

# Retired & Senior Volunteer Program

## News Notes

RSVP of Rock County

Published Quarterly

Spring 2022

### Volunteer Recognition Dinner and Annual Meeting To Be Held June 23

Following two years of not meeting in person, the staff of RSVP is excited to announce they are planning the **Annual Volunteer Recognition Dinner and Annual Meeting**. The event will be held at the Glen Erin Golf Club located at 1417 West Airport Drive, Janesville. Volunteers can once again look forward to live music courtesy of John Solis, Retired Rock County Veterans Service Officer. There will also be raffle prizes, a silent auction and a delicious meal. The event takes place on **Thursday, June 23 from 4:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.** Once again, there is no charge for those who are registered RSVP volunteers. All other guests are asked to remit \$15.00 per meal.



Please make your reservations early as we are limited to 140 attendees.

### RESERVATION FORM

Please fill out and mail your reservation by **Friday June 10** to  
**RSVP 2433 S. Riverside Dr. #1**  
**Beloit WI 53511**

I / We will attend the RSVP Annual Volunteer Recognition  
Dinner on Thursday, June 23, 2022

Please print name clearly

Please print name clearly

Yes, I need a ride

I will give someone a ride

**RSVP Volunteers - No Charge**

**Others—15.00 please make checks payable to RSVP and return with your reservation**

608-362-9593

## From the Director's Desk.....

Whether it is sports, baking, artistic performance, or writing, we segment things into compact categories. Sports games are divided into quarters and half's, the culinary world is divided into quantities, artistic performances are separated into scenes and our books are divided into chapters.

The population is divided into centuries, but as we look at it closer, we really divide our population into young and old. We at RSVP work with and support the older division of our population. I think we should term that section, "THE SECOND HALF". At the same time those of THE SECOND HALF volunteer to help the youth so they will be able to succeed and grow to be part of that SECOND HALF one day.



To quote our lovable Mr. Rogers, *"We live in a world in which we need to share responsibility. It's easy to say "it's not my child, not my community, not my world, not my problem. Then there are those who see the need and respond. I consider those people my heroes."*

I consider our volunteers at RSVP, those of THE SECOND HALF, to be heroes. They are the ones who step up to drive their fellow seniors to necessary appointments, offer their talents and volunteer at a business or organization to fill a gap, work with the youth in our schools to help with academic and behavioral issues and share their time talking with our seniors who are homebound.

These are just a few of the valuable volunteer opportunities our seniors take up. But with all they do, there is still more to do. There is one more valuable thing we all are able to do. Share all of these valuable ways our seniors are helping. Share how they take the time to make sure someone else has the companionship, transportation, service they need. Share that with others. Share the good that our heroes are doing and open the door for others to volunteer. We never have enough volunteers. We will have a place for every one that enters our program. There is a place for their special interests, their talents, and their time. Spread the word, celebrate our heroes, and welcome others to join us.

## Gifts Men's Shelter In Need of Volunteers

Gifts Men's Shelter in Janesville has a number of volunteer opportunities available.

**Kitchen Volunteer** - If you like working in the kitchen, organizing the pantry and kitchen area, ensuring food is rotated and dated, purchase and organize staples as needed, this job may be for you. Hours and days vary according to your availability.

**Shelter Receptionist** - You will be the first point of contact for visitors entering the building. Very customer service oriented. Answer, screen and forward calls and do a variety of receptionist duties.

**Life Recovery Coach** - Do you have a talent for listening and encouraging others? Maybe you are a retired or semi retired counselor? Gifts has openings for individuals who can act as a guide and role model helping guests create and implement a Life Improvement Plan. You meet weekly with your assigned guest.

**Thrift Store Volunteer** -If you love working in a retail setting, organizing, sorting, working with customers, this is the job for you!

For more information on any of these opportunities, contact Paula at RSVP.

**608-362-9593** or email [pschutt@rsvp-rock.org](mailto:pschutt@rsvp-rock.org)

## Join Your Friends at RSVP for a Fundraiser!

**Thursday, May 5, 2022**

**4 pm - 8 pm**



**Mac's Pizza Shack**  
2307 Milton Ave  
Janesville

RSVP will receive a  
percentage of the  
proceeds from 4 pm-8 pm

**The Retired & Senior Volunteer Program would like to thank the following agencies for grants recently awarded to RSVP.**

**Our Foster Grandparent Program has received the Community Impact Grant from The Stateline Community Foundation in the amount of \$3,000**

**Our Vets Helping Vets Program has received the following grants:**

**The Hendricks Foundation** for awarding two year grant in the amount of **\$25,000**, with half being awarded each year.

**The Sonnentag Foundation** for awarding a grant in the amount of **\$5,000**.

**Our sincere thanks to all three agencies for their support of RSVP.**

### **The Heart of A Volunteer**



Helen Neal was homebound in 2013 when she decided she wanted to reach out and help others. She spoke to staff at Home Health United and inquired as to what she could possibly do, given the fact she could not leave her house. They suggested she contact Retired & Senior Volunteer Program.

She connected with Patty at RSVP and was assigned the task of a friendly visitor. Her job was to talk to people on the phone. She reminded individuals to take their medicine in a timely manner, she spoke to others who were homebound and lonely and reached out to many individuals throughout her time with RSVP. Over the eight plus years she volunteered with RSVP she touched many lives, through her telephone. At times she would log over 130 hours in a month reaching out to other people.

Helen's volunteer file is packed with the names of individual's she connected with over the years. Sadly, Helen passed in February of this year. She leaves behind a wonderful legacy and a testament to just how much good an individual can do, even when challenged with personal limitations.

# Featured Volunteer Opportunities

## Drivers Needed



RSVP is in immediate need of individuals who are interested in providing rides for our clients to doctor appointments, grocery store, etc. Volunteers are reimbursed for mileage and are able to choose their assignments. Very flexible volunteer position that will fit easily into a variety of schedules.

**Call Patty at RSVP 608-362-9593**

We have many additional volunteer opportunities to choose from

Tell us what YOUR interests and talents are and we will match you up with the perfect new adventure!

**Volunteer Today!!**

## Board Members Needed

RSVP is searching for individuals who are interested in serving on our board. Our board meets the third Friday of every month at 9 am. If you have skills you can share, financial, marketing, organizational, etc., we want to talk to you. For more information on this opportunity contact

**Pam at RSVP  
608-362-9593**

## Foster Grandparents Needed

- Work with school children in Literacy and Math
- Care about children's futures
- Have a valid Driver's License
- Work with un-accompanied youth and teen moms and their kids
- Be a friend

**Interested? Contact Laura at  
RSVP 608-362-9593**



**The Rock County Historical Society is searching for volunteers to fill the following positions:**

**Grounds Clean Up** - Outdoor lovers needed on April 22 (Earth Day) and April 29 (Arbor Day) to assist in cleaning up the grounds.



## School Tour Helpers & Docents

History buffs who would enjoy giving tours of the building and acting as "school teachers" at Frances Willard School.

**Art Buffs** - To assist with our **Artrageous Wednesdays** events June 8 through August 31.

**We are in need of volunteers for these upcoming major events:**

- **Bridal Expo on May 7th**
- **Tallman Arts Festival August 6 & 7**
- **Oakhill Cemetery Tours Oct. 22 & 29**
- **Holiday Tree Show in December**

**For more information contact  
RSVP  
608-362-9593**

## Vets Helping Vets

If you are a veteran, or the spouse of a vet and 55 or older, we need you! This program assists veterans who can no longer drive. Drivers, who are veterans themselves (and their spouses) provide transportation to medical appointments, grocery store or other necessary appointments. Drivers receive mileage reimbursement. Interested? Call

**We Want You**



**Patty at RSVP 608-362-9593**



# Featured Volunteer Opportunities

## The Beloit Historical Society is searching for volunteers to fill the following positions:

**Clerical /Office** - needed to help cover office hours during hours of operation Tuesday—Thursday. Answer phones, greet visitors, basic office duties.

**Photography** - volunteers with photography skills are needed to help photograph artifact collections items and event activities.

**Newsletter** - Volunteers who love to write are needed to write articles on aspects of Beloit's history in the Society's bi-monthly newsletter "Confluence". Choose your topic of interest.

**Cataloging Collections** - Volunteers who love antiques, old documents and historic photos needed to catalog new artifact donations, improve current artifact records, organize storage collections.



**Special Events** - the society hosts several events throughout the year. Volunteers are needed to greet visitors, take admission, set up, clean up, etc.

## Attention Pet Lovers

**Promedica Hospice** is searching for volunteers who love pets to assist in their Pet Peace of Mind Program. These volunteers are specifically trained to take care of patients pets and either foster or assist in rehoming pets.



Do you have a trained Therapy Dog? Promedica is looking for person/dog teams to visit their facilities.

**For more info contact**

**RSVP at 608-362-9593**

## Hospice Vigil Volunteer

These Promedica Hospice volunteers have additional training to prepare them for visits with patients who are actively dying. They provide a comforting presence, hold a hand, play music or read. They fill in when there is no family or family cannot be there.

**Interested? Call RSVP for more information.**

**608-362-9593**

## Love to Read?

Share your love of reading with children in kindergarten to third grade.

Work one on one or in small groups with children who are having difficulty in learning to read.



America Reads is a nationally recognized program. Interested?

Call Laura at

**RSVP at  
608-362-9593**

## House of Mercy Seeking Volunteers

House of Mercy in Janesville is search for volunteers to work at the Welcome Center desk. Volunteers answer telephones, assist residents, take in donations, mark off chores and perform a wide variety of other duties.

Welcome Center shifts are as follows:

- 8am - 12 noon,
- 12 pm - 4 pm
- 4 pm - 7 pm
- Overnight shifts also available

For more information call RSVP at  
**608-362-9593**

## Your Impact on Other People.

Is bigger than you think. Someone still giggles when they think of that funny thing you said. Someone still smiles when they think of the compliment you gave them. Someone silently admires you. The advice you give has made a difference for people. The support and love you've offered has made someone's day. Your input and opinions have made someone think twice. You are not insignificant and forgotten. Your existence makes a positive difference, whether you see it or not.



*Compassionate Reminders*

## Newly Listed Volunteer Opportunities

For more information on any of these opportunities call

RSVP at 608-362-9593

Gardeners and nature lovers here is a chance to work in the award winning gardens at **Rotary Gardens** in Janesville. They are looking for volunteers to help out with a variety of duties in the gardens Monday through Friday from 8 am – 11:30 a.m.



They are also looking for individuals to help with the **Spring Plant Sale** that runs from April 28<sup>th</sup> through May 1.

For more info or to volunteer call RSVP at 608-362-9593

### Family Services

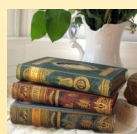
This agency is in need of compassionate individuals to provide emotional support, medical advocacy, legal advocacy or crisis intervention. Volunteer position that are currently open include:

- Community Response Team Member
- Crisis Call Volunteer
- Event Volunteer
- Support Group Volunteer
- Social media Volunteer
- Handyperson Law Care Volunteer

**For more information, contact**

**RSVP at 608-362-9593**

### Something Just For Book Lovers!



The Beloit Library has the following volunteer positions open.

- **Adopt a Shelf Volunteers** - help to keep our shelves clean and in order
- **Bookleggers Volunteer** - bring the love of reading to 3rd graders in Beloit area schools with classroom visits
- **Homebound Program Volunteers** - volunteers needed to select material for readers
- **Children's Area Volunteers** - individuals needed to help clean supplies in childrens areas
- **Teacher Corps Volunteers** - These volunteers interact with Children in the Children's area. Prefer someone with experience working with children.

## More Volunteer Opportunities Hot off the Press!

**Hedberg Public Library in Janesville has the following volunteer positions open:**

**Please call Retired & Senior Volunteer Program for Application or more information**



**Children's Programs:** Assist children with crafts and activities under the direction of library staff at various programs throughout the year.

**Summer Library Program:** Interact with people of all ages as they participate in the electronic summer reading program. Training session required

**Bilingual Spanish Programs:** Greet guest, help with crafts, serve food. 2-4 hours per event.

Lift, carry and reach. Minimum of high school level 4 Spanish.

**Data Entry:** Enter data into online database. 1 hour per week. Accurate keyboarding skills.

**Ground Floor:** Operate Ground Floor. Cashier, stock, maintain friendly atmosphere. 2-3 hour shifts. Lifting and/or carrying up to 10 lbs., reaching, and frequent standing.

**Ground Floor Closer:** Operate Ground Floor and close as scheduled. Cashier, stock, maintain friendly atmosphere. Additional closing duties assigned. 2-3 hour shifts on weekday evenings and /or weekend afternoons. Lifting and carrying up to 10 lbs., reaching and frequent standing.

**Materials Delivery:** select, deliver and return materials to homebound patrons. Valid license and insurance required. Computer and library collection knowledge helpful. Ability to successfully interact with older and/or persons with disabilities. Reaching, standing, lifting and carrying.

**Reference:** clip, label, copy, file, variety of tasks as needed. May work with local history materials. 1-3 hours per week. Lifting, walking, reaching, carrying, sitting, standing. Ability to read, count, follow directions.

**Shelf Reader:** Maintain shelf order, check for damage or mislabels, and straighten. Minimum 1 hour per week. Lift up to 10 lbs., reaching, standing and walking. Alphabetize, use Dewey Decimal system.

### Autumn Lake Healthcare is in Need of Volunteers

Autumn Lake is looking for an individual who is interested in doing one on one visits with residents. Volunteers need to have proof of vaccination and provide a copy of their vaccination card. They must wear a mask at all times. For more information call Paula at RSVP 608-362-9593.





Look for our new billboard  
located on HWY 51 , headed north  
near the Rock County Regional Airport

## Attention RSVP Volunteers

The last two years have had an unfortunate effect on our programs and many volunteers have taken a break. Our programs are growing quickly and we have a very real need for active volunteers. We need to “regroup” and get a fresh count of who our active volunteers currently are. **We hope you will all stay active & we need to hear from you.** Please call or email us soon and let us know what your volunteer status is. We are looking forward to hearing from all of you.

When you email or call let us know one of the following:

YES! I want to remain active!  
How can I help?

Due to life changes, I can  
no longer be considered  
an active volunteer.

Retired & Senior Volunteer Program

608-362-9593

[phansberry@rsvp-rock.org](mailto:phansberry@rsvp-rock.org)

[laura@rsvp-rock.org](mailto:laura@rsvp-rock.org)

[pschutt@rsvp-rock.org](mailto:pschutt@rsvp-rock.org)



# April is National Volunteer Month



Many volunteers will tell you that volunteering is a rewarding experience. You do not have to have a ton of time!

Do you have a special talent or skill that may benefit a charity or an organization? Offer your services or call us and ask how you can be of help.

You can get a great start in volunteering by contacting The Retired & Senior Volunteer Program of Rock County. Our staff will be more than happy to match your skills and talents with just the right opportunity.

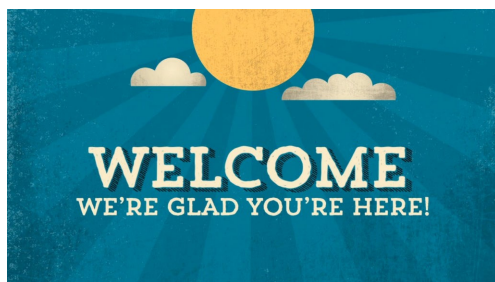
If you or anyone you know is 55 years of age or older and are looking for an opportunity reach out to others, please share this newsletter with them.

## *Hellos and Goodbyes*

### Welcome to Our New Volunteers

Harold (Hal) Joyce  
Carol Larsen  
Patricia Mason  
Linda Possini  
Jeff Guenther  
Tim Thieding  
Thieding

Get **YOUR** name  
on this list!



### Those Who Have Served and Are No Longer With Us

Karen Wildman  
Michael Palubinski  
Judy Witzack  
Phyllis Bingham  
Norma Bluhm  
Nancy Blumer  
Shirley Gray  
Charlottte Horn  
Mary Marlette  
Walden Thiede  
Deborah Ulrich  
Marlisse Chamberlain



RSVP of Rock County, Inc.  
2433 S. Riverside Drive #1  
Beloit, WI 53511

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U.S. POSTAGE  
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Beloit, WI  
Permit No. 67

**Return Service Requested**



### **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  
John Solis, Vice President  
Judy Owens, Secretary  
Debbie Kraus, Treasurer  
Rose Ackley  
Jeff Hoyt  
Robert Norder  
Phil Smith  
John Soehnlein  
Al Softley  
Tim Thieding

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Seniors Volunteering for Seniors  
Program Director  
Laura Watson-Anastasi  
Intergenerational and Foster Grandparent  
Program Director  
Judy Wightman  
SVS Program Assistant  
Paula Schutt  
Program Assistant

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