



NEWS NOTES

Fall 2008

... where volunteers make a difference

RSVP Staff Member Honored

RSVP staff member **Emily Greene** was one of five volunteers recognized by President Bush at a gathering on the White House lawn in September. Emily served for two terms with the Schools of Hope Literacy Project and now serves as Assistant Director for the Project. Schools of Hope recruits and trains volunteers who serve as tutors for low-performing elementary students in Madison, Sun Prairie, and Verona.

President Bush highlighted her service, and said, "What a wonderful gift. When somebody says, 'How can I help serve America?', how about teaching a child to read as a lasting contribution to the future of our country?' Madison's public elementary schools are improving, the achievement gap is narrowing. And Emily, it must make you feel great to leave a lasting contribution, and we are glad you're here on behalf of AmeriCorps."

Emily met the President before the speech, and was excited about the experience. "I am proud to be here representing AmeriCorps and VISTA and my program," said Greene. "I loved my

AmeriCorps service and I wish everybody could do a year of AmeriCorps."

In addition to the hundreds of dedicated VISTA and AmeriCorps members who have served with Schools of Hope since it began in 1998, the staff are grateful for the many committed volunteers who work with our program and our communities' children. Their dedication has contributed to our success and has helped to give Schools of Hope national attention.



Hobnobbin' Goblins II

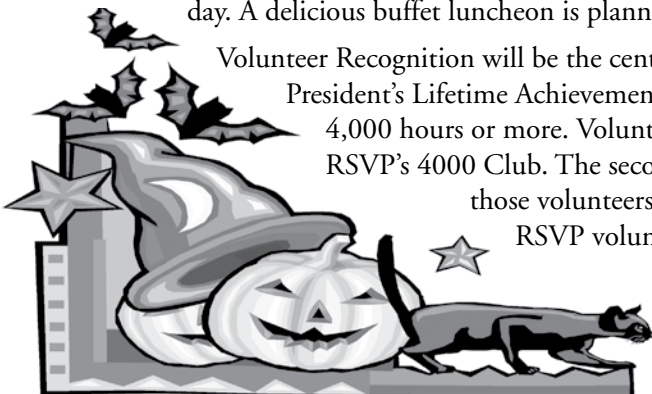
RSVP's 2008 Annual Volunteer Appreciation Event

Please join us on Thursday, October 30, 2008, as we celebrate the contributions made by RSVP volunteers during the past year. RSVP's Annual Volunteer Appreciation Event will be held at The Heights Event Center (on the 2nd floor), in Verona.

A ghoulish good time is planned, as we've taken our cue from the season and planned our event around a Halloween theme, Hobnobbin' Goblins II, a follow-up to the first event of the same name held in 2006. There will be a Costume Parade, with prizes awarded. Costumes will be optional...but encouraged! Door prizes and giveaways will be presented out throughout the day. A delicious buffet luncheon is planned.

Volunteer Recognition will be the central focus of our day. Two types of awards will be presented. The President's Lifetime Achievement Awards will be given to those volunteers who have recorded a total of 4,000 hours or more. Volunteers receiving the Lifetime Achievement Awards will be inducted into RSVP's 4000 Club. The second set of awards is RSVP's own Length of Service Awards, given to those volunteers who have recorded twenty or more consecutive years as registered RSVP volunteers. The first Lifetime Achievement and Length of Service Awards were given at RSVP's 35th Anniversary Appreciation Event in October, 2007.

Information about the event is available at RSVP's web site www.rsvpdane.org or call 238-7787.



2008 RSVP Sweepstakes Results

A big THANK YOU to all who participated in RSVP's 2008 Sweepstakes! Sweepstakes contributions are a vital part of the RSVP budget and help to support our staff, programs, and volunteers. Did you know that last year 2,200 RSVP volunteers "made a difference" by contributing an impressive 190,000 hours of public service to the people of Dane County?

Congratulations to the Winners!

- ✦ \$2,500 Cash Prize: **Charles U. Brock**, Madison
- ✦ Three-Night Bayfield, WI Getaway: **Joanne Fredrick**, Mt. Horeb
- ✦ Handmade Quilt: **Audrey Tommerson**, Madison
- ✦ 12-Person Suite at the Alliant Energy Center: **Mary Pike**, Madison
- ✦ Trek Bike: **Bonnalyn Morrissey**, Sun Prairie
- ✦ Camp Randall Fitness Center Membership: **Frederick W. Seybold**, Madison
- ✦ Vitense Golf Package: **Terrance Jackson**, Madison
- ✦ Milwaukee Brewers Tickets: **Joyce Williams**, Madison
- ✦ Matt Kenseth Autographed Hat and Picture: **Esther Swanson**, Sun Prairie

Thank You to our Prize Donors

Your donations made it all possible!

- ✦ **Bob and Carroll Heideman, Tim Jeffery, Tom and Margie Krauskopf, Mick and Linda Maier, Jack and Patricia Mitchell, Judy Olson, Hannah Pickett, and Steve Sheets**, for the \$2,500 cash prize
- ✦ **Al Checkik** of the Artesian House and **Big Top Chautauqua** for the Bayfield Getaway
- ✦ **Shirley Coulter** for her beautiful, handmade quilt
- ✦ **Bill DiCarlo** and the **Alliant Energy Center** for the 12-person suite
- ✦ **Mark Joslyn** and **Trek Bike Company** for the bike
- ✦ **Jeff Dvorak** and **Camp Randall Fitness Center** for the one-year membership
- ✦ **Mark Reif** for the Vitense golf package
- ✦ **Gene Berndt** for the Milwaukee Brewers tickets
- ✦ **Edith Kenseth** and **Kelly Maruszewski** for Matt Kenseth's autographed hat and picture

Thanks also to the 2008 Sweepstakes Committee consisting of Jack Guzman, Mary Odell, Judy Olson, Mick Maier, Mike Plautz, Ann Stanke, and Pat Whipple — chaired by Linda Holthaus.



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volunteer
opportunities?
see pages 5, 10 and 11**

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From the Desk of... *Dave Tetzlaff* Executive Director

My last words in the last issue of News Notes were “Enjoy the Summer!” Well, I hope that every one of you did indeed have an enjoyable summer. For us at RSVP it was truly a great season, starting with the election of new board members and officers and saying goodbye to those very dedicated board members who have served us so well over the years. Please read the article from our new board president, Tom Krauskopf, which highlights the election at our annual meeting held in June. I am also pleased to report and thank all who participated in a very successful Sweepstakes 2008. Congratulations to all the prize winners!

This summer Margie Zutter, Karen Dischler, Emily Greene, and I had the opportunity to attend this year’s National Conference on Volunteering and Service held in Atlanta, GA. The conference brought together over 4,500 professionals in volunteer service, including more than 1,000 from the Senior Corps programs. All of us were excited to learn about new marketing materials and the reports highlighting the health benefits of volunteering. We were proud to learn that Wisconsin stands high in volunteer rankings of all the states and that both Milwaukee

(large-size city) and Madison (medium-size city) also have strong volunteer rankings compared to other U.S. cities. All three rank in the top ten. To read or download these reports, visit www.nationalservice.gov.

But now it is the time to be celebrating the start of school, the change to fall colors on the trees, and all of the other great activities that take place this time of year. As we head into fall we encourage all of you to join us for a special event on October 30.th It is our Hobnobbin’ Goblin II Annual Volunteer Appreciation Event being held this year at The Heights Event Center in Verona. We guarantee a fun time, with prizes and giveaways, plenty of food, and once again our very colorful Costume Parade. It is a chance for our board and staff to thank and recognize all of you, our dedicated volunteers. Keep a look-out for our invitations, or check us out at rsvpdane.org.

See you there!



Want to get in touch with us?

Simply dial 238-RSVP (7787) or e-mail us at info@rsvpdane.org – or you can reach individual staff members directly at the phone numbers/e-mail addresses listed at right. In the event we’re not available at the time you call, our 24-hour voice mail will ensure you receive a prompt response.

Administrative

David Tetzlaff, *Executive Director*
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Margie Zutter, *Assistant Director*
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Mick Maier, *Director of Development*
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Krishna Sijapati, *Accountant*
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Nancy Madden, *Intergenerational Program Coordinator*
661-4271, nmadden@rsvpdane.org

Mary Stamstad, *Triad Coordinator*
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Diane Szymanski, *Foster Grandparent Supervisor, Folk Art Fair Coordinator*
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Driver Services Program

Gene Kundert, *Driver Services Manager*
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Sylvia Engel, *Driver Services Coordinator*
441-7892, sengel@rsvpdane.org

Donna Vieth, *Ride Scheduler*
441-7898

RSVP–Schools of Hope Project

Karen Dischler, *Co-Director*
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egreene@rsvpdane.org

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Chris Stevick, *Financial Manager*

SEW WHAT'S NEW?

RSVP has 21 active groups and a slew of home makers who continue to sew, knit, and crochet producing quilts, afghans, baby layettes, mittens, etc. using recycled and donated materials. The finished items are distributed to social service agencies, schools, and any other non-profit organization throughout Dane County.

A big warm welcome to the Green Tree Glen RSVP Group in Madison! This group started in June 2008 with six members and they will be making lap quilts along with other items as they get into the groove of things... Again a big welcome and I look forward to working with you all.

Each quarter, I hope to feature an RSVP group whether at random or alphabetically, using a current photo of the group and a brief description. Be on the lookout for your group!

"Threads of Love" (Belleville/New Glarus) began in 1999 by Hazel Keehn.

This group meets monthly in New Glarus at the Shepherd of the Hill Lutheran Church. "Threads of Love" make baby hats, booties, afghans, sweaters, mittens, quilts, and tote bags. Lois Tyler and her husband Dave come into Madison monthly and it is always a pleasure to see them both. Thanks to all the group members in Belleville/New Glarus for all that they do and hopefully will continue to do for many years. Finally, many thanks to Dave for submitting the photo and for being so receptive to the idea.

We are always in need of big pieces (one yard or more) of cotton fabric (heavy

and light), denim, corduroy, white thread and yarn, especially baby yarn. We cannot use rayon, knit, polyester or any shiny or slippery fabric.

Please do not hesitate to contact me, Karlene at 663-1321 if you have any questions or concerns. I look forward to talking with you!



Dave Tyler

New Glarus/Belleville "Threads of Love" Group.
Front row: Alice Jeglum, Marge Buchholz, Virginia Hefty.
Back row: Lois Tyler, Bernice Jelle, Diana Fjelstad, Carol Nyland

THANK YOU FOR YOUR DONATIONS:

- ♥ *Coats & Clark* – yarn
- ♥ *The Staublis* – fabric and thread
- ♥ *M. Fredericks* – fabric and batting
- ♥ *P. Williams* – yarn and fabric

Welcome New Volunteers

We enrolled 84 new volunteers from April through July 2008, serving in a wide variety of assignments throughout Dane County. Do you know someone who might like to volunteer? RSVP volunteers are our best recruiters as they spread the word about why they like volunteering and the need for more volunteers. For a sampling of current requests, see our Volunteer Opportunities sections. Please pass this newsletter on to a friend or neighbor and tell them what RSVP means to you!

- | | | | | | |
|--------------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|----------------------|---------------------|
| Louise Adams | Violet Coleman | Maureen Heider | Margaret Liss | Mary J. Roberts | Khou Vue |
| Kathryn S. Arndt | Rita L. Davis | Roger A. Hooverson | Tammy M. Littel | Virginia Rodgers | Linda Watson |
| Marjorie (Sue) D. Bakken | Suzanne Emden | Audrey Huseth | Susan Loudon | Barb Rothwell | Joy West |
| Heidi M. Batley | Terrance Esbeck | Betty Ingwell | Merle Manion | Linda Ryan | Robert L. Whitaker |
| Agnes Bennett | Janice Eschen | Glen A. Jaeckel | Lesslie M. Martin | Norma J. Shaw | Julie R. Wichmann |
| Robert L. Bernards | Isabelle (Iz) Fass | Darlene Kemmerer | Alice Masshardt | Elena Sherman | Kay Wiedholz |
| Eleanor M. Borchardt | Anna Faust | Paul Ketterer | Janet McBreen | Candace S. Smith | Thomas B. Wiedholz |
| Carol Bowman | Nels T. Femrite, Jr. | Cleo Kiergaard | Sara A. Mischnick | Gina M. Sorenson | Mary Ellen Wiegaard |
| Robert Brassington | Jack C. Flesch | Kathleen C. King | Thomas P. Moore | Mary Sprague | Patricia Williams |
| Nancy Bubier | Mary Fulwiler | Carol Klausner | Nancy Mueller | Dawn M. Stovall | Kaying Xiong |
| Roxane M. Carley | Jordon Geiger | Nancy J. Kunesh | Joyce Murkve | David C. Suchomel | Chao Yang |
| Chou Chang | Donald M. Gundeck | Daniel J. Laska | Sharon Northcutt | Ge Thao | Chue Yang |
| Suzanne Clark | Dale A. Hagen | Kaying Lee | Diane J. O'Connor | Teng Vang | See Yang |
| Carol Cloutier | Lindsay A. Hartjes | Adolph E. Leuenberger | Frank Piraino | Joanne (Penny) Vodak | Joseph E. Zaiman |



RSVP VOLUNTEER PROGRAMS

... where volunteers make a difference

Until the great mass of the people shall be filled with the sense of responsibility for each other's welfare, social justice can never be attained. — Helen Keller

Contact Jan at 608.441.7891 or jkarst@rsvpdane.org for more information and to volunteer for the following:

QUAKER NUTRITION SITE (2025 Taft Street) and ROMNES NUTRITION SITE (540 W. Olin Avenue) need help serving meals and cleaning up every day but Monday, from 10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

The **TERRACE TEA ROOM** at **OAKWOOD VILLAGE WEST** needs volunteers a few times per month, Monday – Friday 10:15 a.m. - 1:15 p.m., to serve residents and other customers lunch. You must be able to stand for three hours, handle money, and have good customer service skills. Training provided.

There are many new opportunities for you to make a difference at **ST. MARY'S HOSPITAL** as it expands. You could offer a hand in the Gift Shop, Mail and Flowers, Pet Therapy, Emergency Room clerk assistance, and much more.

WEST MADISON SENIOR COALITION needs some volunteers to assist with Footcare

Clinics several times per month. Duties include setting up chairs, filling basins with water and soap, help attendees fill out paper work and pay the fee, dispose of water, put chairs back, and put away foot care items. Training provided.

PREVENT BLINDNESS WISCONSIN needs **Preschool Vision Screeners** to help meet their goal of assuring that all children receive appropriate vision care before entering school. Volunteers will be trained to play several games to help assess the vision of children in various preschools.

Interested in supporting the Arts? **MONROE STREET FINE ARTS CENTER** needs an **Administrative Assistant** to assist with greeting the public, answering phones, data entry, mailings, organizing art supplies, and assisting art teacher with preparation for art projects.

SECOND HARVEST FOODBANK needs

volunteers to help distribute food through their Mobile Food Pantries once a month. This would include set up and clean up. Sites are on the west and south sides. Call for more details about times and places.

WHEELCHAIR RECYCLING is a local non-profit that recycles durable medical equipment providing it at low cost to those in need. They need volunteers to greet individuals making donations of used equipment including wheelchairs, walkers, commodes, canes, bath chairs, and crutches, to assist them in unloading, and to provide them donation receipts. You will also assist in keeping count of and organizing equipment and recharging batteries. Must be able to lift 40 lbs. Hours available: 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. Monday through Friday.

ALDO LEOPOLD NATURE CENTER needs help preparing large mailings every few months. It's a beautiful place to collate and stuff envelopes!

The Next Chapter

Plan to attend this new program presented by **The Next Chapter** at the Alicia Ashman Branch Library. **The Next Chapter**, dedicated to providing information on the challenges and opportunities of retirement, is sponsored by RSVP and the Madison Public Library. October 4, 2008, Saturday, at 10:00 a.m.

Amy Onofrey

“Your Next Step: Creating A Housing Plan”

There are key questions to consider when, as older adults, we plan our next home, be it assisted living, an apartment, a condominium, or some other option. We need to consider location, financial issues, lifestyle choices, as well as our medical situations. How can we make the best decision and integrate a housing plan into our overall retirement plans?

RSVP Donor Honor Roll

We gratefully acknowledge donations received April 25 through August 11, 2008 from the following individuals and organizations since our last newsletter, and extend our thanks to each for their generous support.

Sustaining (\$1,000+)

Mick and Linda Maier

Benefactor (\$500-999)

Hannah Pickett

Patron (\$250-499)

Robert and Carroll Heideman

Judy Olson

Janet Newlands

Associate (\$100-249)

Linda Ande

Anonymous

Duane Gimbel

Betty Hirsch

Tim Jeffery

Jerry and Carol McAdow

Myra Reilly

Steve Sheets

Charles and Kay Spelbring

Contributor (\$50-99)

Myron and Doris Bacon

Jan Bohn

Paul and Atsuko Kusuda

Carol Nimlos

Special (\$1-49)

Anonymous

Bonnie Barsness

Doris Felland

Karen Grieser

Jeff Gurriell

Doris Koster

Thomas and Margie Krauskopf

Virginia and Ricky Krueger

Janet M. Nelson

Mary Odell

Norma Thiede

We have received in-kind support from the following since our last newsletter...

Heather Bott

Charles and Joanne Bunge

Coats & Clark

M. Fredericks

T. Jacobson

William and Rebecca Martin

Jerry and Carol McAdow

Ileana Rodriguez

Joe and Rita Staubli

Frances Toon

Mark Webster

Peggy Williams

Interview with Leona Anders

by Jan Hoffman, DeForest Area Community and Senior Center

Leona Anders is a name you'll *not* soon forget. If you haven't met her already here at the DeForest Area Community and Senior Center, you will want to make a point to. She started out at the center long before it was renovated, back when it needed a real make-over and fewer people approached the building. That didn't stop Leona, however. She started by stuffing envelopes, answering telephones, recycling cards, and pretty soon she was showing up most every day!

Leona can be found at the receptionist desk weekly or doing her card recycling for which she is also the lead volunteer. In addition, she helps with such events as the craft shows, hat parade, and Cinco de Mayo. Leona always says, "If they stand still long enough they're volunteered." Leona is good at recruiting — all she has to do is smile and ask, "Would you like to volunteer?" She is the center's biggest cheerleader!

Her philosophy has been to just keep moving. Don't let pain get you down. Find a way to get out and enjoy yourself and push the pain away. She found that meeting new people and striking up conversations (which she is good at) help to make a better day and not just for herself but hopefully for the other person too! The DeForest Area Community and Senior Center has helped her with that philosophy. She is very grateful to the center for giving her a better way to live. She knows it is much better than staying at home every day.

Busy is what Leona likes to be and she sure is. But if you walk up to the receptionist desk and ask her for help, she will drop what she is doing and help you in any way she can. She is professional, intelligent and, best of all, a great volunteer to have around. Thank you for being here, Leona Anders.

Excerpts from an article published in the DeForest Times Tribune. Leona received the President's Volunteer Lifetime Service Award last year for volunteering over 4,000 hours since September 20, 1999.



Jan Hoffman



Board Notes...

Dear RSVP Members and Friends,

On June 16th RSVP of Dane County held its Annual Meeting. I am honored to have been elected the organization's Board President. I look forward to working with Executive Director Dave Tetzlaff and the dedicated staff members of RSVP over the next two years, and I look forward to getting to know many of you.

During the Annual Meeting, Dave reviewed many accomplishments of this past year. Please be sure to read his message "From the Desk of..." in this issue. RSVP, now more than ever, helps volunteers make a difference in the lives of Dane County citizens. Thank you all for devoting your time and energy toward that goal.

During the Annual Meeting the board recognized outgoing President Tim Jeffery for his leadership during the past two years. Under his guidance RSVP has increased its visibility within the community, piloted a United Way program to certify the strong organization and management of RSVP,

and celebrated RSVP's 35 years of service in Dane County.

On behalf of the Board I was also privileged to thank those members leaving the board and to welcome new members. Members leaving include Bill Arthur, past president and board member since 1996; Joanne Cardall (2004); Marguitta Fox (2003); and Judy Olson (2003). We will very much miss their talents and dedication to RSVP but we have been assured that most will continue to volunteer with us in other ways. New members include John J. (Jack) Anderson, retired business professor at the UW and Associate Dean at the University of Missouri–St. Louis; Kathryn Arndt, retired business consultant; Margaret Jensen, retired Madison Metropolitan School District teacher; and Pat Reidy, retired from the UW Foundation. Elected to continue serving was Mike Plautz, retired Director of Marketing for Rayovac Corporation.



Krishna Sijapati

Those of us who are members of the Board of Directors are fortunate to be able to build on a foundation established by former leaders. I am grateful as well that our former board members will continue to share their experience, energy and enthusiasm with us as volunteers and committee members.

I look forward to the chance to lead the board as it guides RSVP of Dane County to grasp the opportunities and meet the challenges of the next two years.

*Tom Krauskopf
President, RSVP Board*

New Grants and Additional Funding

RSVP has received a \$3,000 grant from the Evjue Foundation, Inc. for RSVP's Group Projects. Each year over 11,000 wonderful handcrafted items are made by RSVP volunteers for those in need. RSVP appreciates the continued support from the Evjue Foundation for this important project.

RSVP has also been awarded \$1,000 from the Alliant Energy Foundation for our Foster Grandparent Program. In addition \$1,000 has been contributed by an anonymous donor for FGP volunteers. RSVP Foster Grandparent volunteers serve at-risk children in Dane County. Volunteers help children learn to read, write, do math; keep at-risk high-school students in school and off drugs; help young mothers learn to parent and keep their children out of gangs; and assist children with after-school homework and summer reading programs. Thank you, Alliant Energy Foundation and our anonymous donor for helping support the efforts of our FGP volunteers.

First Book–Dane County has been awarded \$2,000 from Altrusa International, Inc. of Madison. This grant will provide 720 books for children from low-income households involved in literacy programs. We appreciate this support to help us serve even more children this year.

Congratulations

*to the following RSVP
Volunteers in the news
this past quarter*

Len Rush

Legacy Award from the Foundation for
Madison's Public Schools

Terry Touchett

2007–2008 Knight of the Year, Knights of
Columbus Council 11155

Tina Murray

Madison Times

TIPS FROM TRIAD

Identity Theft

by Attorney John Hendrick

Prevention

Never Give out Credit Card and Bank Account Information

(or other personal information) by phone or over the Internet, unless the transaction was initiated by you with a trusted vendor.

Opt out of credit marketing lists: 1-888-5OPTOUT (888-567-8688)

Use a shredder to foil garbage thieves.

Opt out of Junk Mail

Mail Preference Service
Direct Marketing Association
PO Box 1559
Carmel, NY 10512

Get on No Call Lists

Telephone Preference Service
Direct Marketing Association
PO Box 1559
Carmel, NY 10512

State No Call: 1-866-9NO-CALL (1-866-966-2255) www.nocall.wisconsin.gov

Federal: (cell phones, too!) 1-888-382-1222 or www.donotcall.gov.

Check your credit reports: 1-877-322-8228 or www.annualcreditreport.com

Immediate Action

Contact your bank or credit card company

Contact local law enforcement.

Security Freeze (\$10 or police report)

Forms: www.privacy.wi.gov

Send by certified mail to

Equifax at: CSC Credit Service, Security Freeze, PO Box 674438
Houston, TX 77267-4438

Experian at: Experian Security Freeze, PO Box 9554, Allen TX 75013

TransUnion at: TransUnion Security Freeze, PO Box 6790
Fullerton, CA 92834-6790

Get a 90-day “fraud alert” placed on credit reports.

Equifax Credit Information Services, Inc.

Toll-free (888) 766-0008 (TDD 800-255-0056)

P.O. Box 740241, Atlanta, GA 30374-0241

www.equifax.com

Experian Information Solutions, Inc.

(888) 397-3742 (TDD 800-972-0322)

P.O. Box 9530, Allen, TX 75013

www.experian.com

TransUnion

(800) 680-7289 (TDD 877-553-7803)

Fraud Victim Assistance Division

P.O. Box 6790, Fullerton, CA 92834-6790

www.transunion.com

Email: fvad@transunion.com

For More Information Contact Elder Financial Empowerment Project

John Hendrick: 800-488-2596 or jhendrick@cwag.org

Set Your Sights ...

Macular degeneration is an age-related eye disease that can damage the very center of your vision. “Macular degeneration is pretty misunderstood by the public. People are told they can’t do anything about it. That’s a huge psychological blow. A lot of the visual system works just as well as it ever did, but they’ve never had to use it. Using remaining vision and the right device can be tricky, but it’s not rocket science,” explains Marshall Flax, certified low-vision therapist and orientation and mobility specialist. If you have macular degeneration, if you’re a concerned family member of someone who does, or if you are a professional who works with older adults, you’ll want to attend the Progress in Sight VII: Macular Degeneration Symposium on Tuesday, October 14, 2008, at the Alliant Energy Center. Learn about recent advances in prevention and treatment. Learn about skills and solutions for coping with vision loss. Shop for assistive tools from the Sharper Vision Store.

This event is co-sponsored by the University of Wisconsin Department of Ophthalmology and Vision Services and the Wisconsin Council of the Blind & Visually Impaired. It is free and open to the public, the price of a box lunch being the only cost.

Registration is required. Visit www.wcblind.org or call 608.255.1166 to register or to learn more.

RSVP Calendar of Events

County Wide Training For School Volunteers
(October 2, 2008)

Next Chapter Presentation
"Your Next Step: Creating A Housing Plan"
(October 4, 2008)

Board Meeting
(October 27, 2008)

Annual Volunteer Appreciation Event
(October 30, 2008)

SHARE THE HOLIDAY SPIRIT!

2008

Holiday Gift Wrapping at Hilldale Shopping Center is an RSVP fund-raiser and a fun-raiser as well! During the holiday season, RSVP volunteers will wrap gifts that shoppers purchase in the shopping center. RSVP will receive a contribution from the mall and keep any tips as well. We need your help! Please consider working a 2 or 3 hour shift wrapping gifts on any day between November 28rd – 30th, and December 14th – 24th.

You can work with a friend or two or get your family involved!

Call Jan at 441-7891 for a schedule of available shifts and make this activity part of your holiday tradition while you help raise funds for RSVP programs!

HILLDALE HOLIDAY GIFT WRAPPING 2008

(Two- and three-hour shifts available!)

November 28, Friday (9:00am – 9:00pm)
November 29, Saturday (9:00am – 9:00pm)
November 30, Sunday (10:00am – 8:00pm)
December 14, Sunday (10:00am – 8:00pm)
December 15, Monday (10:00am – 9:00pm)
December 16, Tuesday (10:00am – 9:00pm)
December 17, Wednesday (10:00am – 9:00pm)
December 18, Thursday (10:00am – 9:00pm)
December 19, Friday (10:00am – 9:00pm)
December 20 Saturday (10:00am – 9:00pm)
December 21 Sunday (10:00am – 9:00pm)
December 22, Monday (10:00am – 9:00pm)
December 23 Tuesday (10:00am – 9:00pm)
December 24, Wednesday (9:00am – 5:00pm)

Summer Reading with Cherry

This summer, DeForest Area students shared in the fun of reading to Cherry, a registered therapy dog at the DeForest Area Public Library. Cherry and her owner, RSVP member MJ Reich, are excellent listeners for new and struggling readers or for kids who just want to enjoy sharing a book with a special four-legged friend. Parents registered their child for the ten-minute reading sessions with Cherry. The time spent reading with her counted towards reading hours for the library's summer program. The program will be continuing into the 2008-2009 school year on the second Sunday of the month. If you live in the DeForest area and are interested in more information or would like to register a child for this reading program, please contact the library at 846-5482.

Nancy Madden



School Volunteer Workshops

The annual fall training for school volunteers who work with children and youth will be held on Thursday, October 2 at Memorial High School, 201 S. Gammon Road, Madison, WI, from 4:30 to 8:25 with a 4:00 p.m. registration. This is the perfect event for those who have been working with children as well as those who would like to consider volunteering in schools and want to know more about it.

Volunteers will be able to attend up to three workshops during the event. The range of topics is vast, from Basics of Elementary Tutoring to Motivating Reluctant Learners, from early elementary sessions to high-school math, plus topics of general interest that focus on working with a diverse group of students. Most topics are presented by Madison Metropolitan School District staff. There's something for everyone regardless of the level of experience in volunteering. Even those who have attended this training in the past will find new workshops to attend this year. We strongly encourage every school volunteer to take advantage of this opportunity and get some additional training. A full schedule is available on the RSVP website. Volunteers are welcome to come to just one, two, or all three sessions.

Here are some of the comments we received from volunteers at last year's training:

"Very valuable training."

"Excellent! Lots of practical knowledge and examples."

"Very informative and the dinner was good."

"This was my first time....can't wait for more!"

"Wonderful orientations for tutors."

"I really liked the classes offered – in fact I wish that there was more time to fit in more sessions."

"Very informative and engaging. Her openness was great."

"Loved these sessions. Lots of good tips, very motivational."

No pre-registration is necessary....just check in when you get there. If you have any questions, call our intergenerational coordinator, Nancy Madden, at 661-4271 or email nmadden@rsvpdane.org.

This training is provided by Schools of Hope and its partners, the Madison Metropolitan School District, RSVP of Dane County, Urban League of Greater Madison, Centro Hispano, and United Way of Dane County.



For more information, please call Nancy at 661-4271 or nmadden@rsvpdane.org

Dane County Schools need tutors and classroom helpers for students in kindergarten through 12th grades during the 2008/2009 school year. Volunteers can work with small groups of students or provide one-on-one assistance with reading, math, or other subjects directed by the teacher. As a volunteer, you have the opportunity to share the excitement and joy of helping a child succeed. Please call for an application and help make a difference in a student's life.

.....
RSVP Intergenerational Volunteers are needed as Junior Achievement Consultants for the 2008-2009 School Year. Junior Achievement is seeking volunteers interested in teaching area students about their current roles as individuals and consumers, and their future roles as employees and business owners. Training and curriculum materials are provided.

.....
Volunteers needed for Huegel and Muir Elementary Schools in Madison.

Huegel and Muir Elementary Schools are interested in RSVP volunteers helping students during lunch periods. The requests for help include opening milk cartons and packages in the lunch room, reading to children before and after lunch, and socializing with children through games and activities. Please consider these opportunities as the schools would really appreciate your help.

Important Update on the 2008-2009 Computer Buddies Program

A big round of applause goes out to all of the Computer Buddies across the county who volunteered last school year. It was great to see all of the buddies together at the end-of-the-year gatherings. Current volunteers at Morrisonville and Elvehjem will be contacted later this fall with the 2008-2009 program information.

As many of you may know, the teacher at Mendota Elementary, whose classroom participated, has retired. At the time of this publication, we are working to find a classroom teacher to continue the program at Mendota. Mendota computer buddy RSVP volunteers from 2007-2008 will be contacted with a program update as information becomes available. If you have questions or would like additional information about the Computer Buddies Program, please contact Nancy at 661-4271 or nmadden@rsvpdane.org

First Book

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Washington, D.C. 20004
Phone (202) 393-1222
Fax (202) 628-1258
www.firstbook.org



April 3, 2008

RSVP of Dane County
517 North Segoe Road
Suite 300
Madison, Wisconsin 53705

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to acknowledge the incredible efforts of the First Book—Dane County Advisory Board and the significant contributions of RSVP during the board's extensive history. First Book—Dane County has been in existence for nearly a decade now and is one of the most well-established boards in the country. It has done an exemplary job of carrying out the mission of First Book: to give children from low-income families the opportunity to read and own their first new books.

The Advisory Board has raised nearly \$100,000 serving 45 literacy programs in the county with more than 36,000 new books for children to build home libraries. As one study indicates, the only behavioral measure that correlates significantly with reading scores is the number of books in the home. Because of First Book—Dane County, thousands of children from low-income families in the area have experienced the excitement of receiving new high-quality books that they can take home and keep. The board's service to the community cannot be underestimated.

First Book—Dane County's establishment and incredible success would not have been possible without the commitment of RSVP. RSVP was instrumental in creating the Advisory Board, and since the board's inception, RSVP staff and volunteers have been an integral part of allowing the board to thrive. Currently seven of the thirteen Advisory Board members are RSVP volunteers. Through the years RSVP volunteers have served on the board, volunteered as grant readers, and assisted with reading events and First Book fundraisers. With the invaluable addition of staff support from Margie Zutter and a Schools of Hope staff member, the Advisory Board has been able to achieve its goals and sustain activity.

The Dane County Advisory Board is constantly setting the example for other Advisory Boards to follow. Not only does First Book—Dane County work within the guidelines requested by First Book, but it strives to find ways to both improve and streamline the process for the greatest benefit.

First Book is proud to have the Dane County Advisory Board as one of 275 Advisory Boards across the country working together to help end the crisis of illiteracy. The impact of First Book would be much diminished without the tremendous dedication of groups such as First Book—Dane County.

Thank you, RSVP, for making First Book—Dane County a priority and supporting the activities of this fine Advisory Board.

All the best,

Heather Johnson
Community Development Manager

A Milestone

First Book–Dane County Celebrates Ten Years

First Book is a national organization that depends on the hard work and devotion of its local chapters — of which First Book–Dane County is one. Since 1998 the leadership of RSVP, our First Book Advisory Board, volunteers, and donors have made a significant difference in the lives of children and families in Dane County. There is no better way to explain the mission and work of RSVP First Book–Dane County than to turn to a recent letter from the national organization:

To repeat some of those important statistics — during the ten years of its existence, First Book–Dane County has awarded more than 36,000 new books to children through its yearly granting process. Some 45 literacy programs across the county have received funds, which they have then used to purchase those significant first books at a substantial discount, thanks to the opportunities offered by the national organization.

This year alone, over 1,300 children from low-income households involved in literacy programs in the following organizations will receive new books: Dane County Library Services — Reading Mobile; Dane County Parent Council–Preschool Enrichment Head Start; East Madison Head Start; Child Development Inc. South Madison; Early Childhood Initiative; Bridge Lake Point Waunona Neighborhood Center; Hawthorne Community Learning Center (CCC); Kennedy Heights Community Center; Madison Family Literacy — East; Madison School & Community Recreation (MSCR); MMSD Education Program Dane Co. Juvenile Reception Center; Frank Allis Elementary School; RSVP Schools of Hope Summer Reading Buddies Program; MMSD Learning Center on Allied Drive; Bayview Head Start; Dane County Parent Council — Head Start Family Literacy; Vera Court Neighborhood Center — RISE; Wexford Ridge Neighborhood Center; and Worthington Park Neighborhood Association.

In addition, the following eight agencies each received a \$500 Borders Gift Card to purchase books for about 400 children: African American Ethnic Academy; Bayview Head Start; Child Development Inc.–South Madison; Dane County Parent Council–Head Start Family Literacy; MATC Child & Family Center; MMSD Learning Center on Allied Drive; Vera Court Neighborhood Center; and YWCA of Madison–Children’s Program.

The excitement and enthusiasm of the recipients shines through in these quotes from three centers that received First Book grants last year.

“On the first distribution a kindergartner was so excited to have her very own book she basically carried it around with her for the rest of the day and continued to tell staff that it was her

book throughout the day. Seeing the children light up when they realize they can keep the books made the distributions really fun.” ...Andrew Aleckson, MMSD Learning Center on Allied Drive

“One of the books we distributed was *Gingerbread Man*. Throughout the week, we read the book; we made gingerbread with the children during our Family Fun Night. The children were able to retell the story to their parents. This is extremely important at our site because many of the parents are learning English as their second language. The parents were excited to see their children able to read to them.” ...Carol Spoehr, Northport Head Start

Donations from many organizations and from many individual donors have made possible this very important work. This year, the First Book–Dane County Advisory Board was able to fund a record number of book grants (\$18,030 for over 7,200 books) through funding received from Altrusa International, Inc. of Madison, BC Wealth Management, The Evjue Foundation, Madison Rotary Foundation, Nakoma League, Wisconsin State Journal Youth Services, as well as through the contributions of many individual donors.

First Book–Dane County Advisory Board

Margaret Jensen, Co-Chair, RSVP Volunteer and Board member

Margie Zutter, Co-Chair, RSVP Assistant Director

Mary Brown, RSVP Volunteer

Ethel Dunn, RSVP Volunteer

Kevin Galles, Hope Worldwide

Emily Greene, RSVP Schools of Hope Literacy Project Assistant Director

Bill Harford, Vera Court Neighborhood Center*

Jo Healless, RSVP Volunteer

Carroll Heideman, RSVP Volunteer

Anne Irish, RSVP Volunteer

Karen Johnson Kretschmann,
Madison Area Technical College

Dave Tetzlaff, RSVP of Dane County Executive Director

Char Tortorice, RSVP Volunteer

* We are sorry that the board will be losing Bill Harford as he moves on to a different career. He has been a knowledgeable and dedicated board member for many years.

First Book Reading Events

Madison's Penn Park was the site of a special First Book Reading Event, held as part of Madison's annual Juneteenth Celebration – held this year on June 14. Tina Murray, former co-chair of First Book–Dane County, and volunteers from Women in Focus organized the event in which children read with adults and then select a book that became theirs to take home. Thank you, Tina, for your good work!

Preschoolers will be invited to attend another First Book reading event held in October at the Executive Residence. First Lady Jessica Doyle will host this special event in celebration of the Tenth-Year Anniversary of First Book–Dane County.



Margie Zutter

RSVP's 2008 Lifetime Achievement and Length of Service Awards

At its October 30 Volunteer Appreciation Event, RSVP will once again present two types of awards, the President's Lifetime Achievement Awards and RSVP's own Length of Service Awards. The award presentations continue a tradition of those presented for the first time at RSVP's 35th Anniversary Volunteer Appreciation Event in 2007.

The Lifetime Achievement Awards recognize those volunteers who have recorded over 4,000 hours of service since joining RSVP. Recipients receive

a Presidential citation recognizing their achievement and a specially designed pin to wear. Among those RSVP volunteers receiving Lifetime Achievement Awards are Vivian Killerlain, Susan Landers Lynch, Irmgard Weiss, Leonard A. Waelti, Steven Christoph, and Glenn Henning (presented posthumously). These volunteers will be inducted into RSVP's 4000 Club on October 30.

RSVP's Length of Service Awards recognize those RSVP volunteers who have been actively registered with

RSVP for twenty consecutive years. Recipients will receive a special citation from RSVP. Length of Service Award recipients for 2008 will be Rose DeWeese, Marian Drake, Robert Jorgenson, Dorothy Kaltenberg, Gordon Kilday, Donovan Kopp, Atsuko Kusuda, Thelma Lehnerr, Caroline Meier, Douglas Mullen, Lora Schlaefter, Addrena Squires, Doreen Stewart, and Marjorie Sutter.

Please join us in congratulating these volunteers as we honor the contributions they have made to the Dane County community.

Drivers Needed

Volunteer driver escorts are needed to provide transportation for seniors. Reimbursement of 52 1/2 cents/mile effective 10/1/08 and excess insurance coverage are available. Drivers are asked to make an average commitment of transporting one passenger per week. Bilingual volunteers are most critically needed.

Photo by L. Roger Turner



Meal Delivery

The RSVP Driver Services Program also has an urgent need for home-delivered-meal drivers in the following communities/areas: Belleville, DeForest, Fitchburg, McFarland, Middleton, Mt. Horeb, Oregon, Stoughton, Sun Prairie, Verona, Waunakee, and Northwestern Dane County. Volunteers pick up and deliver meals to designated recipients. Again, reimbursement of 52 1/2 cents/mile effective 10/1/08 and excess insurance coverage are available. For more information on both of these assignments call Gene at 608.441.7896 or e-mail gkundert@rsvpdane.org.



MEMORIALS AND TRIBUTES



Memorial and tribute gifts to RSVP are a meaningful way to honor someone special and to extend the services provided by volunteers. Every dollar contributed allows us to enrich the lives of many children, families, and older persons.

MEMORIALS

CONTRIBUTIONS WERE MADE TO RSVP IN MEMORY OF:

- ◆ **Ardelle E. Brzina** by Karen Grieser
- ◆ **William Gray** by Myron and Doris Bacon,
Doris Koster, Virginia and Ricky Krueger,
Carol Nimlos
- ◆ **Wilbur Hirsch** by Betty Hirsch
- ◆ **Donna Scullion** by Mary Odell

TRIBUTES

CONTRIBUTIONS WERE MADE TO RSVP AS A TRIBUTE TO:

- ◆ **First Book** by Janet M. Nelson
- ◆ **Harry and Mary Stroebe** (in honor of their
90th birthdays and 60th Anniversary)
by Jerry and Carol McAdow
- ◆ **John M. Newlands** by Janet Newlands
- ◆ **Ann Stanke** by Hannah Pickett

Meals for Seniors *from back cover*

about the help they're getting and how the volunteers feel about providing that help. The results of both surveys were overwhelmingly positive.

Agency supervisors reported that the RSVP volunteer program was instrumental in helping to maintain or increase the extent of their services and in helping program clients to remain independent. They also reported that the driver volunteers are an important source of feedback on the deliverers' status and condition, thus helping the agency provide additional services where needed. One agency comment typified the supervisors' general reaction:

"Our agency could not provide the level of service we do without all the wonderful volunteers who assist at the Center on a daily basis."

The volunteers were very positive in voicing the benefits of the program to the meal recipients and the sense of satisfaction they derived from their efforts. The meal-site workers pointed out that the meal recipients benefited from having a daily social contact and a healthy, low cost, well-balanced meal and that this helped them to maintain their independence. For their part, the drivers agreed and also reported that they felt the home-meal recipients have a heightened sense of security resulting from the daily visits to their home.

Comments received from volunteers working at the meal sites included words like these:

"They receive a balance diet with nutrition. They do not have to eat alone. It gets them out of their home."

"You meet so many interesting new people, the people you serve and the people you work with. It keeps me young."

"Keep up the good work. You never know how much good you really do."

And from the volunteer drivers:

"We serve as an important link between the homebound and outreach staff. Provide assurance of at least one nutritious meal/day."

"Able to stay in their home or apartment, giving them a better quality of life."

"It gives me a reason to keep going and to be positive about life and thankful I can help others."

"From the people who prepare the meals for me to deliver to the actual delivery everyone is positive. I really believe in the service. I've also taken grandchildren with me. I want them to some day, give back to their community."

If you'd like to help at a nutrition site, just give our Community Connections Coordinator, Jan Karst, a call at 608.441.7891. If you can serve as a Home Delivered Meal driver, call Gene Kundert at 608.441.7896. They'd love to hear from you!

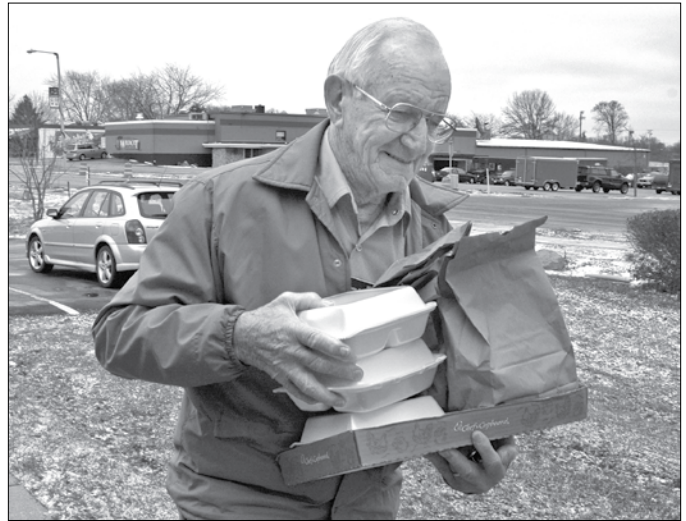
Meals for Seniors

RSVP Volunteers Making a Difference

by Jack Anderson

With the help of RSVP volunteers, seniors throughout Dane County are able to get hot, nutritious meals on a five-days-a-week basis. RSVP volunteers help prepare and serve meals, serve as on-site hosts, collect donations, assist with record keeping, and assemble meals for home delivery at 16 Dane County sites that provide noon meals for seniors. The sites include senior centers at Belleville, DeForest, Fitchburg, McFarland, Middleton, Mt. Horeb, Northwest Dane, Oregon, Stoughton, Sun Prairie, Verona, and Waunakee as well as sites in the city of Madison. Last year 190 volunteers provided over 14,000 hours of support to these meal sites – the equivalent of seven full-time employees.

In addition RSVP drivers deliver hot noon meals five days a week in Dane County communities outside of Madison to residents 60 years or older who are disabled, frail, unable to cook meals for themselves, and/or have short- or long-term



L. Roger Turner

health problems. Last year over 350 volunteer drivers put in over 9,000 hours – the equivalent of over four-and-a-half full-time employees.

The RSVP Agency Assessment Committee recently completed a survey to find out how the involved agencies feel

continued on page 15

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