

# Event aids foster kids

David Hatfield  
for the Index

Kirkville residents and Truman students can come to the Quad on Saturday to help area foster children.

Community on the Quad, which coincides with the University's Family Day, is an event to raise money for the Kirkville chapter of Court Appointed Special Advocates, an organization that represents abused and neglected children in court. There will be games and a free concert at the event from 2 to 8 p.m. However, the main objective is to gain funding for CASA, said Sandy Richardson, executive director of Kirkville's CASA.

"We try to help kids get through their process and find permanency more quickly," Richardson said.

The mission of CASA is to ensure that children in foster care can grow up in a loving environment.

Richardson said more than 80 children are in Adair County foster care, and right now she has 10 volunteers working. She said the money raised at Community on the Quad will be very helpful.

"We need the funding for recruiting, training and maintaining volunteers," Richardson said.

A volunteer can take up to two cases, and sometimes that includes

a family with four or five kids, she said.

Richardson also said volunteers are asked for a year or more commitment to a case, but that does not deter people from volunteering.

"What's positive about the CASA volunteers is that they all have big hearts, and they're very dedicated," Richardson said. "They're the one constant person that's going to follow the child throughout the process [of finding permanency]."

John Rowe has been a CASA volunteer since June. He is a father and a grandfather, and he said he has always been involved with youth in the community.

"I see a need for children under the protection of the courts to be cared for," Rowe said. "It just feels natural."

This is the second year Community on the Quad will raise money to donate to Kirkville's CASA program. There will be many attractions at the event, and all of the money raised will be given to the CASA program in Kirkville.

"The funding is going straight back into this community," event chairman Brad Edwards said.

The event raised \$900 last year, \$750 coming from local business and about \$150 from student donations, Edwards



Chris Waller/Index  
Junior Bethany Kipping hands out a balloon promoting Community on the Quad to senior Chris Marino on Wednesday afternoon in front of Pickler Memorial Library.

said. Last year, Community on the Quad was not scheduled on the same day as Family Day and there was no initial budget, Edwards said. He said he hopes to raise more money this year.

"I would love to see us break the \$1,000 mark this year," Edwards said. "Depending on how many people are up for Truman Family Day, it's very feasible we could

break the \$2,000 or \$3,000 mark."

The event will include games like apple bobbing and face painting, but he said the majority of the money will be raised from a raffle.

"People are paying about a dollar for a Tootsie Roll and getting a free raffle ticket with it," Edwards said. "We're going to give away prizes that were donated by local businesses. We've got hundreds of

dollars in prizes to give away."

The largest draw to the event will be the free concert, he said. Edwards said four bands will perform. The headlining act is Leo, followed by The Dean Evans Band, The Fundamental Elements and a local band, The State, which is composed of Truman alumni.

"It's going to be bands everyone will like," Edwards said. "We

really tried to cater to everyone up here."

In the past, some students have gone home on Family Day, but Edwards said he hopes this year is different.

"It's going to be one thing students will really want to stay here for," Edwards said. "Just come out to the event. It's going to be great."

# Improved version of test offers greater accuracy

Chris Matthews  
for the Index

The English proficiency test most often taken by Truman international students is undergoing long-awaited changes.

Tom Ewing, director of external communications at Educational Testing Service, said ETS is implementing a new format of the Test of English as a Foreign Language, a test measuring international students' English proficiency as required by colleges and universities.

The new TOEFL is an Internet-based test, TOEFL iBT, and includes a speaking section in addition to assessing listening, reading and writing abilities. These changes are expected

to increase the accessibility and authenticity of the test, Ewing said.

"[The new test] reflects how English is used," Ewing said. "You write, you listen, you talk. It's all integrated."

Ewing said the TOEFL iBT will be available in more locations. The previous computer-adaptive and paper tests required a full-time testing center to house the supplies, including the servers on which the computer-adaptive test items were stored. The TOEFL iBT will be available in any approved facility with Internet access, such as campus computer labs.

"You will still have to register normally ... and take the test at a secure location," Ewing said.

Matt Marble, Truman international admission coordinator, said the increased number of testing facilities enabled by the TOEFL iBT should have a positive result.

"We're hoping that [the TOEFL iBT] will increase students' ability to take the test ... where they might not have to travel six hours to this one city in the country that has the correct TOEFL materials," Marble said.

Freshman Ignatius Onyewadume, an international student from Botswana, said he only had to travel about 20 minutes to take the computer-adaptive test in Gaborone, the capital city. However, he said the new format will make it easier for students not living close to the full-time testing facilities.

Ewing said higher education officials have wanted a more integrated test for years, and ETS has been waiting for the technology to become more available to produce a better measure of English proficiency. For a decade, ETS collected samples of the English language used on college and university campuses in the United States, Australia and England to update the test.

Ewing said the TOEFL iBT will allow colleges and universities to know the level of English measured by the test and will reflect their expectations of students to speak English in an academic setting. In the past, colleges and universities have accepted students who have high TOEFL scores but relatively no abil-

ity to communicate in English.

Onyewadume said this could be because the TOEFL failed to challenge the students.

"I have met some students [at Truman] that don't speak English very well ... [because] the TOEFL was quite easy, really," Onyewadume said.

He said he is concerned the speaking section addition will introduce a bias in the assessment of correct usage because of differing dialects.

"There are some words I speak correctly in English, but the accent can distort my meaning," he said.

Ewing said the speaking section of the TOEFL iBT will require students to speak answers to test ques-

tions into a microphone, which are then digitized and graded by three to six specialists who never have contact with the student and are trained to measure grammar and usage skills.

Marble said students who meet the University's requirements usually have an acceptable proficiency in the language. However, he said the new TOEFL iBT will be an improvement.

"I think, overall, it's a good thing," Marble said. "It's going to help universities assess the English levels of international students, and it's also going to let [international students] know where they stand and what they need to improve on in a little more detail."

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## 17,000 killed in senseless act

### Authorities search for answers on a day of sadness

A nation is in mourning as thousands were suddenly killed yesterday all across the country by people who had been drinking and driving. Traffic was backed up in all 50 states making it difficult for emergency vehicles to reach the victims. Hospitals in every city remain overwhelmed with thousands of critically injured patients.

... simply are not enough resources to meet the demands of this catastrophe. The president spoke early this morning at an emergency press conference expressing his condolences to the friends and families of those who were lost. One official in DeBeau County called this "the most devastating moment in American history." In some places, entire families were killed, leaving many to wonder how something like this could happen in our country today. In a show of support, long lines of volunteers have formed at the ... of blood and the ... enters to ... to the help of National Guard ... as w ... s ...

If this were today's headline, would you notice? Last year, drinking and driving actually did kill about 17,000 people. It injured half a million more. But because it happened over a year rather than in a single day, it's not always front-page news. If you drink, find a safe way home. And do your part to keep drunk driving out of the headlines.

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