Vets Helping Vets Experience at Operation Badger Base

by Tom Poppe

Operation Badger Base was held on August 11th-14th on the grounds of Harley-Davidson of Madison and Ho-Chunk Gaming in Madison. It was held to honor and recognize Wisconsin’s veterans from all eras of military service — and their families. RSVP’s Vets Helping Vets program was at the event for all four days. Each day offered a different experience.

The first day, the opening ceremony was attended by numerous dignitaries including Dane County Executive Joe Parisi and Madison Mayor Paul Soglin. The stories told by the veteran dignitaries were especially touching. One of the stories given by a Vietnam veteran was about how his hero, a young man a few years older than he in his small community, had been killed in Vietnam. He was chosen to play taps at his hero’s funeral.

Also, on day one, I had the experience of viewing the traveling wall. I had never seen the wall in person. As I was looking for names of veterans I knew had not returned from Vietnam, I realized that I did not know how to find the names on the wall. I stopped to ask a veteran who seemed to know what he was doing as he was finding several names. We began talking about the wall and I realized that I had interrupted his healing moment. I welcomed him home and moved on my way. His emotions were very raw and his personal moment was more important than my question. The first day was cut short due to weather but was powerful in its emotions.

On the second day the Ho-Chunk nation had a two-hour presentation. It was truly amazing. During their initial dance they asked any veteran in the audience to join them. It was a humbling experience for yours truly to be involved with this dance. Their presenters talked about the honor given to all returning veterans. They pointed out that Vietnam veterans were not ignored but were welcomed home with high honors. They also had a group of young dancers and drummers who wore beautiful outfits. The narrator explained the outfits, and the dancers showed us many of their traditional dances. This also was a very moving event.

On day three, Quilts of Valor made presentations to 30-40 veterans. One of them was one of our Vets Helping Vets Drivers, Jim Ballweg. The quilts were beautiful and

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Looking for volunteer opportunities?
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Dear RSVP Members and Friends,

We’ve had a warmer than usual summer, so many people are looking forward to crisp fall days, those days of deep blue skies, vibrant foliage, pumpkins, bonfires, and sweaters!

I’m looking forward to October for a different reason. October is the month of the RSVP Recognition — a special time to honor and recognize all volunteers and everything that they’ve done to help others over the course of the past year. A very important piece of information that the RSVP staff members need in order to recognize the volunteers is “hours.” Hours need to be submitted, either by the individual or the volunteer station, and they need to be submitted as soon as possible in order to confirm correct compilation and also to ensure an invitation to the October event. All volunteers reporting hours between October 2015 and October 2016 can expect to be invited to the RSVP Recognition.

Two years ago the RSVP Recognition had a “40’s” theme and last year volunteers dug out their poodle skirts and saddle shoes to celebrate in the “50’s.” This year — you guessed it! — is a “Salute to the Sixties.” I’ll be very surprised if anyone has, held on to their bell-bottom pants, Nehru jackets, or love beads, but if you did, bring them out, put them on!

I’m looking forward to seeing all the “love children” on Thursday, October 20th, from 11:00 to 1:00 PM. The new location this year is Doubleday’s, located at 4586 Baxter Road in Cottage Grove.

Alison Koelsch
President, Board of Directors
Please visit RSVP’s website www.rsvpdane.org and look at our 2015 Annual Report. In this report you will learn about our programs and services — “what” we do. But “why” do we do it? Why is RSVP so important? For seniors, RSVP provides services such as transportation/escort to medical appointments and meal delivery, helping older adults remain independent and in their homes as long as possible. We help seniors stretch their resources by enabling them to age in place. In 2015, 599 RSVP volunteer drivers gave 8,898 rides to 1,148 seniors and veterans, and in addition delivered 71,534 meals to the frail elderly.

RSVP also benefits seniors by reducing isolation. Many of our volunteers are at risk of isolation as their social networks shrink because they are no longer employed, they have moved or their family has moved away, or because they have experienced the loss of loved ones and friends. Our volunteer services offer older adults an opportunity to stay connected with a larger community and to make new friends. In 2015, 1,615 RSVP volunteers contributed 178,241 hours of service working with other volunteers to help their Dane County neighbors. The services our volunteers provide also reduce isolation experienced by our passengers and home-delivered meal recipients. RSVP is where volunteers make a difference. RSVP also makes a difference to our volunteers!
The 2016 RSVP Sweepstakes a Big Success!

Thank you to our prize donors and community supporters. Congratulations to all prize winners!

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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Prize Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>Justine Wendland</td>
<td>Quilt by Shirley Coulter</td>
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<td>Sally C. Ross</td>
<td>Two tickets to the Dane County Fair</td>
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<td>Dorothy Loehrer</td>
<td>Badger Red Picnic Basket</td>
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<td>Betty Pierick</td>
<td>$100.00 gift card to Food Fight Restaurants</td>
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<td>Sonia Ramirez</td>
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<td>Jackie Burger</td>
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<td>Pam Acker</td>
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<td>Kathy Saunders</td>
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<td>Paulette Glunn</td>
<td>The Book of Lore from American Players Theater</td>
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<td>Ron Mesman</td>
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<td>Dennis Wood</td>
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<td>Shirley Schmitz</td>
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<td>Akeem Torres</td>
<td>$25.00 gift certificate from Bare Knuckle Arts</td>
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<td>Merrill Woolnough</td>
<td>Four tickets to Milwaukee Summerfest</td>
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<td>Ingrid Kundinger</td>
<td>$50.00 Family Membership to the Henry Vilas Zoo</td>
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<td>Carol Uglow</td>
<td>Four game tickets to the Madison Radicals / four T-shirts</td>
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<td>Theresa I. Roberts</td>
<td>Four Terrace Seat tickets to the Madison Mallards</td>
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<td>Diane Wiedenbeck</td>
<td>Overnight Getaway at Heidel House</td>
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Report of the 2016 Triad Surveys of Older Adults Regarding Their Crime Prevention and Safety Concerns

Triad is a program that works to reduce criminal victimization of older people, to improve the quality of life for older residents as well as the whole community. It enhances the delivery of law enforcement services to the elderly and teaches our older citizens how to feel – and be – safe.

There are several local Triads in Dane County that meet on a regular basis to plan educational programs and projects. They are made up of seniors, police departments, sheriff’s deputies, senior agencies, banks, emergency medical services, and fire department personnel. They are always looking for new members, so please see the RSVP web-site for information, including contact information.

In the winter of 2016, the Verona Triad and the West Madison Triad Committees decided to resurvey people’s interests and issues in crime prevention and safety, since this had not been done since 2009. The purpose was to assist in planning monthly presentations that would attract more people. The survey was edited and revised, and then sent to various senior housing facilities, senior centers, churches, and a variety of places where seniors gather. There were 112 responses.

The concerns that were rated most important:
1) Fraud, cons, identity theft, con artists taking advantage of me
2) Going out after dark, walking or driving
3) Theft or assault in a public place
4) Theft or assault in my home
5) Vandalism, drug or gang activity in my neighborhood

Respondents indicated they would attend a presentation on the following:
1) Scams and frauds
2) Home safety / personal safety
3) Safe driving tips / training
4) Preventing burglaries
5) Home security
6) Gangs
7) Hoarding / decluttering
8) Bullying in senior settings
9) Active shooter

39% of the respondents lived in single-family homes or condos, 29% in apartments and 18% in senior housing.

Approximately 35% were between the ages of 65 and 74, 25% were between the ages 75 and 84, 19% were 85 and over, and 21% were under 64.

With the information from these surveys we will be in a better position to plan programs that appeal to more people. Anyone wishing to have further information from the surveys can contact Mary Stamstad at mstamstad@rsvpdane.org, or go to the RSVP website www.rsvpdane.org.
Meet Debbie Bormann

Debbie Bormann joined the RSVP team in June as the new Driver Services Coordinator/Administrative Assistant. She works with Gene Kundert, Driver Services Manager in maintenance, development, recruitment, and coordination of the RSVP Driver Escort and Home Delivered Meals Programs.

Debbie comes to RSVP from the American Red Cross, where she worked as a Volunteer Coordinator and Blood Donor Recruitment Account Specialist. In these positions, she recruited and scheduled blood drive and Donor Center volunteers and volunteer drivers. The drivers provided shuttles to blood drives, transportation of blood products from blood drives to the Red Cross, and blood product deliveries to Wisconsin and Iowa hospitals, often on an urgent basis for a patient in need of a blood transfusion.

Debbie developed and managed 200 One-A-Week Blood Donor Clubs in Dane County and trained the club coordinators to recruit blood donors. She secured food and raffle donations from area sponsors for the Holiday Blood Drive and arranged logistics for the annual Volunteer Recognition event.

Debbie is excited to be a part of another organization that provides an important community service and enhances independence for seniors in Dane County. She enjoys working with volunteers and understands the sense of purpose and fulfillment they receive from helping others.

When Debbie isn’t working, she enjoys spending time with her husband, son and daughter, and large extended family. Her hobbies include gardening, bike riding, hiking and reading.

New Grants and Additional Funding

This summer RSVP received $5,000 from the Evjue Foundation for Driver Services/Vets Helping Vets. We are grateful for this 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.

RSVP has recently received $750 from the Ho-Chunk Nation, $750 from the Wisconsin Police Leadership Foundation, $250 from the Dane County Deputy Sheriff’s Association, and $250 from AAA Wisconsin to help support the Triad Conference in October.

RSVP also received $1,000 from United Way as a result of RSVP volunteer Karl Stadler winning the Mike McKinney Community Volunteer Award for 2016.

RSVP appreciates all this support!
Congratulations, Jack!

by Mary Odell, RSVP Volunteer

Jack Guzman has closed in on 25 years at RSVP. The magic starting date in history was September 4, 1991. So, I trotted out my questions and trusty pen for an interview with Jack.

My first question took us back 25 years — and before. Jack had worked with Kanopy Dance and other arts companies after earning his BA degree from UW-Stevens Point and his MFA at the University of Minnesota. But he was getting burned out at these jobs. So, without having another job lined up, he decided to quit Kanopy Dance and, after nine months of being unemployed, his spirits were sinking. His food budget suffered mightily as well: he lived on 29-cent-per-pound chicken-legs to stretch his dollars. To quote him, “I ate them until I almost grew feathers.”

Jack answered an ad from RSVP of Dane County for a general administrative job. Mary Stamstad and Margie Zutter interviewed Jack, and he got the job. He says he will be forever grateful to them for hiring him. It was a lifesaver and the opportunity turned his life in a different direction.

There was a little anxiety for Jack when part of the interview process included a test of his computer skills. He had worked on Mac's, not PC's so the test did not go well and he figured it was a bust — but he got the job! And the rest of the story has a happy ending, both for Jack and for RSVP. And now, as we all can appreciate, Jack is a savvy computer nerd!

Jack has been the "driver" during the RSVP ride into the techie world. Twenty-five years ago, the office had one small PC and one PC for volunteer data. Jack credits Rita Meilhser for moving RSVP into the Computer Age when she bought computers for each staff member. Records and reports are easier to generate and keep because of computers. And yes, they can cause great angst when they malfunction, but RSVP without computers would be impossible.

Jack “Radar O’Reilly” Guzman is pretty long nameplate to put on Jack's desk in the corner office, but it is a good analogy. Jack is the “go-to” person for many reasons. Volunteers and staff count on him for answers to their many questions and, if need be, he will search for the answers. Maybe we can make another analogy: he is a lot like Elmer’s Glue, holding the office together, allowing the staff to focus on their individual programs. After 25 years at RSVP, Jack knows the history of things and their present workings — as if they were the flowers in his lovely garden. As he puts it, "I have always felt I owed RSVP for giving me a chance, for pulling me out of that scary time in my life and giving me my 'second' chance, so to speak." I have the utmost respect and gratitude for Margie and Mary Stamstad for their belief in me.

“I enjoy the interaction I have with volunteers. I’m like the ‘face of the franchise’ when people come in to the RSVP Office — by virtue of my location. I have gained

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We gratefully acknowledge donations received May 12 through August 16, 2016, 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

**Sponsor ($250-499)**
- John Betthauser

**Advocate ($100-249)**
- Thomas and Ann Duter
- Dolores Kahl
- Richard Phillips
- Patrick Reidy
- Myra Reilly

**Partner ($50-99)**
- Joyce Bendal
- Carol Damson
- Paul and Atsuko Kusuda
- Gerald Maly
- Gregory Patzer
- David Salaman
- James and Ruthie Sweet

**Donor ($1-49)**
- Margaret Bowitz
- Marlyce Culver
- Lila Gullixson
- Lauren Kelly
- Tim and Georgia Mellum
- Eunice Schmitz
- Diane and William Wiedenbeck
- Keith and Margie Zutter

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

- Barb Coyne
- Sharon Heiniger
- Dot Hoover
- Danielle Ledbetter
- Maija Maki-Laurila
- Mary Odell
- Jeanette Pochebut
- Nancy Ragland

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**Welcome New Volunteers**

We enrolled 54 new volunteers from May 1 through June 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!

- Velda Allen
- Allen F. Atwood
- Kathleen Atwood
- Joseph "Joe" Balles
- Robert Birrenkott
- Sue Blahnik
- Mike Brennecke
- Jeanne E. Bruns
- Janice Busse Borski
- Mikayla Cann
- Gayle Coleman
- Jane Dale
- Ruth Dreher
- Arlene D. Duhr
- Ruby M. Fillian
- Alfred A. Frank
- Bryce Enloe
- Robert J. Firkus
- Patrick Glynn
- Steven R. Grahn
- Jade Halverson
- Taylor Halverson
- Louisa M. Havlik
- Jan Hoesly
- Veronica Hoppe
- Carol Hustad
- Michael (Mick) Kalsheur
- Joyce Kaping
- Russell Kaping
- Brittany S. Kiefer
- Susan K. Kittleston
- Cheyenne Koeppel
- Ann Landry
- Marlene Lasure
- Dolores (Lori) MacLeish
- Donald E. MacLeish
- Mary Malischke
- Britney E. Markhardt
- Julia McNamar
- Margaret J. Merdler
- Eileen Mislove
- Noah C. Morrick
- Cole D. Myers
- Laurie Neuendorf
- Shea R. O’Malley
- Susan L. Schmitz
- Grace A. Schulting
- Rhea A. Schultz
- Maya Severson
- Nancy Statz
- Minhduc Tieu
- Joanna Watson
- Jerelyn Wendler
- Rose Zeisler
Help Wanted in Our Schools!

Volunteer tutors needed: Summer is quickly coming to a close, which means it is time to think “back to school.” 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. 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.

Volunteers tutoring in the Madison 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 such as the elementary, middle, or high school Achievement Connections Program. Qualifying volunteers will receive a credit to be used to help reduce their property tax bill.

Volunteers needed for the Computer Buddies Program: Would you enjoy e-mailing an elementary-school student throughout the school year? The Computer Buddies Program is offered in Dane County area elementary schools. An RSVP volunteer is matched with a student, and they correspond in a pen-pal fashion weekly or bi-weekly via electronic transmission (blog or email). 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 – it’s usually about 30 minutes a week. For the 2016-17 school year, the Computer Buddies Program will be in Madison, DeForest, Oregon, and Marshall Elementary Schools.

New this October — RSVP is excited to introduce the Computer Buddies Program to the students of the Madison Neighborhood House, the oldest community center in Madison. This is a non-profit organization with the vision of creating opportunities for area residents to strengthen the quality of their community by making connections, building relationships, and embracing diversity through social, educational, and recreational activities. RSVP is delighted to have the Neighborhood House take part in our Computer Buddies Program this year!

Special Projects, Guest Speakers in Area Schools: Volunteers will share with students their personal stories related to events in history or share their expertise on a particular topic. There are two annual Special Projects:

The DeForest Bio-Link Project: This 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 when they had to overcome difficult obstacles. The focus of this project is to teach students about resilience, facing challenges in life, and perseverance. Students interview the volunteers and then complete a project on what they have learned. The volunteers return to the school for a lunch and to view all of the students’ class presentations.

Madison Memorial High School History Project: Volunteers are invited each year to participate in the Oral History Project with students at Memorial High School. Volunteers participate in small group interviews on what their lives were like during the Great Depression and WWII. The students then compile a written documentation of the oral history.

Inspire a Student to Think Like a Scientist: ARMS (Adult Role Models in Science) empowers adults with the skills and tools to mentor young people in science. You can share your expertise and interests once or twice a year at a family event or you can volunteer on a more regular basis to mentor students. As part of the Madison Middle School Science Symposium, you can mentor a middle-school student, or a small group, with an independent project – one hour, after school, weekly, from late October – April. ARMS provides training as well as resources to help volunteer-mentors in their role.

Common Wealth Development, Mock Interview Opportunities: Common Wealth Development conducts several sessions of a Youth-Business Mentoring Program

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the ceremony was also very inspiring. As the quilts were presented, a narrator spoke about the veterans' backgrounds, which helped the audience to know a little bit about each one. Also, on day three, The Rolling Thunder motorcycle group had a chapter meeting. There were a lot of leather-clad bikers viewing the monuments and walking the grounds. This was the day that had the most visitors, with many people arriving to view the memorials.

The final day, there was another Quilts of Valor presentation, this one being smaller, with perhaps 15-20 quilts handed out. In this presentation there were two families with three generations of veterans. It was very cool to see a father, his son, and his grandson all standing together to receive their quilts. This was the day that I went to see the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier and watched the ceremony of the sentinels marching back and forth. I talked with one of them who explained to me the significance of the 21 steps that they take. Twenty-one was chosen because it symbolizes the highest military honor that can be bestowed — the 21-gun salute. I had thought that all veterans received this salute, but the sentinel explained that the 21-gun salute is for those receiving the highest honors. All veterans are given three volleys at their funerals. If there are seven riflemen, they would receive a 21-gun salute but usually there are fewer than seven riflemen.

It was a very memorable four days. The last thing I would like to note is that there were some panels for Vietnam veterans to sign. They were organized by the dates of the years that a veteran had spent in Vietnam. Each of these panels was around four-by-six feet in size. On the first day there were maybe four-to-five signatures per panel. On the last day, all of the panels were full. Obviously, quite a few Vietnam veterans came by to see the “Wall That Heals”.

Tom Poppe and Margie Zutter at Operation Badger Base
School Help Wanted from page 9

and Employment Workshops during the year, in which they teach students 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 in and interview the students. Mock interviewers, acting as managers, supervisors, or owners of businesses, interview students one at a time, as if the student was actually interviewing for a job. They then get a chance to provide feedback on how the student did. 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.

(rest of the text follows...)

Kajsiab House from page 12

Until early 2015, Sumi has taught the classes primarily on her own, but when the Sewing Machine Project began teaching classes at Kajsiab House last year, their volunteers began visiting her class to say hello and check out what was going on. Those visits morphed into weekly help for Sumi and her students. On Thursdays, the group now looks forward to extra help from Trudy Brule and Annette Bollig, who make an extra trip to Kajsiab House to share their combined sewing experience.

These visits expand the variety of sewing projects that members can bring to the group for help. “I don’t have many skills with sewing clothing, but Trudy and Annette do,” Sumi said. Ironically, sharing their love for sewing isn’t the only thing these three teachers have in common, they also all share a common work history, having all retired from nursing.

This is a great example of perseverance, not only for the Hmong women who immigrated to a strange new land, but for volunteers like RSVP’s Martha, and Sewing Machine Project’s Trudy and Annette who see their common love of sewing as a bridge that spans two languages and cultures.
Happenings at Kajsiab House

by Mary Schmelzer

In 2009, Martha Sumi thought she was just answering a call for fabric and supplies for a newly forming RSVP group at Kajsiab House, but when she went with an RSVP staff member to deliver her donation she met the Hmong women that made up the group and was hooked! Although most of the women spoke only Hmong, Sumi was inspired by their desire to further their sewing skills, remembering her own start in home-economics class in the 1970s and her own desire to “make something out of nothing.”

In Hmong, Kajsiab (ga SHEE ah) means the relief of stress from worrying about the safety of loved ones. Founded in 2000 as a Journey Mental Health Center program, Kajsiab House provides a place in which Hmong elders and their families can be safe, can express and experience their own culture, can increase their understanding and ability to live successfully in the American culture, and can receive help for mental health issues resulting from their involvement in the Vietnam War in Laos and life in the refugee camps in the years following.

Although she had never taught a class to adults, Sumi began what she said has been “a learning experience to teach people a skill with whom you do not share a common language.” “I met fabulous people, staff and clients, who just really welcomed me,” she added.

With the help of staff translators, Chao Vang and Yang Yang, Sumi began teaching the women, most of whom had learned traditional hand-stitch and cross-stitch skills from their mothers or other female relatives. The women were eager to learn machine sewing, which according to Sumi is a “brand new skill that gives them the ability to make a whole new product and sense of pride and recognition within their extended families to make something that is not (culturally) traditional.”

“Most of these women are making things for their grandchildren, who might want things made out of special fabrics like fairy fabrics, for example, and now they can do that,” Sumi said. “Whatever they’re making is for future generations. When you ask them why they make items for their grandchildren, the response is often, ‘I want my grandchildren to remember me and the things I’ve made.’”

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RSVP VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES
... where volunteers make a difference

You cannot get through a single day without having an impact on the world around you. What you do makes a difference, and you have to decide what kind of difference you want to make.

Author: Jane Goodall

INDEPENDENT LIVING is looking for a volunteer receptionist at their senior living community, The Gardens, on N. Segoe Road. Greet residents and guests, answer phones, receive mail and deliveries, and do other office tasks like filing and photocopying. Shifts are afternoons between 2 – 5 p.m.

HABITAT RESTORE needs cashiers for Thursday morning and afternoon shifts. This is a fun and active place where folks come to buy used building materials and donated furniture to support the construction of more low-income housing.

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, while being comfortable meeting with individuals for one hour at a time.

SSM HEALTH ST. MARY’S HOSPITAL needs volunteers who would enjoy delivering mail, flowers, 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 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 longer in their own homes with just a little help from a friend!

Put a smile on a child’s face! MADISON CHILDREN’S MUSEUM has opportunities to assist its education programming staff in the museum. Volunteers may also act as community service ambassadors, working 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 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.

CONTRIBUTIONS WERE MADE TO RSVP IN MEMORY OF

✦ Sylvia Engel by Keith and Margie Zutter
✦ Jean Hanson by Diane and William Wiedenbeck
✦ Gert Wernecke by Keith and Margie Zutter

CONTRIBUTIONS WERE MADE TO RSVP IN HONOR OF

✦ Carol Padley’s 90th Birthday by Joyce Berdal
✦ Jan Reeson by Dolores Kahl

Dick Sweet — Legacy Gift

In 2011, shortly after retiring as an attorney for 36 years for the Wisconsin Legislative Council, Dick Sweet asked if RSVP needed his help. Of course! Since we always have a need for volunteer drivers, we asked him if he would sign up as an RSVP Driver Escort in Madison. Dick enrolled with RSVP in September of that year and volunteered each week to help an older adult get to a medical appointment. Robin Heilprin, RSVP’s Madison/Monona Ride Coordinator, enjoyed working with Dick. “He was always available, flexible, and his passengers loved him!”

It was a sad day when Dick told us he could no longer volunteer because he was too ill. He was diagnosed with melanoma and passed away in April of 2014. Although he was only able to serve as an RSVP volunteer for less than a year, Dick made a lasting impact on the passengers he served and on RSVP as well. Dick made contributions to RSVP when he was alive but also wanted to support RSVP’s mission into the future. “He liked to support local organizations that provide important services in their communities,” says his wife Judy Zvara. Dick designated RSVP as one of the charities for any memorials and also as a beneficiary in his will.

RSVP very much appreciates the gift from Dick’s family and his estate to help our program recruit more volunteers to help others in need. Would you too like to provide for RSVP of Dane County as part of your legacy? RSVP has a Legacy Fund to help continue its mission into the future.

You too might designate RSVP as a beneficiary in a will, trust, insurance policy, or investment. Please talk to your legal or financial advisor. For more information please contact Executive Director Margie Zutter at 608.663.7536.

Congratulations Jack from page 7

a lot of self-confidence in my life since that day back on September 4, 1991. This working life will be hard to give up, but someday I will take leave of RSVP as a job. My heart will always remain tied to the people and programs of RSVP — Where Volunteers Make a Difference.”

My last question was, “So now, what do you see happening in your years after RSVP?” Jack’s answer: “When my sister died unexpectedly a few months ago, I realized more than ever how quickly one’s perspective on life and living can change. Among the other changes that came recently, I am now qualified for Social Security and Medicare, so I have more options with the directions I want to take. I have always wanted the proverbial ‘cabin in the woods.’ I’ve been looking at cottages and cabins for sale lately. I can see myself tending my garden, writing my plays, walking in the woods, and watching golden sunsets. I plan on working until I am 70 and then moving on to the next chapter of my life: Relaxed in Retirement.”
Memorials and Tributes

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.

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
Margie Zutter, Executive Director
663-7536, mzutter@rsvpdane.org
Diana Jost, Assistant Director
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Jack Guzman, Office Support Administrator
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Krishna Sijapati, Accountant
441-7899, ksijapati@rsvpdane.org

Program Coordinators
Jan Karst, Community Connections Coordinator
441-7891, jkarst@rsvpdane.org
Andrea Beaster, Intergerational/Foster Grandparent Program Coordinator
441-7894, abeaster@rsvpdane.org

Mary Schmelzer, Group Projects/Homeworkers Program Coordinator and Driver Services Volunteer Recruiter
310-7280, mschmelzer@rsvpdane.org
Mary Stamstad, Triad Coordinator
441-7897, mstamstad@rsvpdane.org

Driver Services Program
Gene Kundert, Driver Services Manager
441-7896, gkundert@rsvpdane.org
Debbie Bormann, Driver Services Coordinator/Administrative Assistant
441-7892, dbormann@rsvpdane.org
Robin Heilprin, Madison/Monona Ride Coordinator
441-7898, rheilprin@rsvpdane.org
Tom Poppe, Vets Helping Vets Coordinator
238-7901, tpoppe@rsvpdane.org
RSVP OF DANE COUNTY
517 N. Segoe Road, Suite 300
Madison, WI 53705-3100
EEO/AA Employer

Address Service Requested

Peace, Love, and Volunteering
RSVP Volunteer Appreciation Event
Salute to the Sixties!

Please join us on Thursday, October 20th, from 11:00 AM-1:00 PM
at Doubleday’s located at 4586 Baxter Road, Cottage Grove WI

All RSVP volunteers reporting hours between October 1, 2015 and
October 6, 2016 will be sent an invitation in September.

You don’t want to miss this fun event!
If you have not submitted your hours, please do so ASAP to ensure your invite.

OUR MISSION
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.

OUR VISION
RSVP of Dane County aspires to build and expand a community-wide network of volunteers and organizations that unites compassionate, experienced adults with meaningful and fulfilling service opportunities, which enrich the lives of the volunteers while enhancing support for people in need.