St. Clair creating volunteer database

By William Skipworth
skipworthw@emissourian.com

After months of workshops, a group of St. Clair residents have decided to use a $15,000 grant from the federal government to create an online volunteer database.

Organizers hope the database will help connect organizations in need of assistance with community members who can provide that assistance. Mike and Tricia Cooper will serve as trustees for the database.

The project, which was facilitated by Jefferson Franklin Community Action Corp. (JFCAC), is the result of a $15,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

The group plans to create a website with the database and give access to it to anyone in need.

"We're hoping that this will be able to direct the public to where they need to be," Skoubys said.

She said the database also will help volunteers looking to develop new skills. One example she gave is that if someone was interested in learning plumbing but didn’t have those skills already, the database could match them up with an experienced plumber and that plumber could mentor them and teach them plumbing while they helped somebody in need.

She said other ideas included setting up a ride share program using the database.

Going forward, Skoubys said JFCAC will start handing more responsibility to the Coopers and other community members to meet JFCAC’s goals.