



Spring 2024 Newsletter



## Doing Good in the Neighborhood

### RSVP Featured Volunteer...

# Arnold Arndt

## SIXTEEN YEARS OF SERVICE

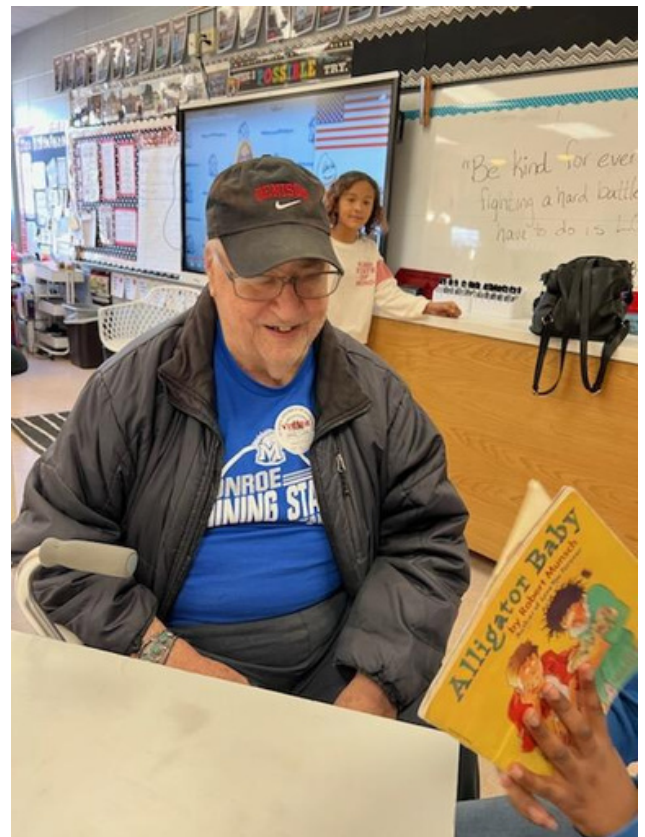
Arnold has been a volunteer with RSVP for 16 years. For the last 5 years, he has participated with the America Reads program at Monroe Elementary School in Janesville.

Arnold enjoys reading with children who struggle with literacy. He has helped many children reach grade level reading to be successful as they grow.

## RETIRED TEACHER

As a teacher, he began his career in a rural school with seven grades in one school then moved to a traditional setting. When he moved to California he had three children. There he was a banker, worked in a brokerage house and was a truck driver.

After retirement, Arnold moved back to Janesville, Wisconsin.



Arnold listening to a Monroe Elementary Student Read

Thank you for your service Arnold!



## *From the Director's Desk*

RSVP of Rock County would like to welcome Cindy Browning who has been hired as the new Executive Director.



Browning has a Bachelor of Arts- Social Work Degree from the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater, and a Master of Clinical Social Work Degree from Aurora University. Browning is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker and for the past ten years has been Executive Director for non-profit organizations in Dane County. Browning stated "I am very grateful to be welcomed as the new Executive Director for RSVP of Rock County. I look forward to building strong and lasting relationships with our community of volunteers and with the participants who access our services. RSVP works tirelessly to impact the lives of older adults in our community- striving toward safety, independence, and the prevention of isolation for our older adult neighbors. I am proud to lead and work alongside a team of caring, compassionate employees and volunteers. I look forward to learning in my new role all that RSVP offers to the Rock County area, as well as engaging and connecting to area partners. I am eager to provide outreach while sharing the mission of RSVP while learning and identifying opportunities for growth."



# **RSVP Programs Need YOU And Your Friends**

## **Help Keep Seniors in their Home and Independent**



### **Do you enjoy driving?**

Seniors volunteering for Seniors and Vets Helping Vets are looking for drivers to take seniors to medical appointments and the grocery store. We reimburse mileage and provide training. You choose the days and times you would like to volunteer.

### **Are you a fix-it person?**

RSVP's new Handyman Project was launched in early 2023. There are many of our neighbors requesting a Handyperson. Are you good with simple repairs, lawn care? We are looking for any one willing to help our seniors with small tasks around the house and yard. You pick and choose what you want to do. All tools and supplies are provided by the client.

## **Make the Difference in a Child's Life**

An Americorps Foster Grand Parent offers an elementary aged student with a stable and consistent adult in their life through tutoring and mentoring. Foster Grand Parent Volunteers support behavioral, life skills and academics in reading and math.

They help children grow, providing consistent comfort and companionship that sets a child on a path to a successful future. In addition, income eligible volunteers may receive a stipend of \$4/hour and mileage reimbursement. Our goal is that Foster Grand Parent volunteers serve for a minimum of 5-20 hours per week in Rock County schools. You will work with our team to establish the number of hours that work well for you. Training is provided. Call us today to learn more!



# VOL NTEER We're missing U!

Check out these opportunities and if anything sounds like a winner, give Larisa a call at RSVP.



**Shelf Reader - you come and go as convenient for you**



**VIP Cafe'-provide customer service and great food Gifts from the Hart Gift Shop  
(Shifts for weekdays available)**



**Strawberry Festival is July 13th at Sun Valley Church, Beloit  
Servers, Ticket sellers, Kids Carnival**



**Gift shop and museums need assistants. Docents are needed to assist visitors on tours. Assist with school age children in May for tours.**



**Packing boxes for drive-thru Mondays 10-12 and/or 12-2:15**



**English Language Learners Tutors Needed for the Spring Semester. Training is provided.**



**Events needing volunteers-  
March 9-Bowling, Clinton  
March 16-Corned Beef meal  
March 23- Pool Tourn.  
April 23- Beer Flight Night  
May 8-Spaghetti Dinner**



**Disaster Action Team  
Volunteers needed for on-call shifts**



**SSMHealth.  
Visit patients in their homes for social/ emotional support.**



**Travel Ambassador at Wisconsin Welcome Center on I/39-90, Beloit**



**Seeking people detail oriented and enjoy organizing within an office setting.**



**Put Easter Baskets together for clients between March 11-22**

**FOUNDRY Theater Group  
Transport one or two cast members to and from practice.  
Work with actors on memorizing their lines.**



**Deliver meals on Wed.or Fri with mileage reimbursement in Janesville or Milton**

# Upcoming “Do You Know?” Presentations



## **Retired and Senior Volunteer Program - The Benefits of Volunteering for the Individual and the Community**

March 14th - 10:00 a.m. Grinnell Hall

Learn why volunteering really is a vital resource for our communities.

What health benefits does volunteering bring a volunteer? What opportunities are out there for volunteering?

*Presented by Larisa Chmielewski, B.A., M.Ed.*

*Programs Administrative Assistant, RSVP of Rock County*



## **Eating Local: The Science and Benefits of Eating Locally**

April 11 - 10:00 a.m. Hedberg Library

Celebrate Earth Day with two local experts on the benefits of eating locally.

*Presented by Kaelyb Lokrantz - Fresh Start*

*Julie Uram, Executive Director of the Nature at the Confluence*



## **Summer Driving Techniques and The AARP Driver Safety Program**

May 9- 10:00 a.m. Grinnell Hall

Learn tips on how to be a safer driver. Summer may seem like a safe time for driving because there is no snow or ice. But with summer, other issues can create reasons to be prepared as a safe driver.

*Presented by Neil McCallum, AARP State Coordinator*

Space is limited to the first 20 people. Reservations are required. Call us at (608) 362-9593 or email us at [lchmielewski@rsvp-rock.org](mailto:lchmielewski@rsvp-rock.org)



### **Office Wish List**

RSVP just created a wish list on

Amazon.com for items needed at our office

Go to your Amazon account and request to see our wish list or call the office.

## **Join us for Pizza!**



### **Mac's Fundraiser Dates**

**March 21 & May 2**

**4-8 p.m.**

**2307 Milton Ave., Janesville**

**RSVP receives a % of the sales**



# WELCOME

## New Volunteers

Cindy Browning  
Debra Cmar  
Linda Miller  
Jon Paulson  
Leslie Regenold

## New Volunteer Station

Foundry Theater Group- a performing arts group whose primary group of actors are people with diagnosed disabilities. They rehearse and perform at United Church of Beloit

*We remember volunteer Joyce Gray who passed away February 15th.*

## April is Earth Care Month

Plastics are found on the shelves of our stores but they are also litter on our roads, waterways and filling our landfills. Plastics have become a huge problem across the globe, especially since China stopped taking plastics for recycling in 2017. Americans' plastic waste is five times more than the global per-person average making the responsibility for all this waste on us.

Plastics are manufactured from oil and gas that are subsidized by our government. There is an equity issue too. Plastic factories are usually located in low-income neighborhoods and communities of color impacting their health and daily lives.

### What can we do?

Rethink, Refuse, Reduce, Reuse, Refurbish, Repair, Repurpose with the last option - Recycle

1. Stop buying plastic. Look for things packaged in glass, metal or cardboard instead; If that is not possible, look for larger containers and refill it; OR simply refuse things like liquid hand soap and use bar soap, usually wrapped in paper.
2. Change things like laundry detergent. Liquid laundry detergent is mostly water. Switch to powdered detergent or detergent sheets that dissolve in water.
3. Carry your own water bottle. Bring your own shopping bags. Reuse bread bags instead of using ziploc bags. Wash ziploc bags and reuse them.
4. Stop using straws unless they are compostable or reusable
5. Reduce use of styrofoam take-out containers, cups & dishes which are not recyclable.
6. Be an Earth Advocate by speaking about why all of this is important. We have one earth which we need to protect.

Excerpts taken from Jane Laping,  
Presbyterians for Earth Care, An Eco-Justice  
Network, January 23, 2024



# RSVP 51st Volunteer Recognition Dinner and Annual Meeting

## Thursday, June 27th 4:00-6:30 p.m.

We at RSVP are excitedly planning our 51st Volunteer Recognition Dinner. Glen Erin Golf Course, 1417 West Airport Drive, Janesville, is our beautiful venue again this year. They are also our VENUE SPONSOR for 2024. Attendees can look forward to a delicious dinner with entertainment, raffle and auction.

No charge for registered active RSVP volunteers in 2023. All other guests are welcome with a cost of \$24.00 per meal.



To offset the expenses of the dinner we need to thank our  
Presenting Sponsor:



**WELLS  
FARGO**

**Advisors**

**John Wong**  
Senior Vice President –  
Investment Officer

PM-09052025-6456838.I.I

## RESERVATION FORM

Please fill out and mail your reservation by Thursday June 13 to  
RSVP 2433 S. Riverside Dr. #1  
Beloit WI 53511

*Or Email us at [lchmielewski@rsvp-rock.org](mailto:lchmielewski@rsvp-rock.org) Or call us at 608-362-9593*

I / We will attend the RSVP Annual Volunteer Recognition  
Dinner on Thursday, June 27, 2024

I. \_\_\_\_\_ 2. \_\_\_\_\_

Yes, I need a ride

I will give someone a ride

RSVP Active Volunteers - No Charge  
Others—\$24.00 please make checks payable to RSVP  
and return with your reservation

\_\_\_\_\_ I am not able to attend but would like to make a donation of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

to RSVP in support of their programs and services to our community.



2433 S. Riverside Dr #1  
Beloit, WI 53511

Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
Beloit, WI  
Permit No. 67



## **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**

**Al Softley, President**  
**John Solis, Vice President**  
**Judy Owens, Secretary**  
**Debbie Kraus, Treasurer**  
**Roselyn Ackley**  
**Susan Hirschfield**  
**Bill Pember**  
**Phil Smith**  
**Jeanne Smith-Corlett**  
**Tim Thieding**

### **Staff**

**Cindy Browning, Executive Director**  
  
**Patty Hansberry, SVS Program Manager**  
  
**Laura Watson-Anastasi**  
**Intergenerational/FGP Program Manager**  
  
**Judy Wightman, SVS Program Assistant**  
  
**Larisa Chmielewski**  
**Programs Administrative Assistant**