Driver Services Marks 40 Years of Driving and Delivering Meals!

Who could have imagined 40 years ago how far RSVP’s Driver Services program would branch out from the seeds sown in senior centers, community centers, churches, and private homes across Dane County. Since 1975, the program has provided approximately 300,000 rides and 1,400,000 meals to seniors and veterans in communities across Dane County.

Nor did its founders realize how much money the program would save the county over the years to follow. In 2014 alone, Dane County saved an estimated $748,458 by using Driver Services instead of a for-profit service – no small potatoes in these times of shrinking budgets and rising demand. Just imagine the money saved over the course of 40 years. It paints a picture of just how powerfully volunteers impact our community.

So how has this quiet little program, with an engine powered by volunteers, became one of the largest of its kind in the United States? The answer is that forward-thinking individuals and organizations banded together to establish a network that works!

In the beginning, Theresa Sanders from Dane County and Judy Koeppel from RSVP met with like-minded staff and volunteers in community centers, senior centers, and churches to work out the details on how this volunteer web would function. Key to its success was their ability to recruit volunteers to coordinate a band of volunteers in their respective communities to deliver meals to homes and to drive seniors to appointments.

In 1975, the first year, there was a handful of community organizations on board. As they successfully managed their programs, word of their success spread and, fairly rapidly, folks from other communities followed suit, until services were available to seniors across Dane County and our modern day Driver Services program was born. The program broadened its reach in 2011, when the Vets Helping Vets program was established to serve the growing number of veterans in need of transportation support.

Driver Services has also been blessed with dedicated staff like... continued on page 3
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Dear RSVP Members and Friends,

IT’S THOUSANDS OF MILES AND OVER A MILLION MEALS LATER!

RSVP’s Driver Services Program is celebrating its 40th anniversary, which means that we’re ALL celebrating as well! What would Dane County seniors do without the selfless volunteers willing to give of their time, energy, and gas to help others? They would be unable to make it to their medical appointments, and they would be unable to get a nutritious meal delivered to their door. The mission of most senior centers and coalitions is, in essence, to provide support and services for older adults to remain as independent as possible in their own homes. The Driver Services Program does just that and more.

In many cases, it’s imperative that seniors make it to their medical appointments. Case in point: meet Sue, who relies on the Driver Services Program three times per week to get her to dialysis. “The driver is a blessing to us, my husband and me. This gives him a little break and is a huge relief to us. The driver is wonderful, very kind and thoughtful and always on time which is very important to me. The cost for the rides is affordable for us and if it weren’t for RSVP, I wouldn’t be able to make all my appointments.”

Another very grateful senior is Carol. She has utilized RSVP Driver Services 62 times this year for various medical appointments. Carol had this to say: “I don’t know how I’d get there otherwise. I have no resources. All the drivers have been great. They take me where I need to go at a price I can handle.”

These are just two testimonials from the hundreds of passengers who receive rides for a service provided on a donation-only basis, and there are hundreds more who receive much needed home-delivered meals. Next time you have the chance, thank a Driver Services volunteer for all that they do!

Alison Koelsch
President, Board of Directors
From the Desk of...  
Margie Zutter  
Executive Director

The numbers are daunting—10,000 adults are turning 65 every day in this country! With an aging population, there is a need for services to help older adults remain independent and connected with their community. We need to help older adults “age in place” so that they are able to stay in their homes as long as possible. According to the Genworth 2015 Cost of Care Survey, the median annual cost of care in Wisconsin for an Assisted Living Facility is $47,760 and even more – $90,064-$99,499 – for a nursing home. Not many people can afford this care for an extended period.

RSVP, Retired and Senior Volunteer Program, was founded on the principle that older adults are a tremendous resource, helping solve community needs. It makes sense to enlist the help of seniors age 55 and older to help other seniors. And, there is proof that volunteering helps the volunteers as well by providing them with an outlet for their talents and skills, by helping them stay connected in their community, as well as giving them a sense of purpose and accomplishment. It is healthy to volunteer!

RSVP of Dane County is helping seniors age in place in a number of ways:

1. We provide rides and deliver meals for adults age 60 and older. (Read the Driver Services 40th Anniversary article on the front cover.)

2. We help seniors stay safe at home through presentations and workshops on crime prevention and safety.

3. We support income eligible seniors to be able to volunteer through our Foster Grandparent program.

4. We recruit volunteers for senior programs through the Madison coalitions and senior centers that work with home-bound seniors.

Older adults are an important component of healthy neighborhoods. We need to do all we can to help our seniors age in place. Thank you, RSVP volunteers, for your gifts of service!

40 Years of Driver Services  
from front cover

Gene Kundert, who is celebrating his 27th year as the Driver Services Manager! With length of service like Gene’s comes our sense of history, as well as his well-earned reputation of being very knowledgeable about the ins and outs of senior transportation.

The program has also blossomed under the dedication of the Driver Escort Coordinators in each community. These volunteers and staff tirelessly call drivers to schedule rides. In addition, every weekday from January to December, Volunteer Station staff and the volunteers create meal-delivery schedules and pack up meals – putting in all the time necessary to get meals on people’s tables and rides to neighbors who need them.

And finally, there are the drivers who generously give their time to make sure their senior neighbors get the nutrition they need to stay strong and get to the appointments that will help maintain their health. At the foot of thousands of driveways, grateful neighbors wait for one of these drivers to deliver their meals and/or take them out into the world.

Volunteer Stations’ staff coordinates work with RSVP to recruit drivers and assist with any driver or passenger concerns. We wouldn’t have been able to continue through all these years without the support of the Dane County Human Services Department. They keep an eye on the transportation network that serves the underserved in Dane County and have always valued the role of RSVP Driver Services in that bigger picture of transportation.

The bottom line is that Driver Services works because of people who see the need and want to be a part of the solution. These elements of awareness and concern are at the core of every great volunteer program – great programs like Driver Escort, Vets Helping Vets, and Home-Delivered Meals. Happy 40th Anniversary, Driver Services!

If you, or someone you know, would like more information about joining this pool of drivers for seniors or home-delivered meals, please contact Gene Kundert, Driver Services Manager, 608.441.7896. Veterans, please contact Tom Poppe, Vets Helping Vets Coordinator, 608.238.7901.
Welcome New Volunteers

We enrolled 21 new volunteers from May 1 through June 30, 2015, 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!

Trudy Brule  Joann Buie  Marvin Derr  Karen Downing  Robert C. Downing
Anita Drake  Monica L. Hansen  Evelyn Hruska  Paul Husting  Margaret Kaether
Terry Kramer  Mary Maly  Alfred Malz  Rodney Nordby  Richard Riesen
Barbara J. Soltis  Ralph Stockhausen  Joan Thomley  Akeem Torres  Tricia Weisensel  Barbara Wiechers

RSVP Volunteers and Alumni – We need your help to open doors!

- Every day, 10,000 people in the U.S. will turn 65 years old.
- Dane County predicts that the general population will grow by 28% between 2010 and 2030, but the senior population will grow 124%!
- By 2030, it’s predicted that 20 percent of our population will be 65+.

These statistics represent a mixed blessing for our community:
- More people will retire and be available to volunteer — wonderful!
- More people will become frail elderly who need help to remain living on their own – this is where you can help.

We’re asking that if you belong to a church or other organization, that you ask them to have RSVP staff come give a presentation about our agency and its services to the community. The more doors that are open to us, the more potential volunteers we can reach!

Thanks for helping us grow our driver pool! At the end of thousands of Dane County driveways, there are senior and veteran neighbors gratefully waiting in their own homes for their driver! Call Mary Schmelzer, Driver Services Volunteer Recruiter, 608.310.7280 for more information.

Congratulations to the following RSVP volunteers in the news this past quarter:

Chuck and Kay Spelbring
RSVP Driver Services
Sun Prairie Star

Melvin Hinton
Betty Dawson (in memoriam)
Foster Grandparent Volunteers
Madison Times

Isabel Hubbard
WPS Wise & Well
Triad Events

Southwest Madison Triad

September 23 – 10:30 a.m.: “Personal Safety.” Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Room #1-5701 Raymond Road, Madison: Deputy Leslie Fox, Dane County Sheriff’s Office. You will learn how to stay safe at home or while you are away, how to be a good witness, when to call 911, and what to do if you are a victim.

October 7 – 8 a.m. - noon: “Free Car Check.” Firestone at West Towne, 7105 West Mineral Point Road., Madison: for seniors over 50. This no-cost inspection is an important step to get your car ready for winter. Refreshments while you wait. Reservations necessary. Call 608.441.7897.

November 18 – 10:30 a.m.: “Depression/Grieving.” Call for location. Cheri Milton, Agrace Hospicecare.

Cottage Grove Triad

September 22 – 10:00 a.m.: “Frauds, Friends and Family.” (Taylor Ridge Senior Apartments, 510 Westlawn Drive, Cottage Grove.) John Hendrick, Chief Legal Counsel of the Coalition of Wisconsin Aging Groups, will talk about how to be alert for scams and identity theft. According to State and National statistics, over 60% of elder financial exploitation comes from family members.

October 17 – 8:00 a.m.: Free “Car Winterization Program.” (Meineke Car Care, 222 West Cottage Grove Road, Cottage Grove.) Schedule your appointment for a winter car check (must be over 50). In a few minutes you will have your car’s belts, tires (including spare), antifreeze, lights, turn signals, and more checked. Appointments can be made for needed repairs if desired; no tickets will be issued. Know if your car is ready for cold and snow!

October 27 – 10:00 a.m.: “Mental Health Issues: How They Affect Our Relationships.” (Taylor Ridge Senior Apartments, 510 Westlawn Drive, Cottage Grove.) Jane Gray, M.O.S.T. (Mobile Outreach to Seniors) a part of Journey Mental Health, will discuss depression and other mental health issues. Our relationships with those suffering from these issues will also be discussed.

November 17 – 10:00 a.m.: “Getting to Know ADRC: How They Can Help You.” (Taylor Ridge Senior Apartments, 510 Westlawn Drive, Cottage Grove.) Connie Monroe and Kayla Stevens of the Adult and Disabled Resource Center of Dane County (ADRC) will provide information about assistance services available at no cost through ADRC.

Verona Triad

September 25 – 8:00 a.m. - noon: “Car-Fit/Car Winterization Check.” (Hometown Auto Clinic, 700 South Nine Mound Road, Verona.) Car-Fit is a project of AAA to assess whether people have their mirrors adjusted correctly, etc. They are given hints on how to sit in their cars more comfortably and safely.

October 26 – 10:30 a.m.: “Postal Fraud.” Ross Hinckley United States Postal inspection Service. Verona Senior Center, 108 Paoli Street, Verona.

For more information: mstamstad@rsvpdane.org or www.rsvpdane.org.
New Grants and Additional Funding

This summer, RSVP received $5,000 from the Evjue Foundation for Driver Services/Vets Helping Vets. We appreciate the continuing support from the Evjue Foundation to help provide rides for veterans of all ages. RSVP also received $1,000 from the Middleton William “Sonny” Simon VFW Post 8216. This funding is used to help RSVP’s Vets Helping Vets program with transportation for younger veterans. Post 8216 was instrumental in starting our Vets Helping Vets program, and we appreciate their on-going support.

In July, we received $600 from the Epic Revenue Team as a result of their ice-cream-sundae fundraiser for our Vets Helping Vets program. Thank you to the Epic Revenue Team for hosting this special event to help support our services to veterans.

In addition, RSVP Vets Helping Vets received $1,000 from the Sun Prairie Lions Club and Foundation. Veteran rides (3,800 in 2014) account for over 43% of all RSVP rides. We are grateful for this financial support.

In August, we received $1,000 from the Madison Community Foundation Tom Stamstad Memorial Fund to help support the Triad Conference. Thank you to Mary Stamstad for making this gift possible.

And, we are also pleased to report a donation of $500 from Primrose Lutheran Church, Belleville. This contribution came from part of the proceeds of their delicious Summer Luncheon (a five-star potluck and entertainment event!) on August 27th. Thank you to Primrose Lutheran Church for your support of RSVP.

(l to r) Marsha Ralston-Edlinger, President of WELCA [Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America] with Margie Zutter and Mary Schmelzer at Primrose Lutheran Church.
AARP Safe Driver Program
by Mel Stark, AARP State Marketer and Local Instructor

The aging of our population impacts our nation’s future. Estimates indicate that by the year 2030, one in four drivers will be 65 or older. This means there will be more than 30 million older drivers on our roads at that time.

Traffic statistics indicate that older adults overall are safe drivers with good driving records.

However, medical conditions, certain medications, and age-related changes in physical and mental function can increase the risk of crashes and injury among older drivers. The AARP Safe Driver Program is committed to helping older drivers sustain mobility as they age. Our volunteers do not sell insurance. We do not sell anything. Our classes are steeped in highway safety and present hard-to-find information on driving safe.

Almost 5000 dedicated and trained volunteers instruct the AARP Driver Safety Program classroom course in local churches, schools, and senior centers. Presented in a classroom setting, this course enables drivers to refresh their driving knowledge and learn how to adjust to age-related challenges.

The AARP Safe Driver Program is the nation’s first and largest driver-safety course designed especially for drivers age 50 and older. The course is intended to help drivers live more independently as they age and remain safe on today’s roads. Since the program’s inception in 1979, more than 13 million participants have completed the course. The Safe Driver Program is one of the best examples of AARP working at the local level.

In Wisconsin, the AARP Safe Driver Program classroom course lasts four hours. Participants receive a thorough review of the “rules of the road” with an emphasis on safety strategies for older drivers. The course also addresses changes in vision, hearing, and reaction time associated with aging and provides practical techniques to adjust for these changes. Topics include Roundabouts and active defensive driving. Weekend, evening, and courses in Spanish are often available. A participant is charged a fee of $15 for AARP members, $20 for non-members, and basically just covers costs of supplies.

While geared toward drivers 50+, the course is appropriate for any licensed driver or someone returning to driving. In Wisconsin, course participants may be eligible to receive a state discount on their auto insurance premiums. Participants should contact their insurance company or agent for more details.

To find a class visit www.aarp.org/driving36 or call local volunteer, Mel Stark, at 608.655.4847.

September Triad Conference

Safer, Smarter Seniors: Become a Partner in Prevention, the 2015 Wisconsin State Triad / Dane County Triad Crime Prevention and Safety Conference & Expo was held September 18th, from 7:45 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. at the American Family Insurance Training Center, 6000 American Parkway, Madison WI.

This conference brought seniors, law enforcement, human service professionals, and the general public together from across the state to explore ways to combat violence and keep our citizens safe from those who would victimize them. Speakers included Ismael Ozanne, Dane County District Attorney; Gary Hamblin, Retired Secretary, WI Dept. of Corrections; Mike Lekrone, U.W. Band Director; Madison Police Chief, Michael Koval; and Lt. Gordon Baylor, Dane County Sheriff’s Office.

One of the workshops dealt with “Older Adult Bullying by Peers.” Yes, adults bully others too. It is not just a problem of kids bullying other kids. Speakers spelled out what is happening in senior housing and other congregate areas and what to do about it.

Another workshop focused on “After the Arrest – A Layman’s Walk through the System.” Participants learned why arrests don’t always lead to conviction.

Other important workshops included these topics: Firearms, Concealment and Current Laws; Personal Safety; Avoiding Financial Exploitation; Safe Driving – Keeping the Keys; Identity Theft; Brain Health and Recognizing Depression; 2015 Drug Threats; Dementia Education for Law Enforcement; Domestic Violence in Later Life; Parent Addiction Network; Bus Buddies; and Hoarding.

There were 25 Exhibitors providing important information on crime prevention, safety, and many other areas of interest. For more information contact Mary Stamstad at mstamstad@rsvpdane.org or at 608.441.7897.
New Board Member

Meet new RSVP Board member Sonia Ramirez. Born in Chile, Sonia later moved to Uruguay where she attended college and received a degree in Fashion Design and Pattern Making. She moved to the U.S. in 1970 and worked in the garment industry in Chicago. After living in Missouri and North Carolina, she moved to Atlanta where she taught at the Bauder Fashion College. She loves to travel, but calls Wisconsin her home.

Sonia volunteered for many years in Atlanta, including serving as a VISTA volunteer, before moving to Wisconsin in 2000. In 2004, she offered to help at the Oregon Area Senior Center and enrolled with RSVP. Sonia joined the RSVP Board in June and is also serving on the Dane County SOS Senior Council.

This spring, RSVP was asked by Centro Hispano, a nonprofit agency that provides programs and services supporting Dane County’s Latino population, if we could recruit a bi-lingual volunteer to teach sewing classes. Of course, we asked Sonia who said “Yes” right away! With extra donated sewing machines serviced by RSVP volunteer Bill Holman, she was able to start classes. Since July, Sonia has been helping Centro Hispano participants learn how to sew, and she will continue to teach there this fall. The Catholic Multicultural Center has also asked her to provide sewing instruction. Thank you, Sonia, for giving your time and sharing your expertise in Dane County through RSVP!

Volunteers Are Essential

by Heather Johnson, RSVP Volunteer

The volunteers in Madison provide thousands of hours of unpaid support to many programs that make Madison a better place to live. I have experience with three programs that would not function without volunteers.

Literacy Network has paired me up with a learner who needs help in reading better. During any given week, there are 250 volunteers like me out in our community providing this vital tutoring. Last year, one woman was able to attend her child’s school conference without a translator because she had improved her reading and speaking ability. She was “over the moon” with pride and confidence. Can you imagine the impact of this new skill on her child? If the Literacy Network had paid all their tutors in 2014, the total cost of their services to the community would have been $700,000.

St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry on Fish Hatchery Road allows me to volunteer as a receptionist, helping families register for free food. Thirty volunteers a day make that pantry function.

When we assist 80 to 100 families a day with needed food, the whole community benefits.

The third program I volunteer with is Bus Buddies, through RSVP. We go out and ride the city bus with seniors and those with disabilities who have not ridden before. We show them how to read the bus schedule and figure out what route to take. Recently, I rode with a woman who had been isolated in the apartment she shares with her daughter, who is at work all day. We rode to East Towne on the bus. Her reaction was utter happiness to find out she could go places on her own. She said, “I feel like a kid who goes to the zoo for the first time!”

The RSVP office places 2,000 volunteers a year in agencies and schools in this area. Our city gets thousands of hours of free service in so many areas. I look forward every day to being out in the community, having a feeling of making a contribution and interacting with others.

And – it keeps Gramma off the street!
Bus Buddy Tours – Another Successful Season!

The 2015 Bus Buddy Tours had a very successful season this year. Thanks to Dane County Human Services and AAA, the Bus Buddy Program was able to expand this year and offer four fun and very educational trips. Participants so far have enjoyed trips to the Chazen Museum, the State Capitol, and Olbrich Gardens. The last trip will be in October to Market Square Theater.

All participants received a RSVP Bus Buddy Tour goodie bag with a water bottle, Madison Metro Ride Guide, Metro map and a 10-ride bus pass. On each trip, the Bus Buddy Coordinators, Angie Haskin, Heather Johnson, and Susan Morrison, were busy teaching all participants how to easily navigate the Madison Metro Bus System. The trip to Olbrich Gardens was the most extensive trip of the season. Those that went on that trip learned many tips on how to take the bus from one side of town to another, utilizing the Metro transfer points.

The 2015 Bus Buddy Tour Program will wrap up its second season in October with an in-service and lunch at RSVP, followed by a movie at Market Square Theater. The in-service will be a great way to end the season, with more extensive training on how to navigate the Madison Metropolitan Bus System. Tips will be presented on using the Madison Metro Trip Planner and the Ride Guide, as well as other planning tools.

To register for the October Bus Buddy in-service and trip to Market Square Theater, please contact Diana Jost at 608.441.1393.

Remember, throughout the year individuals wanting additional personal training on using the bus system can call Jan Karst at 608.441.7891 to be paired up with a Bus Buddy Coordinator.

It's Back to School Time …… Volunteers Needed!

All schools in Dane County need more volunteers interested in tutoring students in grades K-12: Volunteers will be matched one-on-one or will work with small groups of children. The focus is on literacy and math. With your help the students will get the individualized attention they need to excel in the classroom. Tutoring is a great way for you to share your time, stay active, and make a great impact on the community.

Achievement Connections: Achievement Connections is a tutoring program that helps high-school students in the Madison Metropolitan School District and the Middleton-Cross Plains School District improve their academic performance in algebra and geometry. Volunteers are matched one-on-one with a student to provide a strong, ongoing relationship throughout the school year.

Senior Tax Exchange Program (STEP): Volunteers tutoring in the Madison Metropolitan School District may be eligible to participate in the STEP Program. This program offers a property tax rebate for eligible senior volunteer tutors who serve in academic tutoring programs in elementary and middle schools or the high-school Achievement Connections Program. Qualifying volunteers will receive a credit to be used to help reduce their property tax bill.

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Stand down for Homeless Veterans

There is going to be a special event for veterans on Saturday, October 24, 2015. This is for anyone who has served in the military and their dependents, who may be currently experiencing homelessness, at risk of losing housing, and from one of the following counties: Columbia, Dane, Dodge, Green, Iowa, Jefferson, Rock, and Sauk. The Stand Down will be held in Madison at the National Guard Armory, 1420 Wright Street, and transportation services are available. You can visit the website at www.standdownmadison.org or “like us” on Facebook: Madison Area Homeless Stand Down and find out how to volunteer, donate, or attend.

2015 Sweepstakes Update

The 2015 Sweepstakes was the most successful ever thanks to the great prize donations and community support we received. Congratulations to the prize winners!

- JoAnne Berschet – Madison
- Susan Fineout – Madison
- Nora Heidecke – Stoughton
- Margaret Hrnčirík – Madison
- Carmon and Olga Howe – Cambridge
- Joyce Leichtenberg – Madison
- Randy Lucey – Mazomanie
- Diana Luethje – Madison
- Theresa Motisi – Monona
- Judy Pritchard – Madison
- Georgia Punswick – Cottage Grove
- Bob Reif – Fitchburg
- Jackie Ripp – Monona
- Danielle Schroeder – Mt. Horeb
- Mary A. Sturtevant – Madison
- Agnes Sutter – Mt. Horeb
- William C. Thiede – Madison
- Myrna Ulrich – Sun Prairie
- William T. Wambach – Sun Prairie
- Larry Weber – Madison
- James R. Wichman – Madison

RSVP volunteer Shirley Coulter with the quilt (over 1,000 pieces, one inch squares, valued at $500) she made as a prize for the Sweepstakes.
Wayne D. Horner Memorial

HOMELESS VETERANS STAND DOWN

Are you homeless or at risk and have served
or are a dependent of someone who served in the U.S. Military?

Saturday, October 24 2015

8:00am-3:00pm

National Guard Armory – 1420 Wright Street, Madison WI

Find us on Facebook: Madison Area Homeless Stand Down
Or http://standdownmadison.org
to find out how to volunteer, donate, or attend

Contact organizations below
for more information:

- VAMC Homeless Programs:
  Heather 608-280-2095

- CAC-SSVF Program:
  Kris 608-246-4730 ext 201

- Transportation to/from event (RSVP): Tom 608-238-7901

- Donations- Jim
  Blankenheim
  608-228-4951
  P.O. Box 259321
  Madison, WI 53725

- Volunteer Information-
  Adam Howarth
  608-280-2095

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**VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES**

**RSVP VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES**

... where volunteers make a difference

“Those who bring sunshine to the lives of others cannot keep it from themselves.”

*Author: James Matthew Barrie*

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**VOLUNTEER OMBUDSMAN NEEDED.** The Wisconsin Board on Aging and Long Term Care is in need of volunteers to visit nursing homes two-three hours a week advocating for residents, making sure their rights are being met while living in a nursing home. Training provided. No special background needed.

**CANOPY CENTER HEALING AND FAMILY SUPPORT SERVICES** would like help in their front office, greeting clients and making them feel comfortable, answering phones, and doing some light office tasks.

**MADISON POLICE DEPARTMENT CENTRAL DISTRICT** would like volunteers for their Information Desk to serve as greeters and provide information for visitors to the Police Department. They are located in the rear of the City County Building at 211 S. Carroll Street. Shifts are Monday – Friday from 9 a.m. – 12 noon and 12 noon – 3 p.m. If you need more flexibility, any time between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. during the week works perfectly! Training provided.

**RSVP** needs **BUS BUDDY COORDINATORS!** Many seniors do not use the Madison Metro buses because they haven’t had the opportunity to learn the bus system. If you are a seasoned bus rider, volunteer to teach someone else how to achieve more independence and mobility by using the bus system to get to senior and community centers, shopping, and entertainment!

**SCHUMACHER FARM PARK** is looking for volunteers who have knowledge of Depression Era crafts and would like to demonstrate them and teach others about them at the farm.

**SENIOR COALITIONS** on all sides of Madison need Home Chore Volunteers to visit elderly folks and help with light chores such as taking out the garbage, washing a few dishes, etc. Many older adults can live independently in their own homes longer with just a little help from a friend!

Older adults in the **SOUTH MADISON** community sometimes are no longer able to manage paying their bills such as rent, heat/electric, and phone. You can help by volunteering to be a Representative Payee and ensure their monthly bills get paid. No money and no experience necessary, just compassion, understanding, and a desire to help. Training and support provided and only two-four hours a month as your schedule permits.

**RUN FOR LITERACY** is Literacy Network’s 24th annual run to raise money to support free adult literacy programs in Dane County. Volunteers are needed to help on Sunday, October 11th, for the run which begins near State Street. You can help with a variety of things: working at the Information/Volunteer Check-In Table, handing out medals, biking the course to check on signage and volunteers, monitoring water stations, acting as intersection guards, and doing breakdown and clean-up. Bring your friends or family and make a fun day of it!

If you are interested in any of the volunteer opportunities above, please contact Jan Karst at 608.441.7891 or through e-mail at jkarst@rsvpdane.org.
RSVP Donor Honor Roll

We gratefully acknowledge donations received May 15 through August 11, 2015 from the following individuals and organizations since our last newsletter, and extend our thanks to each for their generous support.

**Leadership Circle**
($1,000+)
- Thomas and Margie Krauskopf
- Ann M. White

**Patron ($500-999)**
- Kit-Yin Ling
- Sun Prairie Lions Club

**Advocate ($100-249)**
- Bill Arthur
- Virginia Bunbury
- Thomas and Ann Duter
- Elizabeth and Robert Herbst

**Partner ($50-99)**
- Diane and Dale Helt
- Janet Kleiboer
- Lynn Nienow
- Jerome Tolkakon
- Dale Wortley

**Donor ($1-49)**
- Anonymous
- MJ Cargill
- Thomas and Shirley Eckstein
- Vicki Gustafson
- James Hughes
- Marcella Johnson
- Sudha and Madhu Joshi
- Phillip Martin
- Douglas Mullen
- Greg Szynanski
- Thrivent Financial for Lutherans
- Keith and Margie Zutter

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

- Charles and Joanne Bunge
- Shirley Coulter
- Pam Gallagher
- Mary Grell
- Ruth Odell
- Karen Osborn
- Kathi Seman
- The Gardens RSVP Group
- Lois B. Tyler

School Volunteers Needed! from page 9

**MMSD Play and Learn Program:** The Madison Metropolitan School District Play and Learn Program is a great new program designed for children ages from birth to 5 and their parent(s)/caregiver(s). Children learn early math, literacy, and social skills through play, while caregivers learn about child development and the importance of play.

**Special Projects – Guest Speakers:** Volunteers will share with students their personal stories related to events in history or share their expertise on various topics. There are two Special Projects: (1) The DeForest Bio Link Project, which is an opportunity to be a part of student learning at DeForest Area Middle School. Each year, five to seven volunteers are guest speakers at the middle school. They share with the students stories of events in their lives where they had to overcome difficult obstacles. The focus of this project is to teach the students about resilience, facing challenges in life, and perseverance. (2) Madison Memorial High School History Project, in which volunteers are invited each year to participate in the Oral History Project with students. They take part in small group interviews describing what their lives were like during WW II and the Great Depression.

**Volunteers needed for the Computer Buddies Program!** Would you enjoy exchanging e-mails with an elementary student during the school year? RSVP offers the Computer Buddies Program to Dane County area elementary schools. RSVP volunteers are matched with students one-on-one and correspond weekly in a pen-pal fashion via electronic transmission. The correspondence provides the opportunity for students to practice their writing and computer keyboard skills while fostering a positive relationship between the generations. This is a fun way to volunteer without having to leave your home. The program does not involve a big time commitment, usually about 30 minutes a week. This year, the Computer Buddies Program will include students in DeForest, Oregon, Madison, and Marshall Elementary Schools as well as those in Madison’s Neighborhood House.

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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.

CONTRIBUTIONS WERE MADE TO RSVP IN MEMORY OF

+ Alice Benn by Dale Wortley
+ Tony Farina by Thomas and Shirley Eckstein
+ Carol and Gilbert Helt by Diane and Dale Helt
+ Shirley Mullen by Douglas Mullen

CONTRIBUTIONS WERE MADE TO RSVP IN HONOR OF

+ Vets Helping Vets Program by Anonymous

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Other exciting volunteer opportunities available for the upcoming school year:

* Common Wealth Development – Mock Interview Opportunities: Several sessions of a Youth-Business Mentoring Program as well as Employment and Financial Literacy Workshops are held during the year by Common Wealth Development. Students are taught the basics of looking for a job, applying and interviewing successfully, problem solving on the job, and successful financial management. For each of these, they need volunteers from the community to come and interview the students. The mock interviewers act as managers, supervisors, and owners of businesses, interviewing students one at a time, as if the student were actually applying for a job. They then provide feedback to the student. These volunteers provide the most important elements of this exercise! The students learn to conduct themselves in a mature manner with an adult they have never met, and they learn to think and perform in the face of anxiety. They also learn from the valuable feedback volunteers provide them.

* YWCA volunteer opportunities: The YWCA is looking for volunteers this school year for a variety of new programs:

  **Children’s Program Volunteers:** A variety of developmentally appropriate children’s programs are offered to children in the YWCA homeless shelter and family housing programs. Volunteers facilitate activities and supervise children ages three and older. There is also a special program for babies and toddlers. Experience working with children is a plus. The hours are Monday - Friday from 5:50 pm - 7:30 pm and Saturday and Sunday from 12:50 pm - 3:00 pm. Volunteers generally work one day per week.

  **Interpreters:** Many of the YWCA’s program participants speak a language other than English, the most common of these being Spanish. Volunteers help Spanish-speaking children and also help YWCA staff interact with their clients. Fluency in Spanish and translation/interpretation experience are needed skills. The days and times will be set up by appointment.

  **YWeb Career Academy Mentors:** If you work in the tech industry, the YWeb Career Academy program needs you to mentor program participants. Volunteer mentors make short presentations about their careers and are available to answer participant questions as they work on in-class projects. If possible, mentors will also make themselves available outside of class time to answer e-mail questions, meet with mentees, and take mentees to networking events. Current or previous work experience in the technology industry, especially in web development, are the skills needed.

  **Restorative Justice Volunteers:** This program seeks volunteers to participate in Restorative Justice Circles and to support student Restorative Justice Facilitators at various Madison area schools. Experience working with middle- and high-school youth is needed. The hours will be during the school day, one day (or more) per month. (Racial Justice Facilitators follow a separate application process.) Learn more about this opportunity on the YWCA website.

* Madison Children’s Museum: The Madison Children’s Museum has several great opportunities to work with children in the museum:

  **Museum Fellow:** Assist education staff programming in and around the museum as well as interact with museum visitors as customer service ambassadors and community resources.

  **Museum Specialist:** Work on special projects “behind the scenes.”

continued on back page
Please use this form to make a contribution to RSVP in memory or honor of someone special.

Enclosed is my gift of ______________________

☐ In honor of ______________________ ☐ In memory of ______________________

Personal tribute ______________________

☐ Check payable to RSVP of Dane County

Credit Card: ☐ MasterCard ☐ Visa ☐ PayPal

(Pay online with PayPal at www.rsvpdane.org/donateonline.html)

Card # ______________________ Exp. Date ____ / ____ Signature ______________________

Name ______________________ Phone ______________________

Address ______________________ City/State/Zip ______________________

E-mail Address ______________________

If you would like, we will send an acknowledgement of your tribute or memorial to the person(s) listed below.

Name ______________________

Address ______________________ City/State/Zip ______________________

Please return this form to: RSVP of Dane County; 517 N. Segoe Road, Suite 300; Madison, Wisconsin 53705.

Memorials and Tributes

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.

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Mary Stamstad, Triad Coordinator
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* Pheasant Branch Conservancy: The Friends of Pheasant Branch Conservancy provides guided field trips for area schools. Professional naturalists and school district teachers from the Middleton-Cross Plains School District have developed field-trip lessons for grades K-5 that are directly linked to the curriculum and the requirements of the State of Wisconsin in the area of natural resources. Volunteers are needed to help lead field trips. The field trip topics include trees, plants, soils, water, landforms, and the web of life. This is a volunteer opportunity for you to be outside and to mentor the younger generation. The Friends provide on-site training and guidance throughout the process.

* Catholic Multicultural Center: Be a kid again as a childcare volunteer! Play and learn with kids at the Catholic Multicultural Center, allowing their parents and families to attend ESL (English) and other adult education classes. Volunteers are needed two hours a week for childcare during that class time.

For more information or if you are interested in volunteering, contact Diana Jost, Intergenerational Program Coordinator at RSVP of Dane County at 608.441.1393 or djost@rsvpdane.org.