



## Lincoln/Logan County Chamber of Commerce

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For Immediate Release

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### **The 2011 Festival Army of Volunteers Grows to More than 650**

It is a little known fact that the Lincoln Art & Balloon Festival has a staff of only four people working at the Chamber of Commerce. So how is it that an event of this size happens each year and continues to grow you may wonder? Well, Kelsey Ney, the volunteer director of the festival and Chamber member services director says that “The Chamber relies on hundreds of volunteers for its success each year. The Festival would not happen without the generous involvement of local individuals and businesses who give of their time to help make the festival happen. As the festival grows, so does the need to expand the volunteer base. This year we are estimating that we will need to fill anywhere from 650 to 700 volunteer spots once the festival is completed and clean up is done the next week”, Says Ney. “This number may total about 615 individual people. We have many people that commit to working an entire weekend or just parts of each day”, states Andi Hake the executive director of the Chamber. “it never stops amazing me the amount of generosity the people in our community continually display year after year, event after event.”

With the addition of the new KCBS BBQ competition downtown on Friday and Saturday, the free off-site parking and shuttle program, and the addition of several other new components to the festival this year, the need for volunteers is at an all time high. In addition to adding new features to the festival, the chamber lost some key volunteer coordinators from years past. “We have been able to fill several of these volunteer coordinator positions, but we still need someone to help us manage our new off-site parking and shuttles, and we are looking to fill another airport parking coordinator position. These two coordinators are key to the success of the event. If our traffic flow is a nightmare for visitors to the event and our community, it is likely they will not return. Finding the right person for each position has presented us with a challenge we were not anticipating, but we are confident that someone will rise to the challenge,” says Ney.

There are a wide variety of volunteer opportunities available—from working in the fine art fair, BBQ competition, transportation, beverage center both of the alcohol kind and non-alcohol kind, selling souvenirs, helping people park, answering questions, driving shuttles (busses and golf carts), selling admissions, (to the airport and for tethered balloon rides), setting up, cleaning up and tearing down, and much much more. Please let us know if you would be interested in joining our army of volunteers and if you have friends or family members that may have an interest in getting involved, too. To show a small token of appreciate for our volunteers; we will kick the festival off with a Volunteer Appreciation Party Wednesday, August 24th. 2011 Festival Dates are: August 26, 27, 28. For more information on how you can volunteer, contact Kelsey Ney at the Chamber Office. [217-735-2385](tel:217-735-2385)/ [info@lincolnillinois.com](mailto:info@lincolnillinois.com) or, you can download a volunteer form at [www.lincolnillinois.com](http://www.lincolnillinois.com).