RSVP Becomes a Dementia Friendly Organization

On February 9, RSVP staff had the pleasure of taking part in a Dementia Friendly Community training with Joy Schmidt, Dementia Care Specialist with Aging & Disability Resource Center (ADRC). Joy informed staff on what it might look like if someone is experiencing symptoms of dementia, and also discussed what challenges someone with dementia may face on a daily basis. Joy talked with staff about how to better communicate with people struggling with dementia, and how to help them feel more at ease. There are certain ways an organization or business can help make an environment more dementia friendly, such as providing good lighting, keeping uncluttered spaces, and having signs, maps, and pictures that are easy to see and read. RSVP is proud to now be a Dementia Friendly Organization. Some resources that are available on Alzheimer’s and Dementia:

- Aging & Disability Resource Center of Dane County, 608.240.7400, www.daneadrc.org
- Alzheimer’s Association, 608.203.8500, www.alz.org
- Purple Angel Project, www.purpleangelproject.org

RSVP staff pictured with Joy Schmidt (far left), celebrating becoming a Dementia Friendly Organization.
Dear RSVP Members and Friends,

The question is, does a person need to R.S.V.P. to the RSVP Annual Open House? Considering there were several walk-ins three weeks in a row during the Open House time-frame, apparently not! There was a printing error, or in this case a lack of printing, since the date was inadvertently left out of the Wisconsin State Journal.

To me, this is a positive thing. It shows that there are indeed inquisitive and quite persistent people who may not know what the Retired and Senior Volunteer Program is all about. I had the opportunity to chat with two virtual strangers at the Open House on April 14th. It was actually fun and a challenge on my part to try to explain all aspects of the various programs and find out what the visitors might be interested in. Luckily, other board members and staff were within an easy reach to elaborate more regarding the Foster Grandparent Program and Driver Services.

There were about 35 people who popped in at the Open House to learn more about RSVP of Dane County, to visit with staff, and to enjoy great refreshments. Some had never set foot in the building before, but had been volunteering in different capacities for years. Others, as I mentioned earlier, didn’t have a clue what RSVP was all about but were interested in giving back to their communities.

I have to say that the staff and the board members must have answered all their questions because I heard that several people signed up and completed the easy paperwork right then and there! There are many volunteer opportunities through RSVP, and you don’t have to wait until an Open House to learn more or get signed up. Please call the direct line at 608.238.7787 or stop in at 517 N. Segoe Road. Any of the staff would be more than happy to guide you in the right direction and match you with a fulfilling volunteer position.

Alison Koelsch
President, Board of Directors
In February, Joy Schmidt, Dementia Care Specialist, ADRC of Dane County, came to RSVP to provide Dementia Friendly training to the RSVP staff. Joy shared some tips to help us better interact with and provide support to those who may be experiencing memory loss or have other limitations. Here are some of her suggestions:

- Approach a person from the front;
- Wear a friendly smile;
- Maintain eye contact;
- Speak slowly and clearly and ask one question at a time;
- Use a kind tone of voice and be friendly;
- Offer to help and provide one direction at a time;
- Remain calm and have patience;
- Reduce distractions;
- Show you care.

Joy also gave examples of how signage and directions can be confusing and how using symbols can make things easier. Dementia Friendly training provided “People Friendly” suggestions and tips that are good for interacting with everyone!

A couple of weeks after our training, my husband and I took a trip to Los Angeles to visit our son. While we were there, we decided to take the Metro train downtown to see the sights and, thinking about Dementia Friendly tips, I noticed that only words and colors – no symbols – were used to label the trains. To make it even more confusing, one train was labeled in light blue, and another train in dark blue. Not surprisingly, we ended up on the wrong train!

After returning to Madison, I did write a letter to the Mayor of Los Angeles sharing suggestions: “It would be better to mark your metro lines with a symbol (i.e. flower, sea lion, palm tree, sun) instead of using colors. Your current system is especially difficult because two of your Metro lines are marked with the same color — one dark blue and the other light blue. I would imagine that those who are color blind would find this challenging too. I hope you will consider this change to help make Metro Rail an attractive transportation alternative to visitors and residents with challenges.”

P.S. I haven’t received a response yet but hope that the next time we visit Los Angeles, we will see the trains “re-marked” with symbols!

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

Angela Haskin, Bus Buddy Volunteers
UMOJA Magazine

Bob Shank
Isthmus

Clara Anderson, Caryl Flesch, Barbara Littlewood, Donna Pahlow, Sylvia Rausch, and Jean Ruhde
2016 United Way of Dane County Community Volunteer Award Nominees

Bob Gwynne, Larry Schaefer, and Karl Stadler
2016 United Way of Dane County Community Volunteer Award Winners
— Date Saver —

Wisconsin/ Dane County Triad Crime Prevention and Safety Conference & Expo

“Staying Safe in an Unsafe World”

October 7th, 2016 - 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.

American Family Insurance Training Center
6000 American Parkway
Madison, Wisconsin

Seniors, law enforcement, fire and emergency medical services departments, human service personnel, and the general public are invited to attend this important conference.

Workshops will include issues in Senior Housing, Scams and Frauds, Identity Theft, Response to Active Shooter, How Heroin Use is Affecting Seniors, Elder Domestic Abuse, Fire/Emergency Preparedness, Gangs, Getting Along in a Diverse World, and many more.

For more information: 608.441.7897 or mstamstad@rsvpdane.org.

Banjo Brings Bonus

Sometimes, there are happy surprises that come out of nowhere. RSVP was very happily surprised recently when Jamie Deering of the Deering Banjo Company, a prominent maker of banjos in America, contacted us with some good news. His company, in conjunction with the popular British rock band Mumford & Sons, had selected RSVP of Dane County as the charity of choice for an eBay auction of a custom-designed banjo, with 75% of the proceeds from the auction sale going to RSVP. Mumford & Sons, to express their gratitude to the communities on their American tour where they were performing, had approved the fundraising auctions. The band had performed in Madison on April 22. Each of the thirteen banjos created for the charity auctions was signed by the band members.

When the Wisconsin auction closed, the winning high bid was for $1,701.30! Proceeds from the auction will go to general support of our programs. RSVP wants to thank Mumford & Sons and the Deering Banjo Company for their generosity and for giving us this unexpected and very happy surprise!
How do you celebrate the arrival of spring? For many volunteers in the Intergenerational Program, spring means it is time to participate in two important annual history projects.

In April, eight RSVP volunteers participated in the DeForest Middle School Bio-Links Project. This annual activity is one that volunteers, teachers, and students all look forward to. This year, small groups of 7th-grade students visited with and interviewed RSVP volunteers about their lives, families, traditions, experiences, and accomplishments. The main focus of the project this year could be summed up in one question: “What advice do you have for a 7th-grader about being successful in life?”

Volunteers Rollie Krogstad, William Payne, Donna Weissinger, Linda White, Barb Mathiot, Karen Laufenberg, Barb Lee, and Ginger Pippert talked with the 7th-graders sharing many stories and words of wisdom. Both students and volunteers learned a lot about each other and enjoyed many laughs together.

The students wrote a short biography about the volunteer they had interviewed, and the volunteers were then invited back to school to listen to the students present their papers to the class. At the end of the presentations, the guests shared information about their experience. One adult gave her thoughts: “I enjoyed my time with the students today. I liked sharing all the information and having the time to talk to middle-school students. I didn’t realize my story was that interesting to share, but I guess it is.”

On May 6th, eight RSVP Volunteers visited James Madison Memorial High School for their annual WW2 History project. Robin Staley, US history teacher at the high school, states that the goal of this exercise is for students to learn something about the real-life experiences during the 1940s – WW II being a popular focus.

Rollie Krogstad, Bette Barnes, Paul Kusuda, Robert Coffin, William Payne, and Fred Leidel have participated in this project for many years. When asked why he participates each year in this activity, Mr. Krogstad stated, “Students appreciate and can learn more first-hand from those that participated in WW II. The project enlightens students to other activities beside active duty, like those that helped on the home front. For example, the Red Cross; volunteers would sew items for soldiers to use.”

Mr. Krogstad shared that his personal favorite was an apron given to him to carry his shaving items, which enabled him to shave while in the field. Paul Kusuda explained why he feels this project is so important: “I think the students benefit by talking with people that have gone through the Great Depression and this time in history, being able to ask questions of people that have lived through this time. They are able to compare academic knowledge of the events in history with the actual experiences of those events, by people that lived through them.”

Two new volunteers participated in the project this year, Lee DeSpain and Myron Anderson. Mrs. DeSpain stated, “The students were really nice kids that were very interested in a life so different from what they live. My life experiences are so different: no technology, entertainment is different, and we always had to wear a dress to school. I told them a woman could not even be a teacher if she was married.”

Volunteers spent the entire day at the high school speaking to students during five class periods. Students will complete a written assignment about their interview, which will be compiled into a small booklet to be shared with all the volunteers.

Here’s what the teacher, Mrs. Staley, has to say: “I love this project! I am always in awe of the volunteers, and I hope to be as full of life and energy as they are, when I am their age. I appreciate the effort that they make to come in so that my students can hear their inspiring stories and see the materials they bring to show each year. I am also always very proud of my students. They are so polite, interested and attentive. The day after the interviews they can’t wait to share interesting stories they learned from the volunteer they interviewed – it is almost a competition to show who had the best interviewee. I got comments like these:

‘I was surprised at how young in heart and mind she was.’

‘It was extremely interesting and I’m glad I got this opportunity.’

‘I was surprised how fast the time went. In no time at all, the bell rang and the interview was over.’

‘I was surprised by how detailed his memories of the time were.’

It is very gratifying for my students to have this opportunity to participate in chronicling and preserving these stories that are part of America’s history.”

Intergenerational Program Volunteers Enjoy History Projects
Congratulations and Happy 105th Birthday!

Bernadette Zimmer doesn’t wear a cape, but she could! Zimmer has put in nearly 19,500 hours since November 1997, with 1,600 of those hours logged in 2015 alone. Remarkable for any volunteer, but for one marking her 105th birthday, it is indeed cape-worthy!

Zimmer is modest about her longevity and the 19 years she has dedicated to RSVP, crocheting baby hats, sweaters, booties, mittens and scarves for thousands of children through the years! “I’m happy to be volunteering at my age — it gives me something to do,” said Zimmer. “And I’m glad the babies will be getting the things I make.”

Zimmer has persevered through four brushes with cancer and a broken hip, and continues to find the time and desire to crochet for others (and to fit in a hand or two of cards when she can)! She is an inspiration, not only for her dedication, but for her perseverance through adversity. She is truly a testament to how volunteering can lengthen and enrich your life. We are blessed to have her among our ranks!

Vets Helping Vets

by Tom Poppe

Our transportation program for veterans and families of veterans continues to grow. In fact, the number of rides provided last month was the largest to date in the program. The month of May also looks like there will be a large number of rides. Please let me know of any groups that you think might want to know about our rides program, or if you know of a retiree who would like to help out. As volunteers for RSVP you are our best reference.

In other news we continue planning for the CY2016 Wayne D. Horner Stand Down. It will be held on Saturday, October 22nd. We will be hosting the event at a different facility this year. We are going to use the Salvation Army administration building at 3030 Darbo Drive. Updates will be provided as we get closer to the date.

Thank you to all of the volunteers who help out. Your dedication is deeply appreciated. To volunteer, please contact me at tpoppe@rsvpdane.org or 608.238.7901.

New Grants and Additional Funding

This spring, we were awarded three grants to help fund supplies for programs and for volunteer recognition for Group Projects/Homeworkers. We appreciate the $1,000 grant from the Endres Manufacturing Company Foundation, the $700 grant from the Madison South Rotary Foundation, and the $400 grant from Meriter Friends 4 Friends. We are grateful for all these grants that will help us purchase needed supplies, yarn, and batting to supplement donated materials.

RSVP was also awarded a $3,280 grant from the
SVP’s motto – “Where volunteers make a difference” – was well represented at this year’s United Way Volunteer Award ceremony. Three RSVP volunteers were selected to receive special honors from a field of 74 amazing nominees who provide service to Dane County!

RSVP was very proud to nominate Karl Stadler for recognition of his many years of exceptional volunteer service. In the 10 years he has volunteered through RSVP, Karl has worked with the Porchlight Maintenance Department, fixing and repairing housing for formerly homeless folks, repairing and maintaining our CSCI building, unloading trucks and stocking shelves at Habitat ReStore, and helping with disaster relief through the American Red Cross. He has accumulated 9,100 hours of volunteer service!

Karl, a humble and unassuming guy who does all this quietly and with an irresistible sense of humor, was chosen to receive the very special Mike McKinney Community Volunteer Award (named for a longtime Madison newscaster, volunteer, and mentor who passed away in 2006). The award was presented to him by Mike McKinney’s mother, Barbara McKinney. Congratulations, Karl, and thank you for all you do for this community!

RSVP volunteer driver, Larry Schaefer, was also nominated for an award by SAIL (Supporting Active Independent Lives) and received the Community Volunteer Award for Lifetime Achievement. Larry has been volunteering with SAIL for 10 years! He provides rides as a volunteer driver for RSVP and the Middleton Senior Center. Combining all of his volunteer work, Larry has spent 7,500 hours driving people to appointments since 1997.

RSVP volunteer Bob Gwynne was nominated and received the Distinguished Service Award for his work with Triangle Community Ministry and Second Harvest. Bob is a board member at Triangle Community Ministry and single-handedly started the Second Harvest Mobile Food Pantry in 2009. He recruited 20 volunteers, and this mobile pantry is available to 500 residents of the Triangle in downtown Madison. Every month, around 130 families get fresh produce, meat and other food thanks to Bob’s dedication.

We are so happy to honor the work of these and all volunteers in our community who truly do make a difference.

New Grants from page 6

Madison Rotary Foundation to help our Foster Grandparent Program. We appreciate this funding to help in our recruitment, training, and recognition efforts as well as to purchase books for the children our Foster Grandparents serve. In addition, we received a $2,000 grant from the Stoughton Area Community Foundation to help with recruitment and volunteer driver reimbursement for RSVP Vets Helping Vets-Stoughton. Each of these grants plays an important role in our ability to provide these essential services. Thank you!
Welcome New Volunteers

We enrolled 66 new volunteers from February 1 through April 30, 2016, 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!

Sandra Abplanalp
Brandon P. Adams
Brenda Anderson
Elaine Arakaki
Mary Alice Battista
Becky Bengsch
Marlene Buechel
Martin W. Binning
Oliver B. Binning
Dolores Branson
Sharon Brickl
Marguerite (Mara) Cardinal-Rohde
Rick Chenoweth
Susan Christensen
Marliess Christopherson
Allan Collins
Jim A. Coon

Eldonna Crary
Rene Cromer
Lynn “Ruben” Daniel
Maria Donohue
Deborah A. Durcan
Susan Eisele
Neal G. Fargo
Lucy Flesch
Judy Forbes
Mary Frickenstein
Renee Funseth
Robert Garvoille
Gary L. Goudreau
Janet Grender
Hitesh Gupta
Marion Halberg

Ann C. Hesse
Barbara J. Hopkins
Barbara Hopping
Timothy Hopping
Marilyn Dianne Horstman
Joanne Landry
Elaine Meier
Gordon L. Miller
Linda Odden
Ann B. Olewnik
Anthony Olivas
Sue Pulvermacher-Alt
Bill Relyea
Dick L. Rewey
Sandra Rost
Donnette L. Rynes

Willy Salewski
Jonathan P. Schwartz
Dennis L. Steinhorst
Melba Stockhausen
Elliott Thomas-Smith
Judy A. Thorpe
Beverly I. Trafficante
Jean Vergeront
Bruce Verhelst
Debbie Vogt
Terry C. Walker
Lynn Watson
Gary Watts
Kathleen Wessels
Pat Wilker
John Wisniewski
Maureen Wisniewski
2016 Bus Buddies Tours

Bus Buddies Tours kicked off its third year with a trip to the Madison Memorial High School Planetarium. About 20 people from the Madison area worked with their Bus Buddy coordinator and met at the high school on April 7th. All enjoyed a wonderful show – “Skywatching” – where participants could explore the night sky and locate visible planets and constellations. The second trip on May 11th was to the Madison Senior Center. Participants first took a tour of the center followed by lunch. During lunch, the Bus Buddy Coordinators held a brief teaching session on navigating the Madison Metro Bus system. Participants then walked to the Overture Center for a fun and very informative guided tour.

Joining us on the Bus Buddy Trips this year have been several Bhutanese students from the Literacy Network. While the students are learning how to get around Madison on the bus, they are teaching us about their culture. Everyone who participated received an RSVP Bus Buddy bag with a Madison Metro Bus Ride guide, an RSVP water bottle, and a 10-ride bus pass. There are more trips planned this season. We hope you can join in the fun!

Bus Buddy Tour Volunteers

We are still looking for participants interested in becoming Bus Buddy Volunteers. Bus Buddies will be trained to help others learn to navigate the bus system and will assist on the group tours.

If you need more information, if you would like to sign up for one of the Bus Buddy Tours, or if you would like to volunteer as a Bus Buddy Coordinator, please contact Diana Jost at Djost@rsvpdane.org or Jan Karst at Jkarst@rsvpdane.org.

2016 Bus Buddy Tour Schedule

- Wednesday, July 13th – Take a trip to the Farmers Market off the square followed by a tour of Monona Terrace.
- Thursday, August 11th – Tour the UW Geology Museum followed by lunch at UW Union South.
- The September trip to the TRIAD conference has been changed to Friday, October 7th.

Staff Changes

In April, Paula Reif left our staff to become the new RSVP Director of the Durham, North Carolina, RSVP. During her time with us, first as the Intergenerational Program Coordinator and then as the Assistant Director, Paula re-instituted our Computer Buddies program, worked with RSVP’s Diversity Committee to plan diversity efforts including a new brochure in Spanish, developed and produced RSVP’s first electronic quarterly newsletter, not to mention many other projects with which she was involved. We thank Paula for all her work during the past four years, and we know that the Durham RSVP is lucky to have her leadership!

Diana Jost who was RSVP’s Intergenerational Program Coordinator for the past three years is now the Assistant Director. Andrea Beaster, who has been the Driver Services Coordinator/Administrative Assistant for the past year, is now in a combined Intergenerational/Foster Grandparent Coordinator position. We are grateful to have both Diana and Andrea in these new roles.
Kids need Foster Grandparents and School Tutors, Now More than Ever!

Join Foster Grandparents today and help children who need it most.

- Tutor and mentor in programs at local schools and Head Start sites.
- Prepare students to start school on the right foot.
- Improve behavioral & educational outcomes.
- Give 15 hours/week and receive $2.65/hr. tax exempt stipend for work and travel time.

Join Other Volunteers in MMSD classrooms as a tutor or a general classroom volunteer.

Contact Diana Jost, 441-1393 or djost@rsvpdane.org for more information.

“I am usually the only black adult the children see in the classroom. Teachers tell me that they are so glad I am here, that I am needed in their classes.”
--- Foster Grandparent volunteer

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- Sunwood, Sun Prairie--- 825-1455
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- Now, in the future or gradually over time

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Care & Support Through the Stages of Serious Illness

Please call Diana Jost at 608.441.1393 to advertise in RSVP News Notes, distributed quarterly to 6,000 RSVP volunteers and Friends.
THE JOURNEY OF AGING
A RESOURCE GUIDE FOR DANE COUNTY CAREGIVERS & AGING ADULTS
Located at RSVP or any Dane County Public Library
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Retirement is Panoramic
Amazing Views.
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Retirement.org/madison

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Friends Needed
Would you consider volunteering two hours a week with the young-at-heart whose health is frail? Please call to help make someone’s life happier and emotionally healthier.

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(608) 249-4450

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Recognition for National Service

On April 5, 45 National Service volunteers and members (RSVP, Foster Grandparents, AmeriCorps, and VISTA) participated in the fourth annual Mayor and County Recognition Day for National Service at an event held at Second Harvest Foodbank of Southern Wisconsin in Madison. In addition to being recognized for their dedication to community service by Dane County Executive Joe Parisi and other local leaders, volunteers worked in two shifts on a service project.

Second Harvest organized a special service project for this day, labeling applesauce destined for the tables of those facing hunger in southwestern Wisconsin. The applesauce came to Second Harvest as a result of a collaborative effort of a local apple grower, the Wisconsin Innovation Kitchen (a state-inspected commercial kitchen that is run by and benefits people with disabilities), and Feeding Wisconsin thanks to a grant by the Walmart Foundation. The purpose of the project was to leverage light value-added processing on fresh, donated products near the end of its usability to extend the life of donations and increase the supply of fresh, shelf/freezer-stable products for food pantry, meal site, and shelter clients to eat. Thanks to the efforts of all our volunteer participants, 80,000 four-ounce containers of healthy, nutritious, and shelf-stable applesauce were able to take the next step in making it to the tables of those facing hunger in our community!

Currently, 19 RSVP of Dane County volunteers help at the Second Harvest Foodbank of Southern Wisconsin. They faithfully serve in various capacities in an effort to end hunger in southwestern Wisconsin. Since partnering with Second Harvest Food Bank, RSVP volunteers have contributed 90,219 hours that have an equivalent value of over six million meals!
Intergenerational Help Wanted

Volunteers for Summer Programs needed

The Madison Metropolitan School District is looking for volunteers to help with its six-week summer school and enrichment classes: June 20 – July 29 (no school on July 4th) 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon

Sauk Trail Elementary School needs volunteers to help with reading and writing in its summer sessions. Each session lasts one week, June into early August. Mondays and Thursdays, from 8:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. Tuesdays and Wednesdays, from 8:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Centro Hispano is looking for a part-time program volunteer to help facilitate the Escalera STEM Summer Club. ESSC focuses on incoming 9th – and 10th – grade Latino students who have a general interest in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM).

Volunteer for 2016-17 School Year

Summer is right around the corner, and we are already planning for the next school year. All schools in Dane County, in particular the Madison Metropolitan School District, need more volunteers who are interested in tutoring students in grades K-12. Volunteer tutors will be matched one-on-one or with small groups. Volunteers are also needed to help with art, music, and science classes as well as with general classroom help and assisting teachers. 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.

Foster Grandparents needed!

RSVP is looking for income eligible volunteers to help children in Madison elementary schools and Head Start programs become successful learners. No previous experience is needed — just a lot of love and the desire to see all children do well!

- Requires the ability to work 15 hours per week
- Pays travel costs
- Provides tax-free hourly stipend if you meet income guidelines

There are many other exciting new volunteer opportunities available this summer and next fall:

- Madison Children’s Museum
- Henry Vilas Zoo
- Middleton Pheasant Branch Conservancy
- YWCA of Dane County
- Commonwealth Development-Mock Interview Program

If you would like to volunteer for any of these opportunities or need more information, please contact Diana Jost at 608.441.1393 or djost@rsvpdane.org.
Hoarding: What It Is and How We Can Help

by Diane Wiedenbeck, Chair, Cottage Grove Triad

On Wednesday, May 18, at New Life Church, a group of Cottage Grove Triad Committee members and some of our Dementia Friendly Community partners hosted a Triad program on “Hoarding: What It Is and How We Can Help.” We had approximately 110 people who attended from many agencies who work with older adults, the homeless population, senior housing managers, people from the county focal points, as well as mental health professionals, which comprised about 85% of the attendees. Another 15% were community people who know, live or work with someone who hoards. Most attendees were from Dane County, though five other counties were also represented: Jefferson, Adams, Grant, Richland, and Washington.

Panelists were Deputy Leslie Fox, Dane County Sheriff’s Office; Brandon Macomber, R.S., Public Health Sanitarian, Public Health Madison & Dane County; Dr. Nathan Miller, Clinical Psychologist, Dean Clinic Fish Hatchery; Gail Brooks, Case Manager, Colonial Club Senior Activity Center of Sun Prairie; Chief Dan Layber, Village of Cottage Grove Police Department; Chief Duane Erschen, DeerGrove Emergency Services (DGEMS); Erik Severson, 20-year volunteer with Cottage Grove Fire Department; and Allie Lindsay, former employee of Paul Davis Restoration Company.

Participants were provided several handouts including copies of presenters’ power-point information. Also available for attendees were materials from a few companies who specialize in helping people move and/or downsize, many of which deal with hoarders.

Mr. Macomber was interviewed on WISC-TV during the morning news on May 18. A camera person came to the program at Cottage Grove, interviewed Ms. Brooks, and the interview was on the evening news broadcasts.

Help Bring Handmade Items to Dane County People in Need!

Group liaison volunteers are needed to meet with RSVP Groups:

1) To visit a sewing/knitting group(s) once monthly;
2) To deliver fabric/yarn; pick-up finished handmade items;
3) To enjoy a few hours a month volunteering.

For more information please contact Mary Schmelzer, Group Projects/Homeworkers Coordinator at 608.310.7280 or mschmelzer@rsvpdane.org.
CALL FOR ACTION works with WISC Channel 3 TV. Consumers can call in for help with mediation and intervention that involves consumer and small business fraud, identity theft, internet and online scams, telephone and marketing schemes. Volunteers are needed to answer calls from consumers and to investigate cases. They will provide complete training and preparation to serve as mediators. A one-year commitment is required and one day a week for a few hours. You can help people fight back against those frauds, scams, and deceptive business practices!

From October – December this fall, AREA AGENCY ON AGING will be helping seniors evaluate Medicare Part D drug plans based on their current prescriptions and cost. Volunteers are needed to meet with seniors to help them understand the options. Training will be in September. Work will be done at various sites around Madison. Volunteers must have the ability to open a webpage and enter information in response to questions and be comfortable meeting with individuals for one hour at a time.

ST. MARY’S HOSPITAL needs volunteers who would enjoy delivering mail and flowers as well as taking 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 are 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!

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 those monthly bills get paid. No money and no experience are necessary, just compassion, understanding, and a desire to help. Training and support are provided and only two-four hours a month as your schedule permits.

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

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.
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.

CONTRIBUTION WAS MADE TO RSVP IN MEMORY OF

* Shirley Eckstein * by Thomas Eckstein

“I enjoy my volunteer activities at RSVP because they offer a person a variety of opportunities based on the volunteer’s interests. I like to make monetary donations to RSVP to allow such programs as this to continue, as they provide important resources to Dane County residents.” …RSVP volunteer

“It is heartwarming to witness the impact of our volunteers over more than four decades. I give to RSVP in tribute to our amazing team of dedicated volunteers, board and committee members, and staff.” …RSVP staff member

PSA Campaign 2016

E veryone has heard this saying: *When one door closes, another opens.* Well, RSVP has been looking at a closed door for a number of years, namely, lack of name recognition. As volunteers you’ve heard it, we’ll bet — “Wait, you volunteer where? RSVP? What do they do?” RSVP needed help to shine new light on who we are and what we do!

That second door opened — in the form of the American Advertising Federation (AAF) local chapter and Sandy Weisberger, chair of their Community Outreach Committee. RSVP approached AAF to see if they could offer help in spreading the word about RSVP. We received an immediate response, and soon after, staff and Marketing Committee members met with Weisberger to talk through our current publicity and recruitment efforts and how AAF/Sandy could strengthen them.

What sprang from our meeting were the seeds of a public service announcement (PSA) campaign aimed at boosting recognition for the Driver Services Program and its need for drivers, which RSVP identified as one of its most pressing demands.

Weisberger quickly reached out to his network of media colleagues at local radio and television stations with amazing results: WISC-TV/Channel 3000, Clear Channel/iHeart Media, Entercom Madison, and Mid-West Family Broadcasting all generously responded, using on-air talent to produce spots about RSVP Driver Services and donating air time that featured the spots.

Many of you have already told us that you heard or saw them. We are looking forward to that exposure throughout 2016, and are deeply grateful for the added recognition these spots give to who and what RSVP is and the important work it does in the community.

In addition to helping us with our marketing efforts, Sandy Weisberger, who is also a member of SCORE which helps nonprofits and small businesses, worked with RSVP staff on our sponsorship and advertising appeal. RSVP appreciates all his suggestions and advice! Thank you, Sandy.
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.

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
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Driver Services Program
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Robin Heilprin, Madison/Monona Ride Coordinator 441-7898, rheiilprin@rsvpdane.org
Tom Poppe, Vets Helping Vets Coordinator 238-7901, tpoppe@rsvpdane.org
Driver Escorts Needed
Volunteer Driver Escorts are needed to provide senior transportation throughout Dane County, including Madison and Monona. Reimbursement of 51 cents per mile and excess insurance coverage is provided. We offer flexibility on days and times you can drive.

Home Delivered Meal Drivers Needed
RSVP also has a need for Home Delivered Meal Drivers for the following communities: Belleville, DeForest, Fitchburg, Mt Horeb, Oregon, Stoughton, Sun Prairie, Verona and Waunakee. Volunteers work through their local Senior Center. They pick up and deliver meals to designated recipients. Reimbursement of 51 cents per mile and excess insurance coverage is also provided, and we offer the same flexibility as Driver Escorts with days and times you can drive. Both driving assignments are very rewarding and make a difference in older adults' transportation and nutrition needs. For more information on both of these assignments, call Gene at 608.441.7896 or e-mail him at gkundert@rsvpdane.org.