River Valley Region, Arvest partnered with the community Services Clearinghouse, River Valley Food Bank, and the River Valley Food for Kids to benefit. All the money and food items raised through this campaign directly benefits these United Way organizations feeding local communities. The decision to provide one million meals was based on the fact that hunger is an issue in every community Arvest serves. In 2014, one in six American households reported food hardship, or not having adequate funds to provide enough food for their family. Beth returned to "Arklahoma Today" again on Tuesday, October 27th at 7:40 for a mid-campaign update, and then finally on December 20th for a recap of the campaign which raised just over one million dollars in cash and food value.

Academy of the Arts at the University of Arkansas Fort Smith has a few slots available for children to register for art, voice, instrument, and drama classes. In a pre-recorded interview, Dr. Rosilee Walker Russell talked with Karen Pharis during KHGG-AM's morning show: "Arklahoma Today" on Tuesday, October 6th at 7:40am on how parents can still enroll their children in these culturally rich programs. Tutoring is also available in music and voice for the serious music student. In November, Academy of the Arts "On State" will present "The Addams Family"-a musical with the teen ensemble.

The Children's Emergency Shelter houses children between the ages of six and 18 who have been removed from their homes due to neglect, abuse, or incarceration of their parents. Ashley Ahlert spoke with Karen Pharis on Wednesday, October 7th at 7:40am about a new program which is geared toward children who "age out" of the system. The older teens can either leave the shelter when they reach age 18,

or continue in a new apartment complex run by the shelter which will continue to mentor the young adults in finances, responsibility, and employment.

Debbie Findley with the Fort Smith Altrusa Club paid a visit to the KHGG-AM "Arklahoma Today" and spoke with Karen Pharis on Tuesday, October 20th at 7:40am to invite listeners to the 30th annual "Taste of Fort Smith" coming up the following Tuesday, the 27th of October. The Altrusa club's mission is to empower individuals through literacy and the "taste" event monies raised will go to local volunteer agencies which teach people to read; including: the Crawford-Sebastian County Literacy Council, Friends of the Library, and the Literacy Council of Western Arkansas. The Fort Smith Humane Society also was selected to receive funds since they are facing a financial emergency at this time. The event will feature more than 25 vendors from restaurants from the River Valley at the Fort Smith Convention Center. A lunch and dinner service will allow twice the number of people to sample the food and contribute to the literacy cause.

On Wednesday, October 28 at 7:40am, Lorie Robertson with Chaffee Crossing visited with Bill Pharis about the November 14th Veteran's Day Parade at Chaffee Crossing in the historic district. This year the honorees will be Vietnam veterans those who served during that era. There will be a special "Welcome Home Ceremony" for Vietnam veterans and other ceremonies that honor those who have served in the military. Groundbreaking will be held for the new Veterans Park at Chaffee Crossing. In addition, there will be free flu shots and other medical services offered to veterans on a first-come, first-served basis.

Miss University of Arkansas Fort Smith: Joni Fields-Adams visited with Karen Pharis on Thursday, October 29th about her platform: "Operation Not Forgotten" at 7:40am. It is her effort to make sure that veterans are always remembered. She has been visiting local elementary schools talking about the importance of the military and the sacrifices those serving and their families make. She also encouraged listeners to come to the Veterans Parade November 14th at Chaffee Crossing.

Over the past year the 12th Judicial Drug Task Force has confiscated a number of vehicles, firearms and electronics in drug raids. On Thursday, November 5, Detective Scott Campbell with the Fort Smith Police narcotics division talked with Karen Pharis at 7:40 am about an auction of confiscated items on Saturday, November 21st at the expo center at Kay Rodgers Park. Campbell said those purchasing firearms will need to be qualified through a background check. Included in the auction will be 300 pair of collectible athletic shoes. Officials hope to raise seventy five, to one-hundred-thousand dollars through the auction. Funds raised will be used by the drug task force for future drug investigations.

On Monday, November 16th Beth Greenfield, a student attending the University of Arkansas Fort Smith spoke with Karen Pharis at 7:40am regarding the college campus effort to help Project Compassion. Project Compassion remembers those in nursing homes who may have no family or friends nearby, thus, they are alone. During the holidays Project Compassion collects slippers, pajamas, robes, t-shirts and socks for the elderly and distributes them to the nursing homes. Beth asked KHGG-AM listeners to bring by the above mentioned articles of clothing to the Campus Center beginning at 12:30pm on Saturday, November 21st.

The Salvation Army Red Kettle Drive is in full swing. On Wednesday, November 18th, Major John Popp visited with Karen Pharis at 7:40am about the need for individuals to select angels from the Salvation Army Angel Tree. In addition to the tree at Central Mall, trees with the names of children have also been established at all Arvest Bank locations. According to Major Popp, last year there were over 750 names with wishes unfulfilled because no one selected them. The red kettles will continue at all Wal-Mart locations this year as well as major entrances at the mall.

Tuesday, November 24th Alice Alt with the U.S. Marshal Museum paid a visit to "Arklahoma Today" and spoke with Karen Pharis about the final month of sales of the commemorative U.S. Marshal coin sales. The coins are available in gold, silver, and clad. The surcharge collected by the U.S. Mint will be given to the U.S. Marshal Museum construction building fund. Construction is expected to begin in 2016 along the banks of the Arkansas River on the facility which will focus on the history and importance of the United States Marshal Service.

Fort Smith Police Sergeant Daniel Grubbs stopped by the KHGG-AM studio at 7:40am on Wednesday, November 25th; the day before Thanksgiving to talk about shopping safety on "Black Friday." The sergeant gave tips to listeners to use when going bargain shopping: placing purchased items in the trunk of the car, don't have so much in your arms that you are encumbered, don't flash large amounts of cash about. He also told listeners there had been a number of thefts recently from unlocked cars, and reminded everyone to lock the car door, no matter how short a time the car would be unattended.

Christmas Honors is scheduled for Saturday, December 12th, with preparation of wreaths on Friday the eleventh. Phillip Merry, organizer, spoke with Bill Pharis at 7:40am on Thursday, December 3rd explaining the types of things volunteers would be expected to do Friday the eleventh starting at 8:30am: unpack wreaths from boxes, fluff the branches of wreaths, tie on new bows, stack in preparation of Saturday's placing of the wreaths. He outlined the schedule of events for Saturday as well, and asked listeners who had flatbed trucks or trailers to call him to help get the wreaths from the convention center to the National Cemetery.

Relating to Christmas Honors, Jim Bergman with a local veteran's group of motorcycle riders is organizing an "honors ride" to escort the wreaths into the cemetery on December 12th. He spoke with Bill Pharis and invited listeners on KHGG-AM to participate if they were veterans and rode a motorcycle. The visit was on Thursday, December 10th at 7:45am.

For the fourth consecutive year, the Young Actors Guild Alumni association has written story and song for a Christmas presentation to raise funds for the YAG. Actress Grace Andrews and author Hunter Doohan talked with Karen Pharis at 7:40am about this year's production: "A Forcefully Jedi Christmas", which Doohan penned. Some 20 young actors guild alums are scheduled to perform in the December 18 and 19 event at the Fort Smith Little Theater. Tickets are available at the door for \$5.