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E-Xtra

What's New & Noteworthy from RSVP

May 2015

Trivia

Welcome to the RSVP e-newsletter, E-Xtra! We want to keep you informed on what's new at RSVP and get information to you in a timely manner. You will receive an e-newsletter once a quarter. We hope you enjoy it!

Miller Park is the only baseball stadium that sells more brats than hot dogs.

Happenings

[Community Volunteer Awards](#)

[Handmade Messages of Love](#)

[Foster Grandparent Program Celebrates 50 Years!](#)

Community Volunteer Awards

May 1, 2015 was a great day for RSVP! Each year the United Way of Dane County presents Community Volunteer Awards to individuals and organizations addressing community needs through volunteer service. This year RSVP was awarded the Distinguished Service Nonprofit Award which recognizes a community organization that shows a commitment to increase the impact of volunteer engagement in the community.



Also recognized is RSVP volunteer and board member, Jim Jenkins. Jim was awarded a Distinguished Service Award. Jim began volunteering with RSVP in 2003. Since Jim came to RSVP in 2003, he has accumulated 8,184 volunteer hours including all his volunteer assignments! His first RSVP volunteer placement was at the American Red Cross as part of the Disaster Relief Team. For the last five years, Jim has been a Team Leader for one of the Disaster Action Teams (DAT) in Dane County. Jim has served on the RSVP Board of Directors for the past 10 years and chaired the Nominating Committee.

Last year, Jim took on the big task of coordinating and forming the



Things To Know

The RSVP office will be closed Monday, May 25, in observance of Memorial Day.

RSVP Sweepstakes!

Your 2015 Sweepstakes entry form will arrive in your mailbox soon! The theme for the 2015 Sweepstakes is "Out and About". Some of the prizes that will get you out and about include:

- A table for four with dinner in the Conductor's Circle at the July 29, Concert on the Square
- A Pontoon boat ride with MSCR
- An Electric Bicycle donated from Crazy Lenny's E-Bikes

Diversity Power Up! Committee to address RSVP's commitment to engage more diverse community members in volunteering to meet the needs in Madison and Dane County.

Handmade Messages of Love: Group Projects volunteers comforting neighbors far and wide!



A recent donation to the Madison Police Department of items crafted lovingly by RSVP Group Projects/Homeworkers volunteers will have a far reaching effect. According to Lt. Mike Hanson, West Madison Police District, the items will be used by police officers throughout the year in crisis situations as a way to offer comfort to people in stressful situations.

The order included 610 items made by 18 of our project groups and 5 homeworkers. Items donated included 30 pairs of mittens, 50 scarves, 100 hats, 200 tote bags, 35 nap pillows, 25 nap quilts, 100 small teddy bears, and 70 stuffed therapy balls. Imagine the hours devoted by these volunteers!.

Hats off to our groups in Belleville, Busy Bees, Cambridge, Cross Plains, Deerfield, DeForest, Fitchburg, The Gardens, Green Tree Glen, McFarland, Mt. Horeb, Oregon, Primrose Knotty Ladies, Romnes Crafters, Threads of Love, Trinity, Verona Hometown Helpers and Waunakee Wauna-Makers and homeworkers Trudy Kuhn, Peg Ahlgren, Peg Goodger, Lois Tyler and Gen Lewis.

If you are interested in more information about the Group Projects/Homeworkers program or would be interested in joining a group, please contact Mary Schmelzer, RSVP Group Projects Coordinator at 608-310-7280 or by email at mschmelzer@rsvpdane.org

Foster Grandparent Program Celebrates 50 Years!

Foster Grandparents from across Wisconsin will be coming together in Madison, May 20-21, 2015, to mark the 50th anniversary of The Foster Grandparent Program.



Since 1965, Foster Grandparents have been making an impact in areas such as tutoring and mentoring in local schools and community-based programs like Head Start; improving behavioral and educational outcomes for students with special or exceptional needs in day care centers, grade schools and for college readiness; teaching job skills to

economically disadvantaged youth; and supporting children of veterans and deployed military members. The gathering will honor and celebrate how one-on-one pairings between grandparents and students offer students the attention they need to succeed, as well as

The Sweepstakes is an important fundraiser for the continued support of our great volunteers in meeting community needs. RSVP appreciates your financial donation with your entry!

Upcoming Triad Events - Southwest Madison:

May 27th, 10:30 a.m. -
Oakwood Village West:
Safely Navigating the World on Foot

June 24th, 10:30 a.m. -
Prairie Park Apts. 6530
Schroeder Rd., Madison,
Safe Driving-"Keeping the Keys"

July 22, 10:30 a.m. -
Prairie Park Apts. 6530
Schroeder Rd., Madison, **Self Defense Tips & Awareness**

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

In addition to monthly programs, Triad sponsors:

-Free safety checks for your vehicle each fall, including the Car Fit program, where trained volunteers recommend adjustments and adaptations to make your vehicle "fit" you better for driving safety.

-The "File of Life" - a magnet-backed or purse/wallet-size packet that lets you list emergency contacts, medical data, and insurance information. Placed on your refrigerator (and/or in your purse or wallet), it's readily accessible by EMTs or police in an emergency.

-A yearly state-wide Triad conference, with speakers on many crime prevention and safety topics, resource tables and literature.

Find out more at www.rsvpdane.org/triad.html and

building bridges across generations. If you are interested in more information about the Foster Grandparent Program, call Akeem Torres, 608-441-7894, or email at atorres@rsvpdane.org

www.triadofwisconsin.org

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

2015 Bus Buddy Tours:

Bus Buddy Tours kicked off its second year with a trip to the Chazen Art Museum. About 20 people from the Madison area worked with their Bus Buddy coordinator and met at the Chazen Art Museum on April 29th. There are 3 more trips planned this season. We hope you can join in the fun!

2015 Bus Buddy Tour Schedule:

Wednesday, June 10th: Tour of Capitol (Guided tour/lunch)
 Wednesday, August 5th: Olbrich Gardens Butterfly Exhibit (Tour/lunch)
 Wednesday, October 14th: Movie at Market Square (movie/lunch)

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Volunteer Now!

Help us Reach Farther

Hey RSVP volunteers, we need a little help from our friends! Seniors and Veterans across Dane County are requesting rides at a steadily increasing rate and we need your help recruiting volunteers to keep up with the demand. Some communities in Dane are keeping pace with demands, but others are really in need of drivers immediately, such as:

- Madison/Monona
- Sun Prairie
- Cottage Grove
- Deforest

If you are a member of a service group, church, temple, union or other group and you could personally introduce the Driver Services staff to leadership within your group's ranks, it would be a tremendous help! Word of mouth is one of the most effective ways for us to tell about the true need for transportation in the Senior and Veteran populations, and to show how flexible and deeply rewarding this type of volunteering is! Please consider reaching out to your circle on our behalf someone from Driver Services would love to come give a short presentation. Contact **Mary Schmelzer, Driver Services Volunteer Recruiter, 608-310-6280 or mschmelzer@rsvpdane.org** for more information.

Madison Trivia Buffs Needed!

Approximately 200 Foster Grandparents from around the state of Wisconsin will be visiting for their 50th Anniversary conference this month. Four volunteers are needed to guide walking groups of Foster Grandparents to view the State Capitol

from the Concourse, sharing a brief history of Madison along the way. If you are interested in helping out with this, and available from **7:15-8:30 am, Thursday, May 21, 2015**, please **contact Jan Karst**.

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!

An older adult in the SOUTH MADISON community is no longer able to manage paying their bills such as rent, heat/ electric and phone. Consider "Paying It Forward" by volunteering to be a **Representative Payee** and ensure their monthly bills get paid. 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.

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

Horticultural Assistants Needed!

The UW Arboretum is seeking 2 people to work with their horticulturist on plant care in the greenhouse and nursery area. This is a weekly outdoors position which will continue through the growing season. If you are looking for an active volunteer position and have a strong interest in gardening and plants, this may be the right opportunity for you!

Contact Jan Karst - (608)441-7891 or jkarst@rsvpdane.org

Be a Triad Volunteer!

You may be wondering: "What is Triad?" Triad is a national, state and local organization that promotes personal safety and crime prevention awareness for seniors, to help them feel safe in their communities. RSVP (Retired Senior Volunteer Program) sponsors the Southwest Madison Triad Planning Committee. Members include Madison Police and Fire Department personnel, staff from community agencies, senior volunteers and others. We are looking for additional committee members. Please call **Mary Stamstad at (608) 441-7897, or mstamstad@rsvpdane.org**

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**.

Bus Buddy Tour Volunteers:

We are still looking for volunteers interested in becoming a Bus Buddy Volunteer. Bus Buddies will be trained how to help others learn to navigate the bus system and will assist on the group tours. If you would like to help, or more information, please contact Diana Jost.

Volunteer tutors needed!

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, needs more volunteers who are 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.

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

- Madison Senior Center Catch Healthy Habits
- Catholic Multicultural Center-child care volunteer
- Madison Children's Museum
- Henry Vilas Zoo
- Middleton Pheasant Branch Conservancy
- YWCA of Dane County
- Commonwealth Development-Mock Interview Program

Please contact Diana Jost 608-441-1393 or djost@rsvpdane.org

Support Veterans and their Family Members

The Wm S. Middleton Memorial Veterans Hospital is looking for a number of volunteers to assist with the following

- Madison Veterans Firing Squad - Must be a fully retired Veteran
- Infection Control Observer/Gatherer - document staff adherence to protocols
- MyHealthVet Program Assistant -assist with account set up and questions
- Sterile Processing Service - must be able to view small print and lift 25-30 lbs
- Drivers transporting patients to medical appointments - Current Drivers License and Insurance is required.

Contact Tom Poppe, (608)238-7901 or tpoppe@rsvpdane.org

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RSVP of Dane County | 517 N. Segoe Road Suite 300 | Madison | WI | 53705