

For Immediate Release

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Valentine Neighborhood Honors Police, Search for Missing Neighbor In Annual Valentine's Day Love Awards

(Feb. 10, 2005) The Valentine Neighborhood Association in midtown Kansas City will present its outside-the-neighborhood "love award" to Kansas City police officers on Monday, Feb. 14. The second love award for 2005 goes to the "Friends of Summer," the group of family and friends who have been searching for missing Valentine resident Summer Shipp since Dec. 8, 2004.

The award honors individuals or groups that have show extraordinary commitment to the Valentine neighborhood in the previous year.

In 2004, officers from Kansas City's Central and North patrols worked with the Valentine Neighborhood and the Broadway Westport Council to improve safety on Broadway.

"These officers went above and beyond the call of duty to listen to our concerns and find creative and effective ways to improve the quality of life in Valentine and the surrounding business district," Kevin Klinkenberg, president of the Valentine Neighborhood Association, said. "We can't do enough to thank them for their hard work and dedication."

The second love award, given to a neighborhood resident or residents, goes to the "Friends of Summer." This group of extremely dedicated volunteers, headed by Summer Shipp's daughter Brandy Shipp, has worked tirelessly to develop leads that will lead to the return of Summer, a long-time Valentine resident who disappeared Dec. 8, 2004. The Friends of Summer have operated their search out of Summer Shipp's Valentine home, and have become as much a part of the neighborhood as Summer is.

"The Valentine neighborhood will continue to do what it can to help the Friends of Summer find our neighbor," Klinkenberg said. "We are amazed by their unlimited energy and their positive attitude as they continue the search."

The Valentine Neighborhood Association is a voluntary organization of residents and friends of the valentine Neighborhood, between Broadway and Southwest Trafficway from 31st Street to 40th Street.

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