



E-Xtra

Fe

What's New & Noteworthy from RSVP
February 2017

RSVP's mission is to make a positive impact in the community by recruiting volunteers 55 and older to help deliver priority services to people of all ages, providing Dane County with a valuable resource.

Happenings

[Foster Grandparent Grant](#)

[Volunteers' Generosity](#)

[Driver Services Earns High Marks](#)

RSVP Wins Federal Grant for Foster Grandparent Program

In January, RSVP of Dane County received the good news that they were awarded a Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) grant for the Foster Grandparent Program .



After six long months of uncertainty about the future of this program, it was thrilling to know it would not only continue, but now has the opportunity to expand! As part of the expansion, a program coordinator will be hired. If you are interested in this position click [here](#).

Thank you so much to all our current Foster Grandparent volunteers for your unwavering support and ongoing efforts to enrich the lives of children in our community.

If you have any questions about the Foster Grandparent Program or are interested in volunteering, please contact Andrea Beaster at 441-7894 or abeaster@rsvpdane.org.

RSVP Volunteers Respond Generously to Community

Important Dates

Upcoming RSVP Events

Tuesday, April 25
1:00-3:00 p.m.

RSVP Volunteer
Open House
517 N. Segoe Rd., Madison

RSVP's office closings:

Friday, April 14
afternoon for
Good Friday

Upcoming Triad Events

Cottage Grove:

February 28
10:00 a.m.

'Don't Be a Victim of a Scam'
Taylor Ridge Senior Housing
510 Westlawn Dr.

March 28
10:00 a.m.

'Preparedness for Active Shooter and Violence in the Community'
Taylor Ridge Senior Housing
510 Westlawn Dr.

West Madison:

February 22
10:00 a.m.

'Navigating Your Community with Confidence'
Greentree Glen Apartments
732 Struck St.

March 22
10:00 a.m.

In December, RSVP of Dane County hosted a coat drive for The Communication Tree, an outreach mission to people of the Menominee Nation, which is one of the poorest Tribal Nations in Wisconsin. RSVP volunteers responded generously with 48 coats, 2 pair of boots, 7 hats, 2 fleece outfits, 4 pair snow pants, 1 tote bag, 2 afghans, and 17 t-shirts donated. Items were distributed at an event held at the Boys and Girls Club in Neopit where hundreds of children and adults selected items to keep them warm during the cold winter months.



Marlene Salas & Stephen Maurice shelving donations at CMC Food Pantry.

In honor of the Martin Luther King Jr. 'Day of Service,' RSVP of Dane County hosted a food drive for the Catholic Multicultural Center (CMC) in January. CMC provides services addressing education, employment, legal services and a "Basic Needs" program, which offers individuals and families access to their food pantry, personal essentials pantry, laundry and shower, health advocacy, and free meal service.

The CMC is the only organization in Dane County to serve a free community meal every day of the week. RSVP volunteers donated more than 100 lbs. of nonperishable food for CMC's food pantry and meal service programs.

Driver Services Program Earns High Praises



Each year, RSVP's Agency Assessment Committee evaluates one of its programs to analyze their performance. In 2016, the Driver Services Program was reviewed with glowing results. The survey was mailed to 1,039 passengers with 353 of them responding -- 98% strongly agreed or agreed that they were satisfied with the service; 98% indicated that it helped them to remain living in their own homes and be more independent.

Not only are the passengers pleased with the program's outcomes, they also have some very positive things to say about the way the program is administered. Virtually all (99.4%) of our passenger

'Meeting our New West District Captain'

West District Police Station
Community Room
1710 McKenna Blvd.

For more information on Triad, contact Mary Stamstad at 608-441-7897 or

mstamstad@rsvpdane.org

or

visit www.rsvpdane.org/triad.html or www.triadofwisconsin.org

Visit RSVP at Walgreens Senior Discount Days

RSVP staff distribute File of Life packets and other RSVP info at Walgreens stores each month. Stop by and enjoy the senior discount!

Tuesday, February 7

11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. at Mineral Point Rd. and Cottage Grove Rd. stores

Tuesday, March 7

11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. at Raymond Rd. and East Washington Ave. stores

Volunteer Now! Current Opportunities

INTERGENERATIONAL:

Call Andrea Beaster at 441-7894

ALL DANE COUNTY SCHOOLS need Tutors for Grades K-12. Volunteers are matched one-to-one or with a small group, to help with literacy and math and to give individualized attention needed to excel. A great way to share your time, stay active and make an impact!

DEFOREST BIO LINK PROJECT is looking for 5-7 volunteers to be guest speakers at DeForest Middle School to share experiences in their lives when they have overcome obstacles. This project's goal is to teach students about resilience and perseverance when facing challenges. Students interview volunteers and then complete a project on what they learned. The volunteers return to the school for a

respondents agreed that their Driver Escort provided them with safe transportation.

In the words of our passengers:

- *"It's so helpful. I'm sometimes too sick to take a cab or bus. My only other option is an ambulance!"*
- *"I could not afford taxi service to Madison, where my primary doctor and specialists have their offices. If not for RSVP, I would have to move to a facility in Madison."*
- *"The drivers that have taken me to the doctor have been super friendly and helpful! I look forward to riding with them."*

According to Mick Maier, committee chair, "If you and I owned a for-profit taxi business that catered to seniors, we would go to great lengths to ensure that our drivers were safe, reliable, and friendly. That a free, volunteer-driven transportation service is able to provide such a high level of quality service is remarkable."

Hats off to the 720 volunteer drivers who make this program such a success. If you are interested in learning more about becoming a driver, contact Gene Kundert, 441-7896 or gkundert@rsvpdane.org.

Bus Buddy Tours Kick Off Fourth Season



In March, Bus Buddies Tours will kick off its 4th season, offering five fun-filled trips to local points of

interest, thanks to funding from Dane County Human Services and AAA. The popular program is designed to teach seniors, age 60 and older, how to navigate the Madison Metro Bus System, while enjoying a fun social group outing with their peers.

Participants will travel to a local point of interest on each trip and will receive a Bus Buddy tour bag that includes a 10-ride bus pass and Madison Metro Bus Ride Guide. For more information or to reserve a spot, please contact Diana Jost at djost@rsvpdane.org or 441-1393.

[Friday, March 24](#) -- Multicultural Health Fair at North East Side Senior Coalition. Attend this wonderful annual Health Fair, followed by lunch.

lunch and to view the students' class presentations.

MADISON MEMORIAL HISTORY PROJECT invites volunteers to participate in the **Oral History Project** with students. Volunteers participate in small-group interviews on what their life was like during the Great Depression and WWII. The students then compile a written documentation of the oral history.

COMMON WEALTH DEVELOPMENT, needs Mock Interview volunteers to participate in sessions of the **Youth-Business Mentoring Program and Employment Workshops**, to teach students the basics of a job search: applying and interviewing successfully, problem-solving on the job, and successful financial management. Volunteers act as managers/supervisors/owners of businesses to 'interview' students, one-on-one, in a mock job interview, and provide students with feedback on their performance. A valuable opportunity for students to learn about the working world.

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS:

**Call Jan Karst
at 441-7891**

PORCHLIGHT is looking for two volunteers to help cook and serve lunch at Safe Haven, a temporary housing and service center for homeless folks with mental illness. Safe Haven is located at 4006 Nakoosa Trail. Thursday and Friday lunch help is needed between 10:30am and 1:30pm.

ST. MARYS HOSPITAL needs volunteers who would enjoy delivering mail and flowers to patients and the morning beverage cart to visitors in waiting areas. Volunteers also print out and deliver E-cards to patients. Simple computer skills and the ability to walk distances needed.

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!

Put a smile on a child's face! **MADISON CHILDREN'S MUSEUM** has opportunities to assist education programming staff around the

[Wednesday, May 17](#) -- Madison Science Museum, Enjoy lunch at Madison Senior Center followed by a museum tour.

[Wednesday, June 7](#) -- Henry Vilas Zoo. Have a fun picnic lunch and tour of the zoo!

[Thursday, July 13](#) -- Wisconsin Veterans Museum. Explore the exhibits at the museum followed by a lunch at Ian's Pizza.

[Thursday, August 17](#) -- Bubbler Room at the Madison Public Library. Enjoy participating in a hands-on project at the Bubbler Room followed by lunch at the Plaza, Home of the famous Plaza burger.

The RSVP Bus Buddy Individual Program provides seniors with help and companionship from an experienced Bus Buddy Coordinator, who will teach participants how to use Madison Metro bus system. If you would like individual training to ride the bus, or are interested in becoming a Bus Buddy Coordinator, please contact Jan Karst at 441-7891 or Jkarst@rsvpdane.org.

RSVP Open House to mark National Volunteer Week

Nobody Can Do Everything, but Everyone Can Do Something!



Celebrate National Volunteer Week and learn what YOU can do.

Join us at the RSVP Open House Tuesday April 25, 2017, 1:00-3:00 p.m.

For 45 years, RSVP has been matching volunteers, primarily age 55 and older, with community service opportunities. In celebration of National Volunteer Week, RSVP of Dane County is hosting an Open House to showcase the wide variety of volunteer opportunities available in our community.

You can speak to one of RSVP's personal volunteer coordinators to help you choose from opportunities at more than 85 nonprofit and public agencies in Madison and Dane County. They can also help you decide whether you want to share skills developed over a lifetime or try something totally new.

Museum, as well as acting as community service ambassadors, work on special projects "behind the scenes" with data entry, photography, marketing and events.

EAST MADISON/MONONA COALITION OF AGING (EMMCA) needs volunteers for their Adult Day Center. Play games, share hobbies, and converse with adults with dementia. Help at their Nutrition Site serving meals, socializing with seniors as they eat, and clean up.

KARMENTA CENTER NURSING HOME on the east side, would like volunteers to help with Bingo and Nail Salon in the afternoons as well as one-to-one visits to increase the quality of life for residents.

COMMUNITY ACTION COALITION GLEANERS is looking for volunteers to do a weekly route of picking up excess food at one location (stores, etc) and delivering it to another (food pantries and nutrition sites).

Many students who receive free meals through their schools go hungry on the weekend. **GOODMAN COMMUNITY CENTER** is looking for volunteers to pick up food bags from First Methodist Church on Thursdays and deliver them to a designated school in Madison so students living with food insecurity can eat over the weekend.

Volunteer Guardians and Representative Payees are needed through the **SOUTH MADISON SENIOR COALITION**. Can you spend a few hours a month helping a senior with paying their bills and taking care of other business they are no longer able to do alone?

GROUP PROJECTS

RSVP OF DANE COUNTY needs Group Liaison volunteers to visit a sewing/kintting group(s) once monthly. Deliver fabric/yarn; pick-up finished items. Enjoy a few hours a month volunteering. For more information contact Mary Schmelzer, Group Projects/Homeworkers Coordinator: (608) 310-7280 or mschmelzer@rsvpdane.org.

DRIVERS SERVICES

DRIVERS NEEDED to drive passengers who are seniors (60 yrs. and older) or veterans of all ages to important appointments, or to

The open house will be held at the RSVP offices at 517 N. Segoe Road (next to the Hilldale Post Office), Madison. If you're unable to attend and would like more information, call RSVP at 608-238-7787, or visit www.rsvpdane.org.

deliver meals to seniors in Dane County communities outside of Madison. You set your own schedule, no minimum hours required. RSVP provides mileage reimbursement and extra liability insurance. If you are interested in driving:

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SENIORS or DELIVERING MEALS,

Contact Gene Kundert
gkundert@rsvpdane.org or
608-441-7896

VETERANS OF ALL AGES & THEIR FAMILIES

Contact Jamie Johnston
jjohnston@rsvpdane.org or
608-238-7901.

**RSVP VOLUNTEER PROGRAMS:
WHERE VOLUNTEERS MAKE A
DIFFERENCE!**

Join Our Mailing List!



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