



KOS Newsletter

AUGUST 2025



Volunteer Spotlight



Arlene O'Brien is one of the original elves and 10 years later continues to support the KOS with boundless energy. She sorts products, counts inventory, prices, organizes storage, picks up, drops off, shops for supplies, sets up displays, helps the kids shop during the market AND sorts and organizes all those gift and carry bags that complete the KOS experience for the kids. She is the first one to tell you she isn't a crafter but she admits to have actually learned to do a few things. She tells us "There is hope for anyone as the crafters readily share their talents." Arlene is an awesome example of the variety of skills needed to keep the KOS alive and thriving.

Arlene was born and raised in Calgary and is a proud wife, mom of 3 adult kids and grandmother to 5 young adults. She loves being a grandmother and it shows in how she masterly engages with our shoppers. She and husband Pat have lived in the Millarville area for 20 years and are well known throughout the community for their willingness to help whenever called upon. Their vegetable and flower gardens have been featured on the Millarville Horticultural Club garden tour. Arlene carries her love of children and gardening to her role as co-manager of the Junior Horticulture departments at the Priddis & Millarville Fair that is coming up on the third weekend in August.

She was motivated to join KOS because of it's mission statement. "If you've ever seen a hungry child you don't forget that look. It was also a chance to get to know other volunteers in our community. With each volunteer opportunity, I have met such a great group of people who have become good friend

Who We Are & What We Do!

The Kids Only Shoppe, is a place where children ages 5 to 12 can shop for friends and family each November during the Millarville Christmas Market. Products sold in the Shoppe are mostly handmade by an enthusiastic group of local crafters and a large portion of profits are donated to local youth-focused community programs in the Millarville, Diamond Valley, Longview, and Okotoks areas. The Shoppe has grown into a welcoming and supportive community of it's own for our crafters and volunteers.



KIDS ONLY SHOPPE CALENDAR

Summer is well underway but not in a typical fashion. The rain has certainly replenished the ground and everything that grows in it.

The KOS elves will soon move into gearing up for the November market, starting with an Organizing Committee Meeting on September 4 where we will review how our donations from the 2024 market were utilized. Schedules for the 2025 market will be set as well.

There is time for just one more crafting work bee in September and we are looking for something new to make. Have a suggestion? Please send it along now so we can gather supplies.

September

Monday, 8th - Committee Meeting & Work Bee @ MRAS Hall
LAST OPPORTUNITY FOR A NEW ITEM FOR 2025

October

Monday, 13th and 14th - Work Bees at MRAS Hall
MUG STUFFING

Monday, 27th - Sorting Day @ Barn

November

Moving & Set-up Days
November 4, 5 and 12

Sale Days

November 8 and 9
November 15 and 16

Take Down & Pack Away Days
November 17 and 18

VOLUNTEER HOURS

Barb and Suzanne are tracking hours each volunteer spends in committee meetings, work bees, creating at home and volunteering during the Christmas market. MRAS grants depend on volunteer counts and hours so it is important to estimate the time spent working on KOS products at home.

Reminder - *please* estimate your hours and turn them into Suzanne or Barb by email, text or paper note. KOS is included in Better Impact and any volunteer is welcome to enter their own hours there as well.



INSPIRATIONAL IDEAS

Patty has sea shells and flippers! Let her know if you can help create these items!!



Rock Painting!

lots of ideas and a great seller!



If there is a good sale price on hammers somewhere, this would definitely be a great seller!



If there are no hammers, this is a great alternative idea for dads, uncles & Grandpa

INSPIRATIONAL IDEAS

there is a huge box of wine corks available to use and lots of ideas

If you are interested in this idea, I can order Santa hats for these! Let me know.



Perfect gift for the Cat Lovers



Create a Golf Towel by adding a grommet to a towel, add a couple of tees, ball marker and a golf ball = a great gift!



Ladybug Spoon - cute idea!



Volunteer Spotlight

Tell Us about Yourself

Some ideas of what you could share

- where do you live?
- are you married - have children, grandchildren?
- what is your favorite hobby(ies)?
- do you have a job? If so, what do you do?
- what is your favorite TV program?
- what is your favorite food/drink?
- what/who inspired you to join the KOS?
- how long have you volunteered with KOS?
- what kind of sports do you like?
- what kinds of music do you listen to?
- your favorite movie?
- when is your birthday?
- your favorite color?
- your favorite holiday destination
- your favorite season of the year?
- anything else you would like to share!
- please include a JPEG photo of yourself

if you are willing to be interviewed please let us know!
kos@mras-track.com

Thanks for participating!

Well - today was a good day - and how do I know
- my rocks are smiling 😊



Newsletter Deadlines are the 15th of each month

Submit to Bonnie
bls1028@gmail.com

Bonnie Schultz, Editor

**NO, I DON'T SPEND ALL
MY TIME CRAFTING...
SOMETIMES I AM ON
PINTEREST LOOKING FO
MY NEXT PROJECT.**