



NEWS NOTES

RSVP of Rock County

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Fall 2021

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Welcome. We want to start off the fall with news about RSVP of Rock County. We hope this news will give you a better idea of what you will find at RSVP, how we can help you and others you know. We will share information through NEWS NOTES quarterly. Enjoy

FROM THE DIRECTORS CORNER

There are changes in the making and change is not always something people like, but it is inevitable and usually good. We are all experiencing change as we adapt to the changes due to COVID. Working together we are able to work with these changes and continue on, building stronger and better relationships, programs, and connections.

RSVP is also experiencing a change as we say good-bye to Will Anderson, the Executive Director of the past two years. Will has moved to Kentucky to head up a well-established private school. We wish him well.

I will be "filling his shoes" as I take on the duties of Executive Director. I am Pam Carper and I joined RSVP-ROCK the beginning of July 2021. I have enjoyed getting to meet so many of our dedicated volunteers and learn about all they do to help the seniors who are part of our programs.

I come to RSVP of Rock County from Big Brothers Big Sisters South Central Wisconsin where I served as Executive Director for the past five years. I grew up in Indiana but adopted Wisconsin years ago as my home and would not want to live anywhere else. I graduated from Indiana University and remain close to my alma mater. I love college sports, so starting this fall you will hear a lot about college football if you talk with me.

I look forward to continuing to meet the volunteers and clients and to working with them in the many programs we offer. I am a "change agent" so this move to RSVP of Rock County is exciting, especially as I work more with our Inter-generational and Foster Grandparent programs. In another position I worked with an Inter-generational mentoring program and found it to be good for both the youth and the adult mentor. I hope we will have a minute to talk soon. I am anxious to share just why you should be a part of these programs.

QUILTS OF CARE

The word “quilt” comes from the Latin origin, meaning “a stuffed sack”. Actually, a quilt is more like a sandwich to me. The top layer is very decorative, the middle layer is the stuffing that makes the quilt cozy and warm and then the base layer is plainer, but necessary to bind the three layers together.

But the word quilt means so much more to many of us. Seeing a handmade quilt today brings back memories of my grandmother sitting by the hour piecing material together for a quilt. She would sit and stitch every individual piece of the top layer by hand. Now, my grandmother was a professional tailor and had a sewing machine, so I didn’t really understand why she chose to do her work by hand.

One day, while helping her pick material for a new quilt I asked her why? She said when she worked on a quilt it was always for someone she knew, and she wanted to put herself into the work to give something of herself when she gave them the quilt. She said time passes quickly because she would remember all of the times they spent together and the adventures they had.

Quilts have been around since the 34th Century BC. Originally, they were a functional item for bedding. That function continues today but in a much more decorative manner. Now quilts are paired with pillows, curtains, sheets to match or coordinate. They are also used as lap blankets, wall hangings and general room decorations.

The term quilt today often refers to the piecing of material and print together to make a commemorative item for special occasions. Quilts often mark milestones and are made to remember a wedding, a birth, a graduation, a sport honor and more. When my granddaughter went to college, I made a quilt of the T-shirts from her high school days that meant something to her. She takes that back to campus every year and it lays at the bottom of her bed.

RSVP is fortunate to have one of our volunteers making quilts for the agency to raffle. Jeanne Smith-Corlett has been a great volunteer and board member for the agency. She saw a need to help the agency spread the word about our programs and raise money at the same time. This year Jeanne has made a beautiful queen size quilt and a lap quilt to auction. If you are interested, please contact the office at (608) 362-9593 to tickets. Tickets are \$5.00 each or 3/\$12.00.

Prizes for this raffle are:

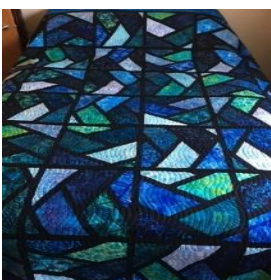
1st Prize: Queen size, handmade quilt

2nd Prize: Oversized handmade lap quilt

3rd Prize: \$100.00

The drawing will be held November 19,2021 so remember to get your tickets.

One of her beautiful quilts



Jeanne – our master quilter



PROGRAMS

Being able to help others is such a joy, one that our volunteers enjoy as they participate in our programs. There is something to fit everyone's interests and schedule.

RSVP Seniors Volunteering for Seniors Program

Do you like to get out and around? Do you enjoy driving to help others? Then this program is the one for you. RSVP volunteers provide assisted transportation, phone assurance, friendly visitation, and respite relief to fellow seniors in an attempt to help seniors remain independent as well as providing opportunities for increased socialization and support. Volunteers receive mileage reimbursement and supplemental liability insurance. Regular meetings with the volunteers provide volunteers an opportunity to network with other volunteers as well as receive information on subjects pertinent to the senior population.

RSVP Community Referral Program

RSVP volunteers are referred to non-profit agencies as requests are received. Volunteer assignments include health care facilities (for example, hospitals, nursing homes, public clinics); senior-focused programs (like dining centers, senior centers, transportation programs, serving on governing boards locally and regionally, tax counseling, home delivered meals); libraries; museums; food pantries; chambers of commerce; homeless shelters; domestic violence shelters; schools, etc.

B.A.B.E.S.

(Beginning Alcohol and Addictions Basic Education Studies)

Trained volunteers use animal puppets to educate students about **Substance Abuse, Coping Skills and Peer Pressure, Self-Image and Feelings, and Getting Help.**

Senior volunteers serve as role models, developing caring relationships with students over the course of the five weeks they are in the classroom.

When retirement comes, how do people keep their minds sharp, hands busy, and feel they are still giving back to the community? The volunteers involved in the Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) BABES program (Beginning Awareness Basic Education Studies) do so by performing educational puppet shows for local kindergarten through second grade classes.

The BABES program includes a little bit of courage, a sense of whimsy, and a desire to deliver teachable moments to children. Volunteers enlist puppets to deliver a series of tales to kids about the dangers of drugs, peer pressure and the importance of making sound decisions. It was designed in 1979 and first performed in Seattle, Washington.



RSVP Groups/Homebased Program

RSVP volunteers work in groups and individually on projects for public and private non-profit organizations (for example, preparing bulk mailings, updating records, or addressing envelopes). Volunteers may also sew items for needy families in shelters, make stuffed animals for grieving and/or abused children, or knit and crochet mittens, hats, and scarves for children in Headstart, shelters, and schools. Assisted living and nursing facilities are always thrilled to receive lap robes for their residents who do not have families to provide them.



America Reads

America Reads is a national program to assure that all students are able to read at grade level by third grade. Volunteers spend as much time as they are able to with Kindergarten through Third Grade students who are at risk of difficulty in learning to read. They work one-on-one and in small group settings. Volunteers are grouped in teams for orientation, training, recognition, and support.



“The fire of literacy is created by the sparks between a child, a book, and the person reading.” Mem Fox

Intergenerational Heroes

Volunteers meet with students in fourth through sixth grades for six weeks of programming. The students are introduced to a hobby or skill that they can continue on their own. We offer groups in arts and crafts, knitting, cooking and games. The volunteers fill the community need to provide structured after-school activities while students learn they are valued by adults in their communities.



Folk Fairs

RSVP Folk Fairs are held in schools throughout Rock County. Senior volunteers demonstrate or display various lost arts, crafts, and skills. Children have the opportunity to see, make and taste butter, and braid a rug. These skills and hobbies taught by our volunteers can be used after the program is over.



Foster Grandparent

Help Children to Thrive

As a Foster Grandparent, you'll help children in your community develop the academic and life skills that are critical to their development and future successes.

Sharing your time and experience can help children learn how to read, prepare younger students for school readiness, tackle tough subjects, and make decisions that keep them on the right path. We will match your skills and passions to opportunities that interest you, including those in local schools, youth facilities, early childhood education and day care centers.

A Proud History of Helping

Foster Grandparents began in 1965 with 800 volunteers in more than 45 institutions. Today, nearly 30,000 volunteers help more than 280,000 children through our nationwide network of organizations. These organization have clear-cut goals, so you can be sure your assistance focuses on high-impact activities like:

Teaching job skills to economically disadvantaged youth.

Improving behavior and educational outcomes, including day care centers, grade school and college readiness for students with special or exceptional needs.

Tutoring and mentoring in local schools and community-based programs.

Supporting children of veterans and deployed military.

Whether you want to knit, play with puppets, read, or work with a teen to give guidance, there is a place for you to volunteer at RSVP or Rock County. Please contact us at **(608) 362-9593** to learn more and start to volunteer.

Our Volunteers

Welcome

We want to extend a warm welcome to our new volunteers who have joined us in the last year. Please welcome:

Mary Bryne	Jan Diderich	Mathew Haeger	Bob Hill
Diane Johnson	Donna Kremer	Doug Magee	Laurie Marsh
Phyllis Rorabeck	Sarah Slye	Phil Smith	Jerry Sveum
Gary Teubert	Sandra Wittenbrink		

We Remember

As we welcome our new volunteers, we want to remember those who served with us who have passed away.

Hazel Black	Carolyn Brown	Mary Lou Ennis	Dorothy Dexter
Mary Lea Hamilton	Harlin W. Miller	Marcia Minter	Darlene V. Nelson
Norma Nitz	Sue Price	Esther Rutherford	John Swanson
Diane Tuttle	Bruce Winchester		

Thank You

Our volunteers do so much for RSVP and those we serve. We want to thank each of them for their financial and material donations.

Charles and Ruth Gildersleeve	William Sachse	King McIntire	Eleanor Burke
Arlene Wynstra	Lynette Rust	Lois Buroker	Bernice Brey
Norma Zito	Mary Ellen Cooper	Janice Mitchell	Linda Klebsdel
Marvin Smith	Steve Taylor	Jan Olmstead	Maxine Rasmussen
Alice Peters	Charlene Galster	Inge Machnik	Goni Trane
Judy Owens	Mac's Pizza Shack		
Jenny Carr – mittens, yarn, hats	Jean Novak – yarn	Phil Sholes – napkins	
Carol Logan – suckers	Alan Laage – toothbrushes	Janet Stevens – yarn	
Gretchen Ruzcek – hats	Diane Toberman – baby blankets	Joyce Gray – hats, scarves	
Grinnell – yarn, hats	Alice Kniskern – mittens	Gloria Dean – yarn	
Sherril Gilbertson – baby blankets	Delores Folyer – scarves	Marlisse Chamberlin – yarn	
Joyce Hedgecock – yarn	Sharon Dressler – antiques, crafts	Karen Nuendorf – lap robes	
Judy Haberman – party supplies			
Grinnell Hall Quilters – lap quilts, hats			
Beth Schmuck – lap robes, hats, baby blankets			
Norma Olin – tote, paper towels, tape, plates			
Dorothy Wensel – scarves, hats, sweaters, lap robes			
Erna Beece – baby booties, scarves, hats, baby blankets, baby jackets			
Janesville Senior Center – mittens, scarves, socks, yarn, shawls, hats			
Fung Scholz – hats, lap robes, hot pads, scrubbies, dishcloths, scarves, baby blankets			
Lee Ann Mattox – blankets, hats, mittens, scarves, neck warmers, lap robes, sweater, shawls, jeans, baby P.J's, baby outfits			
Linda Schumacher – baby blankets, scarves, baby sweaters, baby hats, baby sacks and caps, onesies			

Volunteer Opportunities

Whether you want to knit, work with children, drive seniors to appointments, deliver meals, or get involved in other activities, RSVP has an opportunity for you to become involved.

Seniors Volunteering for Seniors

Transportation Program - Would you enjoy helping fellow seniors get to their doctor appointments, the grocery store, the pharmacy and other essential errands? There is an ongoing growth in the requests for rides from our seniors and RSVP is continually looking for drivers in the Rock County area. These volunteer drivers also substitute for Food Pantry Drivers, and an additional person for the Beloit route to ride along to help the driver. Drivers are reimbursed at \$.50 per mile and offered supplemental auto insurance when needed.

Phone Assurance – The phone assurance program helps seniors remember to take their medicine, provides someone just to check on them or offers someone to visit with on the phone. Hours vary starting at 8:00 am.

Friendly Visitor – Seniors Volunteering for Seniors is looking for volunteers to fill friendly visit opportunities. A friendly visit can consist of talking, playing cards, playing games, or just being there to spend time with them.

RSVP – RSVP is looking for energetic board members to help fulfill the mission of the agency. The board meets once a month on the third Friday. Board members are also asked to participate in fundraising activities, including the volunteer recognition dinner in June. If you are interested, please contact **Pam Carper at (608) 362-9593**.

Rock County Courthouse – The Rock County Courthouse is looking for volunteers to fill four hour shifts at the Information desk. If you are interested, please call **RSVP (608) 362-9593**

COVID 19 Pantry Delivery Program – SVS collaborated with Rock County Council on Aging- Mobility management, ECHO, Caritas, C.U.P. Orfordville Lutheran Food Pantry, and Clinton Lutheran Pantry. Rock County vans were delivering grocery items to people who have no other way to get to the pantry. RSVP was able to secure funding from the United Way Blackhawk Region and the Stateline Community Foundation to provide the program. With a new program comes a need for new volunteers. We are looking for regular drivers and substitute drivers. These are the routes and times:

CARITAS Beloit – Every Friday at 11:45am

ECHO Janesville – Every Thursday at 11:45am

Orfordville CUP – 1st and 2nd Thursday at 9:45am

Clinton Lutheran Pantry – 3rd Tuesday at 11:00am All routes take approximately 1-2 hours.

This is a contactless delivery system; we call clients when we arrive then deliver grocery items to the front door and wait for them to come to the door before leaving.

We are looking for delivery drivers in all areas. Please contact **Patty Hansberry at (608) 362-9593 or email phansberry@rsvp-rock.org**.

Virtual Social Gathering – Thanks to a grant from the Community Care Corps we are able to purchase a group of Facebook Portals, and the internet connections for those. A Facebook Portal uses voice commands to connect with another Portal. You can tell the portal who you want to reach and during the conversation you are able to see the other person you have connected with.

We are in the process of recruiting volunteers to set the portals up in the homes of clients and teach them how to use it. We are also looking for volunteers who would like to be a leader of 2 or 3 individuals. You would make, weekly contact with the individuals just to visit and see how they are doing. Please contact **Patty Hansberry at (608) 362-9593 or email phansberry@rsvp-rock.org** to talk about any of the opportunities listed here. Thank you.

HealthNet of Rock County – Interested in a meaningful and impactful volunteer opportunity? HealthNet of Rock County relies on charity and volunteerism to help provide critical medical and dental services to the underserved residents of Rock County. Currently, they need administrative volunteers from 9:00am to 11:30am on Thursdays in their medical clinic at HealthNet. They are looking for volunteers who are:

Able to operate a standard telephone system (answer inquiries, transfer calls, etc.)

Semi-proficient/comfortable with computers (Windows) I calendar, email, Microsoft Office,

etc.)

Comfortable with diverse populations

If you are interested in helping, please contact Devin Dionne, HealthNet of Rock County, (608) 756-4638

If you are interested in any of the following volunteer opportunities contact RSVP (608) 362-9593

Autumn Lake Healthcare, Beloit – Autumn needs volunteers to help with activities.

Beloit Health Systems – Beloit Health Systems needs volunteers for numerous duties (escorts, grill, etc.). Shifts are flexible.

Beloit Public Library – The library has a program for volunteers. If you love books this is just for you.

Beloit Senior Center – The Goldenaires need male singers. Rehearsals are every Monday at 9:30 am

Council on Aging Nutrition Program – COA needs volunteer drivers to deliver meals M-F during the lunch hour. Drivers will go on one or more ride-alongs prior to going out on their own.

Family Promise of Beloit – Family Promise is looking for volunteers on weekends for help with meals, general clerical, receptionist, and other light duties.

Junior Achievement – Share your experiences and skills with students from your community, help them make the connection between what they are learning in school and what they will need to succeed in work a life.

Mercy Health – needs volunteers to answer the phone, help the residents, or sign up to work a shift.

Milton Food Pantry – The pantry needs volunteers to do sorting, stacking, packing, and food distribution. If you have a few extra hours that you would be able to help out with this program.

Rock County Historical Society – they are looking for volunteers to help process collection donations, help guests with researching family and other histories, serve as guides for visitors, as well as many other volunteer opportunities.

St Mary's – St. Mary's is in need of volunteers for their gift shop, assistance for nursing staff, escorts, clerical support, and delivering goods to patients.

The Gathering Place – they are looking for volunteers at the meal site in Milton. This position would assist the site manager with portioning out & packaging the home delivered meals and would then assist in the kitchen with serving the on-site diners (preparation, serving, and clean-up).

Family Promise of Beloit – This is a special request for volunteers to provide dinners for one week and companionship to some of the families at the shelter. If you are interested in helping out please contact RSVP (608) 362-9593.

Beloit Historical Society Volunteer Opportunities

The Beloit Historical Society (BHS) is seeking volunteers with a wide variety of opportunities. All training, tools and equipment are provided, and scheduling is flexible.

Cataloging Collections

Are you a hands-on type of person? Do you love antiques, old documents, and historic photographs? Volunteers who work with the BHS collections catalog new artifact donations, improve current artifact records, organize collections storage, and research more information on the artifacts. This volunteer opportunity is a great way to have fun working directly with artifacts and see visible results.

*Remember, there is always something to do and someone to help. You can be the one to help another. Volunteer today.
(608) 362-9593*