Kansas Department of Administration

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Thank you!

Holiday Giving Drive 2015

nets goods for Topeka charities

Christmas came early for three Topeka organizations when donations were delivered on Monday by the Department of Administration employees and friends.

The Holiday Giving Drive 2015 collected more than 30 boxes of goods for the Downtown Sandwich Ministry, Helping Hands Humane Society and Topeka Rescue Mission. Items ranged from cookies and baggies to pet treats and toys to canned goods and other non-perishable food.

Thanks to all who participated to spread some holiday cheer!

Meet Michael Phillips

Office of Personnel Services

Position:

Business Systems Analyst

Job Duties:

Data collection, assistance with PeopleSoft issues, making UPK (User Productivity Kit)

How long you've been with D of A:

Since March 2015

Favorite part of your job:

The people. It's a great team!

Interesting fact about you:

I'm a really good juggler.

Favorite hobby:

Triathlon.

How you would spend an ideal day off:

Starts with coffee, then a workout, then taking the kids out for some fun and spending a romantic evening with my wife (preferably on the beach).

A note from the Secretary...

Well, the end of 2015 is clearly in sight. Christmas is this week and New Year's Day is not far off. I'm sure all of you have been busy at work and at home making preparations for this time of year. Those efforts have included a successful Holiday Giving Drive that collected more than 30 boxes of items for three worthy organizations. Thank you to all who helped with this drive. I'm certain it will make a difference in our community.

Last month I discussed some of the numerous accomplishments in the agency during 2015 and promised more this month from our financial side of the house.

Among those efforts was the Chief Financial Officer's staff undertaking a comprehensive review of the state agency audit process utilized for the past five years. A new annual Agency Audit Plan was created which covers all agencies, uses more SMART system functionality, provides agencies with much quicker feedback on compliance and internal control weakness issues that may exist within the agency, and allows agencies to develop and implement effective corrective actions more timely.

This year also saw the rollout of our Uniform Grant Guidance Roundtable networking meetings with the agencies. Our role is to assist agencies to know, understand, and implement the provision of the new guidance. The main goals of the Uniform Grant Guidance are to reduce administrative burden, strengthen oversight, allow consistent and transparent treatment of costs, and focus audit requirements on reducing waste, fraud, and abuse.

We also implemented the Kansas Treasury Offset Program (KTOP) in March. The program provides for the collection of unpaid state debts by offset of federal non-tax payments and for the collection of federal non-tax debts by offset of state miscellaneous vendor payments. Through November 30, the state has recorded collections of $362,970.72 for state debts and $512,118.05 for federal non-tax debts.

The SMART team worked with KPERS to reengineer the KPERS payment processing to minimize the impact of the retirement system's volume on the SMART batch processing schedule. In addition, the SMART and SHARP teams worked with OITS and the State Printing Plant to transition all printing for SHARP/SMART to the print shop.

Finally, while all this and more was happening across the Department of Administration, the Office of Financial Management ensured that the agency's financial trains continued to run on time. That involves a host of deadlines such as closing out the fiscal year in June, submitting rates to the Budget Office timely, meeting deadlines for SWCAP and submitting our agency budget on time.

We can take pride in all that we did in 2015 and expect that we will be asked to do as much or more in the coming year. But I'm confident that we will have quite a list of accomplishments to celebrate, as always, this time in 2016. Thanks for all you do and have a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Sarah