



News Notes

RSVP of Rock County

Published Quarterly

Winter 2021-2022

Introducing Vets Helping Vets



RSVP is excited to introduce **Vets Helping Vets**, a program which assists veterans, spouses or partners who no longer drive. Drivers who are veterans themselves (or their spouses) are able to provide transportation to any medical appointment, the grocery store or other necessary appointments for fellow veterans.

We are searching for Veterans and their spouses or partners who are 55 and older who want to make a difference in the lives of other Veterans.



Volunteer drivers receive mileage reimbursement, supplemental liability insurance and staff support and training, as well as volunteer recognition throughout the year.

If you are interested in being a driver, or you are a vet who needs a ride, please call Patty at Retired and Senior Volunteer Program at 608-362-9593.

Foster Grandparent Program Introduced

Share your time and experience with local youth who are in need of a stable adult to give advice, share experiences, help with homework or just be a mentor, helping guide them through the varied challenges of life.

You can make a positive difference in the life of an elementary, middle or high school student.

Volunteers spend up to five hours a week sharing time with their foster grandchild.

Volunteers are given an initial four hour training session and on going, periodic training throughout the program.

We are currently searching for those 55 and over who would like to share some time with a youngster in the Beloit School District.

For more information on this rewarding opportunity, please call Laura Anastasi, Intergenerational and Foster Grandparent Program Director at R.S.V.P 608-362-9593 or at lanastasi@rsvp-rock.org

Volunteer Feature Jan Olmstead

"Salt of the Earth" is a phrase that comes to mind when talking with Jan Olmstead. Jan has been volunteering with RSVP since December 2, 2014. She also spent 11 1/2 years as a volunteer driver with Rock County Specialized Transit when their Volunteer Driver program was active.



Jan and her husband Ralph have been married for 53 years and have two children, Rose and Ken. They have also been blessed with four grand children. Allyson and Alex are 21, Sonja is 9 and Kenny is 8.

Her "family" also includes two cats named Kitty Kat (age 7) and Molly (age 3).

One of her favorite hobbies is crocheting because it keeps her busy while she is waiting for her passengers.

Ralph is an Army veteran and when Jan began volunteering her time as driver, she said one of the things that got her started was the knowledge that she would be able to give rides to vets.

While Jan and Ralph took several longer trips with their kids while they were growing up, she describes them as basically "homebodies."

She and Ralph worked side by side for over 30 years running a machine shop that had been his fathers. Since they were married, they have lived in the house Ralph lived in at birth. Both of them love to fish and she said they are each others best friends.

When Jan was 15, her sister gave birth to her fifth child. Jan went to visit and assist her. She was in her sister's kitchen preparing a bottle of formula and in walked her brother-in-law with his friend Ralph. You could say it was old fashioned love at first sight, but however you describe it, Jan knew she had just met her best friend. Jan and Ralph have weathered life's storms together as well as celebrated its joys with each other over their 53 years of marriage.

From the Desk of the Director.

I continue to be proud of all our volunteers do to help fellow seniors navigate life and independence. Then to add to that, we have volunteers who work with youth in our schools to help them navigate growing challenges.

Through the struggles of the past year, we have had volunteers step up and go beyond the call to make sure they were there for our seniors, the children, and the agency. It is like having a perfect friend.

I want to share what Snoopy, one of my favorite dogs, outlined as a perfect friend and thank all who have been just that over the past years.

Thank you

Pam



Drivers Needed

You can make a difference in the life of a senior by volunteering to provide rides to doctors appointments, the grocery store and other necessary destinations. Join our group of valued volunteers and you will receive mileage reimbursement as well as the satisfaction of knowing you are helping others maintain a good quality of life.

Choose your rides and days you can volunteer.

For more information call Patty at

RSVP

608-362-9593



Congratulations to the Winners of the Quilt Raffle



Debra Kraus

The holidays were a bit warmer for our quilt raffle winners this year. The winner of the third prize of \$100.00 was Dana Sanwick. The lap quilt (second prize) was awarded to Ruby Hay (right photo) and the grand prize of the queen sized quilt went to Debbie Kraus (left photo).

Thank you to all the individuals who helped support the work of RSVP by purchasing tickets for the fund raiser. A big thank you to Jeanne Smith Corlett for all the hours she spent crafting the two quilts and to all of our wonderful board members who worked so diligently selling tickets.



Ruby Hay

RSVP Programs Help to Brighten Life of Beloit Veteran

Mr. Larson is a part of our portal program, the friendly visitor program and the transportation program. He has one volunteer that performs all of these services and so many more. Sherrill started by visiting him in his home once a week to read him his mail and visit. Then a grant allowed us to purchase a portal and set it up in his home. Now Sherrill and Mr. Larson are able to visit every day, he also shares his grocery list with her once a week, she orders it online and either delivers it to him or if they have an appointment they will do it that day. Mr. Larson talks with his portal buddy everyday now. He also had Sherrill add his son on the portal, now he visits with his son every night. The quilt in this picture is a quilt of valor and was donated to him by a group of sewers and delivered by Sherrill, it was given to him unceremoniously. Recently Sherrill was able to help Mr. Larson with another project. He finally confided to Sherrill he couldn't use the microwave as he is blind. Sherrill came up with an idea to use felt dots on the buttons of the microwave, with the number of dots to determine a task. Mr. Larson can now use the microwave to warm up foods and make popcorn.



Governors Award Presented to RSVP Volunteers

On September 17, 2021 following the monthly RSVP board meeting, staff and board members gathered to honor RSVP volunteers who had been recognized at the Governor's Award Ceremony in Madison during the month of August. There were a total of 27 volunteers who received awards in Madison. A sincere congratulations and thank you to our many valued volunteers. So many lives have been improved because each of these volunteers have dedicated their time to helping others. Following is a complete list of all those honored in Madison. Pictured below are the volunteers and staff who attended the local ceremony in September ceremony following the board meeting.

Twenty Years of Service: Margaret Brandenburg, Lois Ferrera, Judith Lechelt, Phil Pickett, Alfred Pinnow, Dorothy Warriner.

Twenty One Years of Service: Laurena Wise, Marcia Stenberg, Gene Wenham, Eva Pickett, Carol Hurley

Twenty Two Years of Service: Joyce Gray, Fung Scholz

Twenty Three Years of Service: Naomi Hackbarth, Joanne Petersons,

Twenty Four Years of Service: Larry Clift, Shirley Geffers, Norma Olin, Karen Starling

Twenty Six Years of Service: Dolores Leonard, Virginia Nitz, Marge Terneus

Twenty seven Years of Service: Betty Ainger, Jane Clift, Beth Schmuck

Twenty nine years of Service : Delores Folyer, Yoshiko Glos



L-R) Pam Carper, RSVP Executive Director, Joyce Gray, Karen Starling, Joann Petersons, Fung Scholz, Laura Watson-Anatasi , Intergenerational and Foster Grandparent Program Director, Laurena Wise, Lois Ferrera, Norma Olin, Roselyne Ackley, Patty Hansberry, Seniors Volunteering for Seniors Program Director.

Volunteer Opportunities..... Enrich Your Life While Helping Others



When you reach retirement, how will you keep your mind sharp and your hands busy? How can you continue to feel like you are valued and giving back to your community? Maybe you have been retired for a while and you are bored and looking to be involved in projects that help others.

Retired & Senior Volunteer Program is your solution! RSVP has a variety of volunteer positions available that will appeal to many different talents. Match your talents and interests with the many openings listed below.

Gifts Men Shelter : A NEW Addition to our Community Referral Program



Kitchen Coordinator - train new volunteers, organize the kitchen and be available 3 - 5 days a week as needed.

Receptionist - be the first point of contact for guests entering the shelter, answering phone calls and more

Thrift Store Volunteer - organizing, sorting , working with donations received at shelter.

Life Recovery Coach - Share you knowledge, experience and wisdom as a guide and role model and help shelter guests develop a Life Improvement Plan.

Other Community Referral Program Opportunities

RSVP Volunteers are referred to a variety of non profit agencies as requests are received. Volunteer assignments include health care facilities, (hospitals, nursing homes, public clinics) senior focused programs such as various positions in a local senior center) transportation programs, serving on local governing boards, tax counseling and delivering home delivered meals. You could also be placed in volunteer positions in local food pantries, museums, homeless shelters domestic violence shelters and schools as well as a variety of other agencies.

B.A.B.E.S. (Beginning Alcohol and Addictions Basic Education Studies)

Be a part of puppet shows at area schools that deliver an educational message to students, enabling them to learn how to handle peer pressure and feelings and how to develop a positive self image. Perfect for those who love to perform, have a sense of whimsy and enjoy the stage. Volunteers perform at each school for a six week period, teaching kids about the dangers of drugs, peer pressure and the importance of making sound decisions.

Another NEW Volunteer Opportunity!! The Foster Grandparent Program



Share your time and experience teaching job skills to economically disadvantaged youth, tutor and mentor in schools, support children of veterans and deployed military. Help children in your own community develop valuable academic and life skills that are critical to their future success. Join with nearly 30,000 volunteers across the nations helping to improve the life of more than 280,000 young people. This program has clear cut goals, so you can be assured the time you spend is focused and purposeful. This program allows you to make a positive difference in YOUR community.

Volunteer Opportunities continued.....

America Reads Program Opportunities

Work one on one and in small groups with children in kindergarten through third grade who are at risk of difficulty in learning to read. This is a nationally recognized program.

Intergenerational Heroes

Work with students in fourth through sixth grade for six weeks, sharing a hobby or skill the students can continue on their own. There are groups in arts and crafts, knitting, cooking and games. Help students learn they are valued by adults in their community.

SVS Program (Seniors Volunteering for Seniors)

Do you enjoy meeting others and getting out and around your community? The SVS program provides a variety of opportunities to share your talents. Volunteers provide transportation for seniors to various appointments, as well as respite relief, phone assurance, friendly visits and more. These volunteers meet with each other on a regular basis to provide networking and educational opportunities.

Home Based Programs

We also have groups of volunteers and those that work individually from their homes doing tasks such as working on mailings, updating records, sewing items for needy families, make stuffed animals for abused or grieving children, as well as crochet mittens, hats and scarves for children and lap robes for adults in nursing homes and assisted living facilities.

Seniors Volunteering for Seniors

Transportation Program – Assist fellow seniors in getting to their doctors appointments, the grocery store, the pharmacy and other essential errands. There is a growing need in rides for seniors and RSVP is continually searching for drivers in the Rock County area. These volunteer drivers also substitute for Food Pantry Drivers, and an additional person to the Beloit route to assist the driver. Drivers are reimbursed at \$.50 per mile and offered supplemental insurance when needed.

Phone Assurance - This program helps seniors to remember to take their medicine, provides someone to check on them or offers an individual to visit on the phone. Hours vary beginning at 8:00 a.m.

Friendly Visitor - Seniors Volunteering for Seniors is in need of volunteers to fill friendly visit opportunities. A friendly visit can consist of talking, playing cards, 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, in the morning. 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**.

COVID 19 Pantry Delivery Program - Drivers pick up food orders at area pantries and deliver to clients throughout Rock County. This is a contactless delivery system. Drivers deliver items to front door and then call clients from their car. They wait until client comes to door to receive the delivery before they leave. CARITAS / Beloit - Every Friday at 11:45, ECHO / Janesville - Every Thursday at 11:45, Orfordville CUP / 1st and 2nd Thursday at 9:45, Clinton Lutheran Pantry - 3rd Tuesday at 11:00 a.m. Routes take one to two hours.

Virtual Social Gathering - Thanks to a grant from the Community Care Corps we were able to purchase a group of Facebook portals, as well as the internet connection for them. Clients simply tell the portal who they want to reach and it is connected. During the conversation, both individuals are able to see and hear each other. We are in need of several individuals who are interested in connecting with 2 or 3 individuals, as well as someone with computer knowledge who would be willing to set up the portals in individuals homes. Volunteers would make weekly contact with individuals just to visit and check in on them. If you are interested in this program, or would like to learn more about it, please contact Paula Schutt at (608) 362-9593 or email Paula at pschutt@rsvp-rock-org.



Health Net of Rock County - Interested in a meaningful and impactful volunteer opportunity? Health net of Rock County relies on volunteers to help provide critical medical and dental services to the underserved residents of Rock County. They are currently looking for administrative volunteers from 9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. on Thursdays in their Medical Clinic in Janesville. Volunteers would need to be able to:

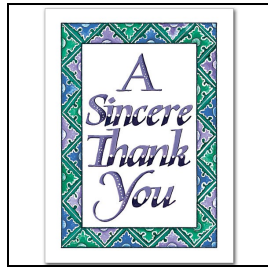
- Operate a standard phone system (answer inquiries, transfer calls, etc.)
- Semi –proficient/comfortable with computers (Windows, calendar, email, Microsoft Office, etc.
- Comfortable with a diverse population

For more information, please contact Devin Dionne, Health Net of Rock County, (608) 756-4638.

RSVP is also looking for volunteers in the following areas:

- Autumn Lake Healthcare - Beloit is in need of volunteers to help with activities
- Beloit Health Systems - is in need of individuals for a variety of duties, escorts, grill, etc. Flexible hours.
- Beloit Public Library -If you love books the library has a variety of volunteer opportunities
- Beloit Senior Center - The Goldenaires need male singers. Rehearsals are every Monday at 9:30 a.m.
- ADRC of Rock County Nutrition Program (formerly Council on Aging) : The nutrition program is in need of volunteer drivers to deliver lunches Monday—Friday during the lunch hour. Training is provided.
- Family Promise of Beloit - is looking for volunteers on weekends to help with meals, general clerical, receptionist and other light duties.
- Junior Achievement - Mentor students from your community by helping them make the connection with what they are learning in school and what they will need to succeed in life.
- Milton Food Pantry - is in need of individuals to sort, stack and pack and work with food distribution.
- Rock County Historical Society: is in need of volunteers to help process collection donation, help guests with researching family and other history, serve as guides for volunteers.

A Note of Sincere Thanks to All of our Volunteers



During the past year we have been blessed to be the recipients of a variety of donations. Talented volunteers have gifted us with handmade mittens, blankets, lap robes, hats, scarves, baby blankets, baby booties and jackets, supplies of yarn and so much more. Others have given in other means to many of our programs. Thank you to each and every one of you who have given of your time, talent and donations. RSVP staff is very appreciative and grateful for all of the generous donations. We could not do what we do if it wasn't for the generosity of our volunteers .

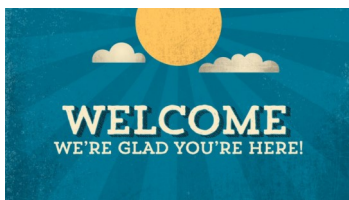
*We are looking forward to continuing our partnership with all of you in 2022. **You** are what makes RSVP a success and we are proud to work with all of you.*

Pam Carper, Patty Hansberry, Laura Anastasi, Judy Wightman, Paula Schutt

Hellos and Goodbyes

Welcome New Volunteers

Judy Cufr
Jan Diderich
Geri Heim
Jackie Jass
Diane (Dee) Johnson
Laurie Marsh
Phil Smith
Karen Foley- Strauss
Jerry Sveum
Gary Teubert
Sandra, Wittenbrink
Martha Zuniga



Those Who Have Served and Are No Longer With Us

Patricia Bjerk
Charlene Brandsey
Virginia (Jeanne) Burke
Val Dunagan
Linda Fredell
Lillian Hudson
Ralph Irvin
Novella Johnson
Barbara Kronquist
Carol Leib
Arch Liesse
Mary Alice Linsley
Virginia Long

Harlin Miller
Shirley Mullranin
Marcy Olsen
Jorgen Olsen
Rose Marie Peabody
Robert Pikalek
Esther Rutherford
Jane Stephens
John Swanson
Bruce Winchester
Anita Zabel
Alfred Pinnow
Sallie Adams



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The RSVP Mission

The mission of RSVP of Rock County is to enrich the lives of volunteers, age 55 and older,
Through meaningful service opportunities that match their life skills and interests to community needs.

Board of Directors

Ed Hansen, President
Judy Owens, Secretary
Debbie Kraus, Treasurer
Rose Ackley
Jeff Hoyt
Robert Norder
Michael Palubinski
Phil Smith
John Soehnlein
John Solis

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Pam Carper, Executive Director
Patty Hansberry
Seniors Volunteering for Seniors
Program Director
Laura Watson-Anastasi
Intergenerational and Foster Grandparent
Program Director
Judy Wightman
SVS Program Assistant
Paula Schutt
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