



E-Xtra

What's New & Noteworthy from RSVP

August 2015

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

[Drivers Services Celebrates 40 Years!](#)

[Don't Miss the Triad Conference!](#)

[Fidget Blankets Bring Joy](#)

Driver Services 40th Anniversary



For 40 years RSVP volunteers have been providing necessary transportation for Dane County residents who have limited options. In celebration, RSVP is hosting community events for drivers who have been providing rides and delivering meals to Dane County residents. To celebrate this milestone, RSVP Driver Services and Vets Helping Vets staff, in collaboration with Dane County Senior Centers, are hosting community focused socials. If you have been a RSVP volunteer driver or are interested in finding out more about the program, please attend the event in your community.

Here's a list of community events that are scheduled to date:

- August 20 - Monona Senior Center
- September 9 - Stoughton Senior Center
- September 16 - DeForest Senior Center
- September 30 - Waunakee Senior Center
- October 6 - Middleton Senior Center
- October 30 - Oregon Senior Center

Updates will be provided as more events are scheduled. We look forward to seeing you there!

Triad Conference September 18!

The 2015 Wisconsin/Dane County Triad Crime Prevention and Safety Conference & Expo will be

Trivia

The Hamburger hall of fame is located in Seymour, Wisconsin. The biggest hamburger ever served weighed 8,266 lbs. and was cooked in 2001 at the Burger Fest in Seymour.



Things To Know

The RSVP office will be closed the following:
-Monday, September 7, in observance of Labor Day.
-Friday, September 18 for the Triad Conference.

Bus Buddy Tours 2015:
The final Bus Buddy Tour for 2015 will be Wednesday, October 14. If you are interested in learning how to use the Madison Metro Bus, you can join us for a movie at Market Square (movie/ lunch).
Contact Diana Jost, (608)441-1393, for more information.

Stand down for Homeless Veterans

There is going to be a special event for veterans who have served in the military and their dependents currently experiencing homelessness, at risk of losing housing, and from one of the



held Friday, September 18, from 7:45 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at American Family Insurance, 6000 American Pkwy, Madison, WI, 53704.

The conference will contain speakers and workshops on subjects of importance to

older adults, human services, public safety, law enforcement personnel and the general public.

Examples of workshops include: 2015 Drug Threats, Hoarding, Guarding Financial Health, Domestic Violence in Later Life, Safe Driving "Keeping the Keys", Bus Buddys, Parent Addiction Network, After the Arrest-A Layman's Walk through the System, Older Adult Bullying, Identity Theft, Firearms, Concealment and Current Laws, Brain Health and Dementia Education for Law Enforcement. Register in advance. \$20 fee includes continental breakfast, lunch and materials. (\$25 after August 15th)

By 2030, people over 65 will make up 20% of the population. It is important that professionals are ready for this amazing increase. There will be more older people than children. We feel that law enforcement, especially, will benefit from the kinds of workshops and information that are being offered at the conference.

Scholarships available for older adults and continuing education hours are available for professionals.

For more information: www.rsvpdane.org or www.triadofwisconsin.org
mstamstad@rsvpdane.org 608-441-7897

Fidget Blankets Help Bring Joy

People with dementia and Alzheimer's disease sometimes need an 'anchor' to help them feel comfortable in their surroundings, something that is near at hand and will help them find some peace of mind when everything around them is unfamiliar. So the Retired



and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) and Alzheimer's and Dementia Alliance of WI (ADAW) teamed up to develop the idea.

RSVP Group Projects volunteers were given the task to create a lap-size blanket that would offer patients with dementia or Alzheimer's disease many

different textures to feel and objects to "fidget" with - and the 'Fidget' Blanket was born to much acclaim from the people working with this population.

Joy Schmidt, Community Education Specialist with ADAW, shares this story: "I had been working with a person who has dementia. I took four of the busy quilts to her, and she loved them and responded very well to the different fabrics and the variety of textures. It was truly a beautiful thing." Schmidt states, "I had taken the quilts thinking that others in the facility might enjoy them. This one client picked each one up and spread them out neatly over four separate tables. The activity of doing this brought

following counties: Columbia, Dane, Dodge, Green, Iowa, Jefferson, Rock, and Sauk.

The Stand Down will be held Saturday, October 24, at the National Guard Armory - 1420 Wright Street, Madison.

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.

Upcoming Triad Events - Southwest Madison:

August 26, 6:00 p.m.,
Meadowood Library, 5726
Raymond Rd., Madison
Preventing Burglaries

September 23, 10:30, (Call
441-7897 for location),
Personal Safety

October 7, 8 a.m.-noon
Firestone at West Towne,
7105 W. Mineral Pt. Rd.,
Madison
**Free Car Check for
Seniors over 50**

Cottage Grove:
September 22, 10:00 a.m.
Taylor Ridge
**Frauds, Friends and
Family**

October 17, 8:00 a.m.
Meineke Car Care
222 W. Cottage Grove Road
Cottage Grove, WI
**Car Winterization
Program for Seniors over
50**

October 27, 10:00 am
Taylor Ridge
**Mental Health Issues:
How they Affect our
Relationships**

Verona:
September 25 8:00-noon
Car Fit/Car Winterization
Find out more at
www.rsvpdane.org/triad.html
and
www.triadofwisconsin.org

For further information, contact Mary Stamstad, at 608-441-7897, or mstamstad@rsvpdane.org.

her much pleasure. She is quite progressed in the disease process, so every activity that can give her joy is so amazing."

The fidget blankets are one example of how handmade items made by RSVP volunteers are bringing comfort to hundreds of people, young and old, in Dane County. It's truly heartwarming the great measure of love and concern conveyed with a simple needle and thread or knitting needles and yarn.

Are you an Active RSVP volunteer?

RSVP is required to report volunteer hours to our funding sources, and for us to do that, we need to have you report your hours. All volunteers who are actively reporting hours, we thank you! If you have volunteer hours that you haven't reported, please send them to your RSVP Program Coordinator by September 1. We will be mailing RSVP Recognition Event invitations in late September for all volunteers who have reported hours from October, 2014, to September, 2015; and we don't want you to miss out on this fun event!

2015 Sweepstakes Update

The 2015 Sweepstakes was the most successful ever thanks to the great prize donations and community support we received. Prize winners include: Nora Heidecke, William T. Wambach, Margaret Hrcirik, Jackie Ripp, Diana Luethje, Judy Pritchard, Randy Lucey, Agnes Sutter, Carmen and Olga Howe, William C. Thiede, James R. Wichman, Myrna Ulrich, Joyce Leichtenberg, Susan Fineout, JoAnne Berschet, Bob Reif, Danielle Schroeder, Georgia Punswick, Theresa Motisi, Mary A. Sturtevant and Lawrence Weber.

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Volunteer Now!

It's back to school time.....Volunteers needed

All Dane County schools need more volunteers interested in tutoring students in grades K-12. Volunteers will be matched 1:1, 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 1:1 tutoring program that helps high school students in Madison and Middleton Cross Plains School District improve their academic performance in algebra and geometry. Volunteers are matched 1:1 with a student to provide a strong, ongoing relationship throughout the school year.

Senior Tax Exchange Program (STEP) 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 elementary, 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.

Calling all volunteers who want to work with young children!

MMSD Play and Learn is a great new program designed to offer children ages birth to 5 and their parent(s) or caregiver(s). Children learn early math, literacy and social skills through play; caregivers learn about child development and the importance of play.

Volunteers needed for the Computer Buddy Program!

RSVP's Computer Buddy Program is offered to Dane County area elementary schools. RSVP volunteers are matched with a student and correspond in a pen pal fashion weekly via electronic transmission. The correspondence provides the opportunity for students to practice their writing and computer key board 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 Buddy Program will include students in classrooms in DeForest, Oregon, Madison and Marshall elementary schools as well as the Madison Neighborhood House.

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

Commonwealth Development Mock Interview Program

Henry Vilas Zoo

Madison Children's Museum

Middleton Pheasant Branch Conservancy

YWCA of Dane County

If you are interested in any of these great volunteer opportunities, please contact Diana Jost Djost@rsvpdane.org or call 608 441-1393.

Foster Grandparent Program Volunteers Needed!

RSVP's Foster Grandparent Program is seeking volunteers to support children in Madison Head Start Centers and elementary schools. This program requires Foster Grandparents to offer 1:1 tutoring and attention to students who need extra support in literacy and social/emotional development a minimum of 15 hours per week. Eligible volunteers receive a stipend and transportation reimbursement. Contact Akeem at (608) 441-7894 or Paula at (608) 661-4271 to learn more about this unique opportunity.

RSVP VOLUNTEER DRIVERS are needed to drive eligible seniors, veterans, and veterans' family members in communities across Dane County and deliver meals in rural Dane County. These services allow seniors to maintain their independence. The demand for rides is growing along with Dane County's growing 65+ population, so RSVP needs more drivers to keep up with the demand. Come volunteer -- your neighbors need you! Contact Mary Schmelzer, Drivers Services Volunteer Coordinator at 608 310-7280 or mschmelzer@rsvpdane.org.

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 St. Shifts are Monday - Friday from 9:00 am - 12:00 pm and 12:00 - 3:00 pm. If you need more flexibility, anytime between 8:00 am and 4:30 pm during the week works perfectly! Training provided.

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 2-4 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 11, for the Run which begins near State Street. You can help with a variety of things including: Information/Volunteer Check In Table, handing out Medals, biking the course to check on signage and volunteers, water station monitors, intersection guards, and breakdown and clean up. Bring your friends or family and make a fun day of it!

Group liaison volunteers needed for Project Groups!

- Visit a sewing/knitting group(s) once monthly
- Deliver fabric/yarn; pick-up finished handmade items
- Enjoy a few hours a month volunteering

For more information please contact **Mary Schmelzer, Group Projects/Homeworkers Coordinator: (608) 310-7280 or mschmelzer@rsvpdane.org.**

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