

# News Notes

Fall 2023 Newsletter

Retired and Senior Volunteer Program and Foster Grandparent Program  
...where volunteers make a difference



## RSVP's Annual Appreciation Event was "Country Cool"

by Diana Jost





"Country Cool" was the theme for RSVP's Annual Volunteer Appreciation event held at Barnwood Events in Madison. From bandanas and cowboy boots to flannel shirts and overalls, participants at this year's luncheon were dressed in their country best.

Shekinah King, singer/songwriter, and Greg Standal, bassist, both part of the Madison Blues Band Alpha Romeos, played country favorites throughout the event. The hall was decorated with bright sunflowers, bales of hay, and wagon wheels. There were colorful bandanas, 'Happy Trails' Trail Mix, and candy cow pies at every table. All attendees had a chance to win a wonderful door prize.


Leigh Mills, reporter and news anchor for NBC15, did a fantastic job as the emcee of this year's event. Leigh took many "selfies" with those attending. She posted the pictures and a short write-up on the NBC15 Facebook page and talked about the event on the 4:00 p.m. news.

Our guest speakers from the Bureau of Aging and Disability Resources at the Wisconsin Department of Health Services were Timothy Wellens, Regional Quality Specialist, and Samantha Margelofsky, Volunteer Program Coordinator. Tim and Samantha spoke about the health effects of social isolation and loneliness. They discussed the role volunteering has in decreasing feelings of loneliness and isolation for both the volunteer and the recipient. Samantha cited survey results that show the actual health benefits of volunteering. Tim discussed the ongoing work being done by the Wisconsin Coalition to End Social Isolation and Loneliness. *continue on page 4*

 6501 Watts Road, Suite 250  
Madison, WI 53719-1397

 608.238.7787  
Fax: 608.238.7931

 info@rsvpdane.org

 rsvpdane.org



RSVP Staff (l to r, front row): Krishna Sijapati, Mike Thomsen, Diana Jost, Ginny Scholtz, Lorrie Hylkema, Tara Curtis, and emcee Leigh Mills. (l to r, back row): Jack Guzman, Jan Karst, Steve Jaeschke, Kate Seal, and Paula Reif

# Welcome to RSVP of Dane County!

## RSVP Board Notes

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

#### PAGE 2

RSVP Board Notes

#### PAGE 3

RSVP's New Executive and Assistant Directors

#### PAGE 4

51st Annual Volunteer Appreciation Event

#### PAGE 5

Volunteers in the News  
New Funding

#### PAGES 6

Margie Zutter Honored as Hometown Hero  
Meet Tara Curtis

#### PAGE 7

RSVP Calendar

#### PAGE 8

Driver Services Ad  
#GivingTuesday Save the Date

#### PAGE 9

Bus Buddy Tour Program  
2023 Sweepstakes Report

#### PAGE 10

Meet Verona Hometown Helpers

#### PAGE 11

Welcome New Volunteers

#### PAGE 12

9/11 Drive Through Event  
Meet Ginny Scholtz

#### PAGE 13

MG&E Information

#### PAGE 14

Triad is Partnership

#### PAGE 15

RSVP Donor Honor Roll

#### PAGE 16

Volunteer Opportunities

#### PAGE 17

Volunteer Opportunities  
Memorials and Tributes

#### PAGE 18

Middleton Glen Knit Pickers

#### PAGE 20

Madison Stand Down

Hello! My name is Deborah Ann Speckmann, and I am honored to be the new Board President. Tom Howells is the new Vice President of the Board. We look forward to serving you in the upcoming years.



First, I would like to thank Richard Hoffman for his efforts during his tenure as President. He led RSVP through COVID-19. RSVP of Dane County was one of the few RSVPs who not only survived COVID-19 but expanded during the pandemic. Richard was open to new ideas and helped guide us towards new heights. He is a true example of what it means to serve.

September 21st was the date set aside for RSVP's Volunteer Appreciation event. What a glorious event it was! Leigh Mills, Channel 15 news anchor, was our emcee. There were approximately 170 volunteers in attendance. I would like to thank the staff, volunteers, and friends for ensuring that this was a memorable event.

I have been an RSVP volunteer since September of 2014. When I started volunteering, I had no idea what a rewarding experience it was to serve members of the community. To this day I want to thank the friend who got me involved with RSVP. It is through word of mouth that I believe we can recruit many others to serve. It is through service that I believe each day becomes more fulfilling. RSVP has many different opportunities for one to volunteer. Just ask a member of the staff to get you involved; we all have talents that can be of service to the community.

As we go into the fall season, please think of ways that you might be of service and reach out to a member of the staff. Whether it may be as a driver, a sewist or crafter, Committee Member, or even a Board Member, service is a gift to be shared.

Deborah Ann Speckmann  
RSVP Board President



AmeriCorps  
Seniors



## RSVP has a new Executive Director and Assistant Director!

by Margie Zutter

**Diana Jost**, who became RSVP's Executive Director on August 1st is celebrating her tenth anniversary on staff. Diana joined RSVP's staff in 2013 as the Intergenerational Coordinator. She became the Assistant Director in 2016. Diana, was able to lead RSVP's COVID-19 committee, creating policies and procedures during the pandemic to help make volunteering as safe as possible. Diana supervised our Foster Grandparent Program, working with staff and board members to create virtual assignments, enabling our Foster Grandparents to continue serving when schools were closed to in-person volunteering. Diana created RSVP's successful Giving Tuesday campaign to encourage additional contributions to support volunteer efforts, Co-Chaired RSVP's 50th

Anniversary celebration in 2022, worked with RSVP's Marketing Committee to create a new accessible website, and assisted staff and volunteers.

**Kate Seal**, joined the RSVP staff in 2017 as the Group Projects/Homeworkers Coordinator and became the Assistant Director on August 1st. Due to the pandemic, groups were not able to meet but Kate with her volunteer group liaisons made sure volunteers were supplied with materials and yarn to continue making wonderful handmade items for those in need. In fact, more handmade items were distributed each year than prior to the pandemic! In 2022, 267 volunteers made 16,165 items compared to 2019 when 213

*continued on page 5*



**Diana Jost**



**Kate Seal**

**MOVING** *or*  
Overwhelmed by Too Much Clutter?



**SEGUIES**

Senior Move Specialists

**608-345-1942**  
**262-442-4200**

**LET'S GROW YOUR BUSINESS**  
Advertise in our Newsletter!

**CONTACT ME Ruth Schlitz**

[rschlitz@lpicommunities.com](mailto:rschlitz@lpicommunities.com) • (800) 950-9952 x2671

**ADVERTISE HERE**  
to reach your community



Call 800-950-9952



**WAUNAKEE VALLEY**  
SENIOR LIVING

*Independent and Assisted Living*

(608) 849-5016

801 Klein Dr. • Waunakee  
[www.waunakeemanor.com](http://www.waunakeemanor.com)

**SUPPORT OUR ADVERTISERS!**



## RSVP's 51st Annual Volunteer Appreciation Event

by Diana Jost

*continued from cover page*

Thank you to our Diamond Sponsors: MGE and UW Health.

Thank you to our Gold Sponsor: UnityPoint Health – Meriter.

Thank you to our Silver Sponsors: Custer Burish Financial Services, Mike and Barbara Foley, SSM Health, and U.S. Bank.

Thank you to our Bronze Sponsors: Corporate Business Systems, Group Health Cooperative of South Central Wisconsin, Sub-Zero and Wolf Foundation, TDS, and Wegner CPAs.

The highlight of our annual lunch is recognizing the RSVP volunteers from all over Dane County who are receiving special awards for their outstanding service.

This year nine volunteers received the President's Lifetime Achievement Award, recognizing those who have completed 4,000 hours of service: John C. Cronn, Marlene Gruendler, Dianne Hess, Carolyn Kunen, Susan Morrison, Glen B. Niesen, Nancy Riedweg, Bev Schaefer, and Melba Stockhausen.

RSVP's Length of Service award is presented each year to those who have 20 consecutive years of volunteer service to the community. This year nine volunteers received this award: Debra Baker, Betty Ingwell, James Jenkins, Lynn Klink, Glen B. Niesen, Joan Paar, Janet M. Roche, Jean B. Ruhde, and Ray Virnig.

A special thank you to all who helped with this year's event, including:

Barnwood Events and Blue-Plate Catering.

RSVP's Recognition Committee, Board of Directors, and staff for all their hard work to make this a very special event.

Mary Odell for her help with the Length of Service certificates.

Mike Plautz who does a fantastic job every year securing our door prizes.

The Volunteer Appreciation lunch was truly a celebration of all the great service our volunteers provide. Thank you, volunteers, for making our community a better place!



**Recognition Committee members (l to r) Lea Gough, Karen Cunningham and LuAnn Paepke**



**Entertainment was provided by Shekinah King and Greg Standal.**



**Barnwood Events in Madison was our setting.**

# Want to get in touch with us?

Simply dial 608.238.7787 (RSVP) or email us at [info@rsvpdane.org](mailto:info@rsvpdane.org).

Or, you can reach individual staff members directly at the phone numbers/email addresses listed below. 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

### EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Diana Jost | 608.441.1393  
[djost@rsvpdane.org](mailto:djost@rsvpdane.org)

### ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

Kate Seal | 608.661.4271  
[kseal@rsvpdane.org](mailto:kseal@rsvpdane.org)

### OFFICE SUPPORT ADMIN

Jack Guzman | 608. 238.7933  
[jguzman@rsvpdane.org](mailto:jguzman@rsvpdane.org)

### ACCOUNTANT

Krishna Sijapati | 608.238.7899  
[ksijapati@rsvpdane.org](mailto:ksijapati@rsvpdane.org)

*continued from page 3*

volunteers made 10,678 items. Kate wrote grants to secure needed supplies and worked with volunteers to find donated materials to support our volunteers. She introduced new project ideas, working with nonprofit and public agencies to help them meet the needs of their clients.

Both Diana and Kate have the knowledge, energy, and enthusiasm that RSVP needs in these roles. We are grateful for their continued leadership!

## PROGRAM COORDINATORS

### COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS COORDINATOR

Jan Karst | 608.441.7891  
[jkarst@rsvpdane.org](mailto:jkarst@rsvpdane.org)

### FOSTER GRANDPARENT AND INTERGENERATIONAL PROGRAM COORDINATOR

Paula Reif | 608.441.7894  
[preif@rsvpdane.org](mailto:preif@rsvpdane.org)

### TRIAD COORDINATOR

Mike Thomsen | 608.441.7897  
[mthomsen@rsvpdane.org](mailto:mthomsen@rsvpdane.org)

## GROUP PROJECTS/ HOMEWORKERS PROGRAM COORDINATOR

Tara Curtis | 608.310.7280  
[tcurtis@rsvpdane.org](mailto:tcurtis@rsvpdane.org)

## DRIVER SERVICES PROGRAM

### DRIVER SERVICES MANAGER

Steve Jaeschke | 608.441.7892  
[sjaeschke@rsvpdane.org](mailto:sjaeschke@rsvpdane.org)

### DRIVER SERVICES COORDINATOR

Camela King | 608.441.7896  
[cking@rsvpdane.org](mailto:cking@rsvpdane.org)

### VETS HELPING VETS COORDINATOR

Lorrie Hylkema | 608.238.7901  
[lhylkema@rsvpdane.org](mailto:lhylkema@rsvpdane.org)  
[vetshelpingvets@rsvpdane.org](mailto:vetshelpingvets@rsvpdane.org)

### MADISON/MONONA RIDE COORDINATOR

Ginny Scholtz | 608.441.7898  
[vscholtz@rsvpdane.org](mailto:vscholtz@rsvpdane.org)

## Volunteers in the News

Kristin Matthews, Social Justice Center Volunteer, Willy Street Co-Op Reader, August, 2023

## New Funding

In May, RSVP was awarded a \$1,500 grant from the Endres Foundation. This funding will help buy supplies for the Group Projects/ Homeworkers Program. We appreciate the continued support from the Endres Foundation.

In July, RSVP was awarded a \$5,000 grant from the Evjue Foundation. This funding will help with volunteer recruitment, transportation, supplies, as well as diversity training. We appreciate the on-going support from the Evjue Foundation.

In October, RSVP received \$900.00 from the Oregon-Brooklyn Memorial VFW Post 1127. This funding will help support RSVP's Vets Helping Vets Program. We appreciate their on-going support.

## Margie Zutter Honored as a Hometown Hero

by Lisa Subeck, State Representative 78th Assembly District

At the beginning of Tuesday's (September 12th) Assembly floor session, on behalf of the State Assembly, I was pleased to welcome Margie Zutter as a Hometown Hero.

As an intern, Margie began working with the Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) of Dane County in 1976, transitioning in 1977 to a full-time role as a Community Services Project Coordinator. She served as Assistant Director of RSVP of Dane County from 1979 until 2011 and assumed the role of Executive Director in 2012.

Under Margie's leadership, the organization flourished, achieving over 8 million hours contributed by volunteers and growing into one of the nation's most prominent RSVP programs with over 1,200 volunteers serving at over 80 nonprofits and public agencies, leading RSVP of Dane County to be named the recipient of the 2017 Governor's Service Award and the 2022 AmeriCorps Seniors Program of the Year.

Margie's commitment to helping older adults and promoting their rights and well-being reaches beyond the borders of Dane County, which is evident by her involvement as a board member of the National Senior Corps Association, her service as a past president of the Wisconsin Senior Corps Association, and her work on the Board of the Wisconsin Aging Advocacy Network.

Margie retired this summer from RSVP of Dane County after over 45 years of dedicated service but plans to continue serving our community's seniors as an RSVP volunteer!

## Meet the new Group Projects & Homemakers Program Coordinator, Tara Curtis

Tara has seen the evidence of RSVP's Group Projects and Homeworkers volunteers' skill and commitment in the storeroom as she looks at the completed items ready to donate to community members in need. The time and effort volunteers put in leaves Tara feeling grateful, awed, and humbled.

Tara has been a sewist for most of her adult life, having started as a teenager upcycling secondhand clothing on her mom's old solid metal Kenmore. If you're a local quilter, you may know her from when she worked at Blue Bar Quilts, through the Madison Modern Quilt Guild, or perhaps from classes she taught on Sashiko and fabric weaving. Tara has lived in the Madison area for six years with her husband and two daughters. Her first career was coordinating a volunteer program at a shelter in Iowa. She loves sewing and adores volunteers - this position feels like a perfect fit!



**Margie Zutter, Retired RSVP of Dane County Executive Director**



**Tara Curtis**



## RSVP CALENDAR

**October 16th**, RSVP Board Meeting, 1:30-3:00 PM

**October 20th**, 2023 Triad Crime, Prevention, and Safety Conference, American Family Conference Center, 9:30 AM

**October 21st**, Stand Down Madison, 9:00 AM, Madison Salvation Army, 3030 Darbo Drive

**November 10th**, 1:00-3:00 PM Veterans Day Event at The Valor on Washington, 1322 E. Washington Avenue, Madison

**November 23rd and 24th**, Office Closed for Holiday

**November 28th**, Giving Tuesday Campaign

**December 18th**, RSVP Board Meeting, 1:30-3:30 PM

**December 22-25**, Office Closed for Holiday

**December 29th- Jan 1st**, Office Closed for Holiday



*Up to  
3 Months  
Free Rent!*

# PRAIRIE PARK

## SENIOR APARTMENTS

- Visit us for our Open House on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Saturdays from 10am-1pm
- Controlled Access Entries
- Community Dining Room
- In-House Beauty Salon
- Elevator Service
- Discounted Cable Packages
- Washers and Dryers Included
- Professional, On-Site Management



6530 Schroeder Road • Madison, WI 53711  
(608) 276-5785  
PrairieParkSenior.com | Live@PrairieParkSenior.com



# ADVERTISE HERE

to reach your community



**Call 800-950-9952**

## LET'S GROW YOUR BUSINESS

Advertise in our Newsletter!

**CONTACT ME Ruth Schlitz**

rschlitz@lpicommunities.com • (800) 950-9952 x2671

## Citizens of MONONA, join a WIN-WIN program!

The RSVP Driver Services program is here for you whether you're an older adult in need of a ride to a medical appointment or a senior seeking meaningful volunteer work. It's a win for the community no matter which end of this service you join. At this time, we are reaching out to Monona residents, but we serve ALL of Dane County!

Access to regular medical appointments is a fundamental aspect of maintaining good health, especially for the elderly. However, limited mobility, lack of a support system, or simply not having access to reliable transportation can create barriers that prevent seniors from receiving the care they need. This is where RSVP Driver Services volunteers can play a vital role bridging the gap and ensuring that people can access the medical attention they deserve.

**Why Volunteer as a Driver? Impact:** By volunteering as a driver, you directly improve the lives of seniors in your community. Your help can give them access to timely medical care, early diagnoses, and more. **Connections:** Your companionship and support make a huge difference in most seniors' day. And yours too! **Flexibility:** Driving with RSVP is based completely around your schedule. Whether you

can spare a few hours a week or a couple of days a month, we, and home-bound seniors, appreciate you helping us all. **Fulfillment:** Having a role in improving someone's quality of life is an experience that leaves you both feeling great! RSVP's Driver Services program serves Monona, Madison and all of Dane County. Please inquire today! Contact Steve Jaeschke ([sjaeschke@rsvpdane.org](mailto:sjaeschke@rsvpdane.org) or 608.441.7892) or Camela King ([cking@rsvpdane.org](mailto:cking@rsvpdane.org) or 608.441.7896).



**SAVE THE DATE**  
**Tuesday November 28, 2023**

#GivingTuesday is a global day of giving that harnesses the collective power of individuals, communities, and organizations to encourage philanthropy and celebrate generosity worldwide. It inspires people to help improve our world by collaborating and giving back through the charities and causes they believe in. This year's #GivingTuesday will kick off the giving season on November 28th.

Last year, 1,211 RSVP and Foster Grandparent volunteers were able to serve 143,211 hours in their community. Volunteers provide essential services: driving seniors and veterans to medical appointments, delivering meals to homebound seniors, tutoring students in Dane County schools and Head Start sites, creating handmade items for warmth and comfort, providing education for older adults to keep them healthy and safe, and helping in over 80 non-profit and public organizations in Dane County. These volunteer hours are valued at over \$4 million using data reported by the Independent Sector. The senior population continues to grow and so do the associated health and safety concerns, including the risk of social isolation. Please take this unique opportunity to enhance RSVP's ability to help improve the Dane County community during this critical time for our volunteers and the people they serve. For more information on our #GivingTuesday Campaign or to donate, please contact Diana Jost, [Djost@rsvpdane.org](mailto:Djost@rsvpdane.org) or Kate Seal, [Kseal@rsvpdane.org](mailto:Kseal@rsvpdane.org). Donate safely online at [www.rsvpdane.org/donate](http://www.rsvpdane.org/donate).



## Bus Buddy Tours and Training 2023

by Jan Karst, Community Connections Coordinator

As Fall sets in, many things are winding down, including our 2023 Bus Buddy tours and training! This year we were able to help 12 individuals learn how to navigate the Madison Metro Transit system to many locations as well as offering 5 group bus trips to various places of interest. Participants used the bus system to join us for tours of the UW Geology Museum, the Henry Vilas Zoo, an MSCR Pontoon Boat ride on Lake Mendota, and Allen Centennial Gardens (with Babcock Hall ice cream, of course!). Our final trip of 2023 will be October 24th to the Chazen Art Museum!

If you are interested in learning to navigate the Metro Transit system to get to appointments, classes, events, or places of interest, we can help you with an individual Bus Buddy Coordinator! If you would prefer joining others in the adventure of mastering the bus system on our October 24th trip to the Chazen Art Museum, please contact Jan Karst, RSVP Community Connections Coordinator at (608)441-7891 or [jkarst@rsvpdane.org](mailto:jkarst@rsvpdane.org).



**Bus Buddies Chuck Kamp (sitting) and Robert Strand use Google Maps on Chuck's cellphone to locate bus routes.**

## RSVP's 2023 Sweepstakes is a Success!

RSVP's "A Little Bit of This...and a Lot of That" Sweepstakes concluded with a drawing of winners' names on Thursday, August 24. The Sweepstakes raised a total of \$11,093.24, which will be used for general support of RSVP's programs.

Congratulations to this year's Sweepstakes winners: Ruth Kane, Margaret A. Cook, Tim Hopping, Melvern L. Bankes, Mary Ruppert, Louise Elbaum, M. Sandra Yost, Charlain Boley, Susan Fulks, Beatrice Allen, Linda Knight, Dianne Hopkins, Jeanne Hook, Pat Zapp, Tom Fronek, Mary Hudson, Alison Koelsch, Saul and Patricia Levin, Audrey Schmelling, Barb Dresen, Melissa Ratcliff, Christine Beatty, Mike Plautz, Kay Coombs, Patrick Glynn, Victoria J. Ross, Sharon Olle, Frances Toon, Abigail Lowery, Tom Howells, Katelyn Zutter, Kathryn S. Arndt, Jeannie Venzke, Ledra Mohrmann, Stan Fosdal, Lynn Forshaug, Marcia Taugher, Judy Collins, Nancy Fairman, and LeRoy Banks.

## Thank You Sweepstakes Donors!

RSVP also wishes to thank the donors whose contributions of prizes made our Sweepstakes a success. Thank you: RSVP Oregon Group Project, Susan Wolf, Shopbop, Wegner CPAs, Vitense Golfland, Jean Elvekrog, Brennan's Market, Lake Geneva Cruise Line, The Electric Needle, Blue Bar Quilts, Mariner's Inn, Isabel Hubbard, Bonefish Grill, Deborah Speckmann, Target, Klein's Floral, ReMitts, Nothing Bundt Cakes, Leroy Adler, Orange Tree Imports, Alison Koelsch, Portillo's, Glass Nickel Pizza, Buffalo Wild Wings, Rocky's Pizza, and the RSVP Board and Staff.

## Meet the Verona Hometown Helpers...Prevailing through Passion and Positivity!

by Tara Curtis, RSVP Group Projects Coordinator

Just five years ago, this group of RSVP crafters had dwindled down in numbers to only a few remaining volunteers. And then the pandemic hit. It wasn't looking good for the state of the Verona Hometown Helpers. But to no surprise, with a little help from newsletter announcements and word of mouth, this group started to grow again. Momentum began to build. Today, they are a thriving group of volunteers with a variety of backgrounds and a mixture of interests. While some are knitters or crocheters and others are sewists or quilters, they are all friends. They meet once a month at the Verona Senior Center, at which time they bring their handcrafted creations for community distribution, their fun and lively dispositions and their heartfelt crusade to make items of warmth and comfort for our community. Each of these women share their own set of skills and talents and inspire each other with their creativity and industriousness.

This is what a few members had to say when asked why they volunteer with RSVP:

"I want to give back to the community and support those that are less fortunate. I feel blessed to be able to give back... plus it's a great group!" - Joyce P.

"I like seeing what I can make and being stimulated by different challenges! I also feel such joy that I can make items for fellow community members!" - Diane S.

"I like having an outlet to give my creations to. And the camaraderie within this group is so special." - Joan W.

They are always welcoming of new volunteers to join their jovial troop. If you're interested in sharing your time and talents with RSVP Group Project's Verona Hometown Helpers, please inquire with Tara Curtis (RSVP Group Projects Coordinator) [tcurtis@rsvpdane.org](mailto:tcurtis@rsvpdane.org). The Verona Hometown Helpers meet the first Tuesday of each month from 10am-11am at the Verona Senior Center.



(l to r): Mary Hudson, Sandra Onsager, Julie Zugenbuehler, Lucy Gammeter, Diane Schuck, and Joan Werla

WELCOME NEW VOLUNTEERS

We enrolled 49 new volunteers from June 2023, through August 2023, 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. Please pass this newsletter on to a friend or neighbor and tell them what RSVP means to you!

Christine Ace  
 Jim P. Aubandt  
 Paul Baker  
 Audrey Benson  
 Douglas E. Bradley  
 Mark H. Buttchen  
 Jewel Carlson  
 Nancy Christensen  
 Barbara Chusid  
 Holly Cohn  
 Eileen Collins  
 Peggy Currier

Lisa Draeger  
 Michael J. Eith  
 Tom Ellis  
 Donna Fox  
 Rhonda K. Frank-Loron  
 Cheryl L. Froelich  
 Nicole K. Hanson  
 Renee S. Harris  
 Gail Heibl  
 John Heibl  
 Cheryl E. Karls  
 Sarah J. Karls

Kristin L. Kelling  
 Delores (Dee) Kliminski  
 Denise D. Knudsen  
 Jerome L. Koepf  
 Kay Krist  
 Coleen M. Lamboley  
 Karen Laufenberg  
 Connie M. Lueck  
 Tessa Madson  
 Mary T. Moyle  
 Dennis Nolan  
 Shelby Orcutt

Claudia Ann Peart  
 Donna Peterson  
 Paul H. Podehl  
 John R. Quigley  
 Peter A. Sanville  
 Renee D. Schumacher  
 Jan Stuebinger  
 Lowell Stuebinger  
 Vicki Sutter  
 Mary Ann E. Sveum  
 Ray Virnig  
 Tom Whitmarsh  
 Julie Zugenbuehler

**Gunderson**  
 LIFE CELEBRATION CENTERS  
*Celebrating 100 Years of Caring for Your Family*  
 608-221-5420  
 GUNDERSONFH.COM  
 Madison • Middleton • Oregon • Lodi • Mt Horeb • Stoughton • Cross Plains • Fitchburg • Black Earth



**The Shoe Box**  
 BLACK EARTH, WI  
**15% Off**  
 Any Single Pair  
 1314 Canal St. (Hwy 14)  
 Black Earth, WI. 53515  
**(608) 767-3447**

**LET'S GROW YOUR BUSINESS**  
 Advertise in our Newsletter!

**CONTACT ME**  
**Ruth Schlitz**

rschlitz@lpicommunities.com  
 (800) 950-9952 x2671

**NEVER MISS OUR NEWSLETTER!**

**SUBSCRIBE**

Have our newsletter emailed to you.

Visit [www.mycommunityonline.com](http://www.mycommunityonline.com)

**THRIVE**  
 LOCALLY

**SENIOR 55+ APARTMENTS**

**6 Whitcomb Circle**

2 BR, 2 BA, 1350 ft<sup>2</sup>.  
 Incl. HEAT, storage locker, & garage stall. \$1550/mo.  
 NO Pets, NO Smoking

Bob Keller (608) 577-2451  
 KellerApartments.com



## Annual 9/11 Drive Through Donation Event

In remembrance of September 11, 2001, RSVP hosts an annual donation drive-thru event to help struggling neighbors in our community. This year, we supported the Social Justice Center.

For three hours on September 11, 2023, we collected food and essentials for the Social Justice Center's resource pantry, which is available to anyone in need. Volunteers and staff helped unload food, toiletries, household essentials, and more – one car at a time – in the RSVP parking lot, before delivering the contributions to the Center on Williamson Street that afternoon. Our thanks to everyone who participated! Please be on the lookout for this event again next year. We are always open to serving new local organizations, so feel free to contact us with recommendations!

The Social Justice Center houses 14 small non-profit community organizations, including the Tenant Resource Center, Madison Mutual Aid Network, Wisconsin Books to Prisoners, LGBT Books to Prisoners, 608 Arts, Progressive Dane, Interpreters Cooperative Madison, Madison InfoShop, Common Good Bookkeeping Cooperative, Madison Worker Cooperatives, Madison Community Cooperative, IWW-Madison, Family Farm Defenders, and Madison Area DSA.

## Meet Ginny Scholtz, RSVP's New Madison/Monona Ride Coordinator

Ginny is a Madison native, a retired nurse, and has volunteered with RSVP's Foster Grandparent Program for about five years. She is a leader, a self-starter and a compassionate team player. We are excited to tout her presence. Please welcome her (and give her as much notice as possible when calling for a ride)!



**Ginny Scholtz**



### Volunteer Drivers needed for Seniors & Veterans

- Drive to medical & other important appts.
- Receive reimbursement at 65.5 cents/mile
- Set your own schedule, weekdays only
- Receive extra liability insurance

**Pay it Forward Now**  
**So it's there for you tomorrow!**

For information on driving seniors: Steve Jaeschke,  
608-441-7892 or [sjaeschke@rsvpdane.org](mailto:sjaeschke@rsvpdane.org)

For information on driving veterans: Lorrie Hylkema,  
238-7901 or [lhylkema@rsvpdane.org](mailto:lhylkema@rsvpdane.org)

*"I could not afford taxi service to Madison, where my primary doctor & specialists have their offices.*

*If not for RSVP, I would have to move to a facility in Madison."*

— RSVP passenger





your community energy company

## Simple Ways to Save Energy This Fall

Fall is often a time for new routines. Whether your household is adjusting to the school year or new work patterns or gearing up for seasonal sporting events and celebrations, now is a good time to put some strategies in place to help save energy. Here are some low- or no-cost ways to help manage your energy use and stay comfortable this season.

### Consider a Smart Thermostat

Heating and cooling are typically the biggest energy users in a home. Consider upgrading to a smart thermostat. These Internet-connected thermostats automatically adjust your household's heating and cooling systems, lowering the temperature when you're away in the winter or raising it in the summer. Like other smart devices, smart thermostats can be controlled remotely and automatically adjust to your household routine. Our statewide energy efficiency partner, FOCUS ON ENERGY®, offers an instant incentive on smart thermostats for eligible MGE customers, making them an affordable option for many households. To learn more, visit [focusenergy.com/smart](http://focusenergy.com/smart).

### Watch Your Water Heater

Water heating is the second-largest single energy user in most homes. Here are some ways to save on water-heating costs.

- Set water heater temperature at 120°F.
- Conserve hot water by washing your clothes in cold water and taking shorter showers.
- Install a low-flow showerhead.

### Stop Phantom Energy

If you're looking for ways to manage energy used by electronics, smart power strips can help save energy. Smart power strips detect when a device is not being used and then cut power to that device.

### Skip the Space Heaters

Using your furnace, even for just a few hours a day, is more energy efficient than using a space heater. Also consider these tips:

- Use an electric blanket or put on a sweater.
- Get up and move around.
- Let in the sun during the day to warm a room and close your window treatments in the evening to keep out the colder night air.

Visit [mge2050.com/energyuse](http://mge2050.com/energyuse) for additional information on saving energy. Or, if you have questions, ask our energy experts at the MGE Home Energy Line, (608) 252-7117.

## Triad's Secret Sauce is Partnership

by Mike Thomsen, RSVP Triad Program Coordinator

Partnership has always been Triad's secret sauce, and that was especially true in September. RSVP's Triad volunteers, in partnership with the AARP Wisconsin and Smart Motors Toyota, focused their energy on driver safety in September. The winter driving season in Wisconsin is particularly treacherous, and being well-prepared is key to keeping safe on the roads. Thanks to this partnership, 50 drivers are better prepared.

The first event, an AARP Smart Driver Course, was organized by Neil McCallum, the AARP Driver Safety program State Coordinator. The course was held on September 22nd at Smart Motors Toyota and was free of charge to participants thanks to the generosity of Smart Motors. A total of eleven drivers received a four hour in-classroom refresher on safe driving practices.

The "Car Check" vehicle safety inspection event and the "AARP Car Fit" event were held on September 28th at Smart Motors. Car Check, organized by Triad volunteers, offered participants a thorough, bumper-to-bumper safety inspection that included detailed service and maintenance recommendations. The inspections were free of charge, thanks to Smart Motors' generosity, and were performed by a team of Smart Motors technicians. Twenty-two cars were inspected.

Car Fit was organized by Neil McCallum, who is also a Triad volunteer, and provided an opportunity for drivers to consult with an occupational therapist and a team of technicians to find safe, comfortable seating positions behind the wheel. Sixteen drivers, considerably more than last year, participated in the hour-and-a-half event. Without the partnership between RSVP of Dane County, AARP Wisconsin and Smart Motors Toyota, these driver safety events would not have been possible. Thank you to Neil McCallum and the AARP Driver Safety program. And thank you to Smart Motors Toyota, to Blane Einbeck, Smart's Director of Marketing, and to David and the crew of technicians who performed the safety inspections in such a courteous, professional manner. You are all special ingredients in Triad's secret sauce.



**Thank you to the AARP Car Fit team for participating in this year's vehicle safety events.**



## RSVP Donor Honor Roll

We gratefully acknowledge donations received from the following individuals and organizations since our last newsletter, and extend our thanks to each for their generous support.

**Leadership Circle \$1000+**

Robert Lenz  
Harold and Donna Sabot

**Patron \$500 - \$999**

Trudy Brule  
Kit-Yin Ling  
Mary Odell

**Advocate \$100 - \$249**

Anonymous  
Mel Bankes  
Mary Caulfield  
Thomas Duter

Kevin Gould and  
Nancy Bailies  
Linda Green  
Lorrie and John Hylkema  
Mary V. H. Jones  
Lori and Dick Kalnicky  
Carol and Richard Karls  
Kelly Krein  
Judy Peterson  
Susan Ridley  
Ronald Schutz  
Merle and Patricia Sweet  
Ellen T. Wallen

**Partner \$50 - \$99**

Loretta Dichraff  
Barbara Johnson  
Alison Koelsch

**Donor \$1 - \$49**

Jane Bannerman  
Elaine Gerber  
Elaine A. Gundlach  
Josephine Hershberger  
Gary Hoffman  
Doug and Kathy Johnson  
Elaine Meyer

Melvin B. Morgenbesser  
Georgia Punswick  
Melissa and Philip Ratcliff  
Martin Renz  
Eunice M. Schmitz  
Elaine Swenson  
Ingrid Thompson  
Keith and Margie Zutter  
Doris Zweifel

**In-Kind**

Mary Beth Eckels  
Norma Hove  
Annette Stratman-Durrer  
Leo Wehner

**ADT-Monitored Home Security**

Get 24-Hour Protection From a Name You Can Trust

- Burglary
- Fire Safety
- Flood Detection
- Carbon Monoxide



ADT Authorized Provider | SafeStreets | 833-287-3502

**my choice WISCONSIN**

My Choice Wisconsin is a managed care organization that serves government-funded programs to seniors and adults with disabilities in over 50 Wisconsin counties.

**Visit us today:**  
[mychoicewi.org/LPI](http://mychoicewi.org/LPI)  
**1-800-963-0035**

For more information on your long-term care options, contact your local ADRC.

DHS Approved 4/22/2021

**Independence Doesn't Mean Going It Alone.**  
**Local. Experienced. Resourceful.**



**tmg**  
Let's clear the path ahead.

[tmgwisconsin.com](http://tmgwisconsin.com)  
(844) 864-8987

Contact your local Aging and Disability Resource Center to learn about your long-term care options.

**LET'S GROW YOUR BUSINESS**  
**Advertise in our Newsletter!**

**CONTACT ME Ruth Schlitz**

[rschlitz@lpicommunities.com](mailto:rschlitz@lpicommunities.com) • (800) 950-9952 x2671

# RSVP Volunteer Opportunities



... where volunteers make a difference

*"Life is never so busy that there is no time to serve." - author unknown*

**DAIS (Domestic Abuse Intervention Services)** has many volunteer needs right now! **Reception/Front Desk** to greet visitors, **Shelter Chef** to help prepare meals for women and kids once a week, **Court Watch** to observe court hearings, **Help Line Advocates** to answer the 24-hour Help and Text Line, Support Group Advocate to help survivors come together to share experiences and support each other, and **Children's Advocates** involved in structured activities and free play to help individual children and group activities.

You can help senior clients maintain their independence by providing indoor chore help as a **Clutter Care Volunteer** with **WAYFORWARD RESOURCES**. Outdoor chore help is also needed!

**OAKWOOD VILLAGE UNIVERSITY WOODS** senior living needs volunteers with well behaved, sociable pets to visit residents in the new skilled nursing care building that opened this Spring. No pet certification required. **Cashiers** are also needed in the Village Store and Oakleaf Gift Shop. Assisted Living Dining Assistants are also needed to bring residents to and from the dining room and serve beverages.

**MADISON STREET MEDICINE** needs volunteers with medical backgrounds (Doctors, Nurses, EMTs, CAN's) to help provide medical attention to people in the Porchlight Men's Shelter, the Beacon, and on the streets. They also provide a Foot Care Clinic, and volunteers do not need to have a medical background.

**OAKWOOD PREFERRED HOSPICE** is looking for dedicated volunteers to help provide companionship to residents in Hospice Care. Spend an hour visiting with a resident offering love, compassion, and companionship.

**NEWBRIDGE** is in need of Volunteer Guardians and Representative Payees! A **Guardian** is someone appointed by the State of Wisconsin to make medical, housing, and other decisions for an older adult who can no longer manage their finances. A **Representative Payee** is someone who works through the Social Security Administration to help manage the social security funds of an older adult, who can no longer manage their funds. All volunteers will go through training and supervision. Time is flexible and will require 2-6 hours a month.

**FRIENDS OF SCHUMACHER FARM PARK** in Waunakee has volunteer opportunities available for those interested in gardening, prairie restoration, event planning, and educational tours of the historic farmhouse and buildings.

**CATHOLIC MULTICULTURAL CENTER** is looking for someone to teach a **Sewing Class**! Machines and materials are provided. Can you teach a small group basic sewing skills such as using a pattern and making clothing items? They are also in need of **ESL teachers and assistants**. You can help with as little as one class a week for 1.5 hours or help more since each class will meet twice a week.

## FALL VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES (continued)

**HEARTLAND FARM SANCTUARY** in Stoughton needs **Animal Care** volunteers to help with feeding and caring for a wide variety of rescued farm animals. You can help prepare meals for each animal, muck out stalls, or help with grounds and building maintenance in a beautiful farm setting!

Ring the bell and yell “ALL ABOARD!” as a **Train and Carousel Crew** member at **HENRY VILAS ZOO!** Shifts available weekly and every other week from 1-4 pm.

**HABITAT RESTORE** needs volunteers to help sort and shelve used and new building materials and supplies, assist shoppers, and work at the cash register with purchases. Morning and afternoon shifts are available Tuesday – Saturday. Most current need is at the Eastside store on Monona Drive.

**SSM ST MARYS HOSPITAL** needs help with their **At Your Service** program (escorting patients and families, delivering belongings, etc.), **Patient Registration** (welcoming patients and escorting them to their destination), **Surgical Waiting Area** supporting families while their loved one is in surgery, offering caring presence and support through touch and conversation.

**AMERICAN RED CROSS** needs volunteers to welcome donors, help them register, provide friendly support, and assist them with refreshments as a **Blood Donor Ambassador**. As a Red Cross **Blood Transport** driver, you can make sure blood is available for patients in need in Wisconsin.

**AGRACE HOSPICE CARE** has **Kitchen Volunteer** opportunities including Small Batch Baker, Café Cashier, Nutrition Center Stocking, Soup Brigade, and Kitchen Prep to assist the Kitchen Team with small prep and recipe work! It's a great place to use your kitchen and cooking skills.

Please email or call Jan Karst, RSVP Volunteer Programs **Community Connections Coordinator**, at [jkarst@rsvpdane.org](mailto:jkarst@rsvpdane.org) or (608) 441-7891, for more information about these volunteer opportunities.

### *Memorials and Tributes*

*continued from page 15*

#### **CONTRIBUTIONS WERE MADE TO RSVP IN MEMORY OF...**

**Audrey Bankes** by Mel Bankes

**Herman Green** by Linda Green

**Barabara Palmer** by Elaine Swenson and Doris Zweifel

**Len Rush** by Merle and Patricia Sweet

**Eric Smith** by Keith and Margie Zutter

#### **CONTRIBUTIONS WERE MADE TO RSVP IN HONOR OF...**

**Margie Zutter's Retirement** by Lori and Dick Kalnicky, Kit-Yin Ling, Melvin B. Morgenbesser, and Georgia Punswick



## Starting an RSVP Group is a Great Way to Build and Nourish Community!

by Tara Curtis, RSVP Group Projects Coordinator

The Middleton Glen Knit Pickers RSVP group was started during the pandemic when RSVP volunteer and Middleton Glen Retirement Community resident Jo Hershberger noticed that other residents were losing their spirits. “We needed something to do in our apartments,” Jo said, and so she went to work by first reaching out to the Director at Middleton Glen. “I thought ‘I could start a group!’ I’m not a very good knitter, but I could start a group.” Group member and RSVP Volunteer Marge Nelson came up with the name Knit Pickers, and with that a great group was born!

RSVP Group Projects groups are a wonderful way to socialize and find comradery while giving back to the community. One member of the Middleton Knit Pickers joined the group after moving to Middleton Glen from California. Other members work on projects in tandem, playing to their individual skill sets and strengths to create collaborative projects.

Jo says her knitting skills have grown considerably, along with the size of their group and the group’s impact. One member, Hilda McCreight, brought with her some dishcloths knitted by her great-grandchildren during their vacation in the Tetons. The Group also works with another group in the area by collecting their knitted and crocheted squares, and joining them with borders into afghans. Each year, they host the Knit Pickers Fair, which is an opportunity for them to show residents at Middleton Glen what they’ve made over the summer. After the fair, all items are donated to RSVP to be given to Dane County residents in need.

“We can’t function without the reciprocal relationship we have with RSVP,” Jo recently explained to the group. “They supply the yarn, volunteers knit the things, and then RSVP distributes those items to organizations in need.”

The Middleton Glen Knit Pickers is a closed group, meaning that one must be a resident of Middleton Glen Senior Apartments to join. Their story is a great model of how to start a group, and an excellent example of how beneficial groups can be for crafters and their communities. Please contact Tara Curtis at [tcurtis@rsvpdane.org](mailto:tcurtis@rsvpdane.org) for information on getting a group started where you live.



Middleton Glen Knit Pickers, (l to r) front row: Karen Lavsa, Miriam Hansen, Sandie Turczyn; back row: Jo Hershberger, Lorna Everson, Judy Heady, Heidi Bollinger, Hilda McCreight, Sally Kuecken, Johanna DeKeyser, Marge Nelson, and Mary Ann Newman



Middleton Glen Knit Pickers Squares Afghan

**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](http://www.rsvpdane.org/donateonline.html))

Card # \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ 3 Digit Security Code \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_

If you would like, we will send an acknowledgement of your contribution to the person(s) below  
Address \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_ City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_



RSVP of Dane County, 6501 Watts Road, Suite 250, Madison, WI 53719-1397

**THERE'S NO PLACE LIKE HOME**  
Age in place with the help of Visiting Angels  
Custom Care Plan to Fit Your Needs  
608-819-0665  
[www.VisitingAngels.com/MadisonWI](http://www.VisitingAngels.com/MadisonWI)

**ADVERTISE HERE**  
to reach your community  
Call 800-950-9952



**SUPPORT OUR ADVERTISERS!**

**Concerned about Medicare fraud? Give us a call...**

**PROTECT** your personal information  
**DETECT** suspected fraud, abuse, or errors  
**REPORT** suspicious claims or activities

**Toll-free Helpline: 888-818-2611**  
[www.smpwi.org](http://www.smpwi.org)  
WisconsinSeniorMedicarePatrol

**SMP Senior Medicare Patrol**  
Preventing Medicare Fraud

This project was supported, in part by grant number 90MPPG0102-01-00, from the U.S. Administration for Community Living, Department of Health and Human Services, Washington, D.C. 20201.

When life offers the gift of time...  
how will you spend it?

**We'll help you every step of the way.**  
**Offering a continuum of care for seniors:**

- > Independent Living
- > Assisted Living
- > Memory Care
- > Rehabilitation

**Call 608-663-8600 or email [madisonsales@oakparkplace.com](mailto:madisonsales@oakparkplace.com)**  
718 Jupiter Dr., Madison, WI 53718  
[oakparkplace.com/madison](http://oakparkplace.com/madison)

RSVP OF DANE COUNTY  
6501 WATTS ROAD SUITE 250  
MADISON, WI 53719-1397  
EEO/AA EMPLOYER

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Non-Profit  
Organization  
U.S. Postage Paid  
Madison, WI  
Permit #2372

News Notes (Fall, 2023, edition, Vol. 50, No. 4) is the official publication of RSVP of Dane County, Inc. It is published quarterly and sent to Volunteers and Friends of RSVP. **RSVP seeks to improve the quality of life for all Dane County citizens through significant volunteer service.** Membership is voluntary. We are located at 6501 Watts Road, Suite 250, Madison, WI 53719-1397, Telephone: 608.238.7787, FAX: 608.238.7931, Email: [info@rsvpdane.org](mailto:info@rsvpdane.org). Website: [www.rsvpdane.org](http://www.rsvpdane.org). News Notes Editor - Diana Jost; Editorial Assistants - Karen Cunningham and Mike Thomsen. Creative design by Jack Guzman. Bulk Mailing permit #2372.

---

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Deborah Speckmann,  
President  
Tom Howells, Vice President  
Kelly Krein, Secretary  
Jack Anderson, Treasurer

Jane Bannerman  
Karen M. Cunningham  
Carroll Heideman  
Melvin Hinton

Richard R. Hoffman  
Isabel Hubbard  
James G. Jenkins  
LuAnn Paepke

Mary Stamstad  
Muriel Whiteagle-Lee  
Diana Jost, Ex-Officio

### Wayne D. Horner Memorial Stand Down Madison – What is it and When Does it Take Place

Stand Down Madison seeks to help Veterans in the area who are currently experiencing or are at risk of homelessness at an annual event held at the Salvation Army, 3030 Darbo Drive in Madison. This year's event, to be held **Saturday, October 21, 2023 from 8:30 AM until 1:00 PM** marks the 30th Anniversary of Stand Down. RSVP Vets Helping Vets has been part of Stand Down Madison for the past several years as an active board member, volunteer, and community partner. Stand Down Madison began in 1993, with the initial idea and mission initiated by Wayne D. Horner, a Vietnam Veteran and Dane County Veteran Service officer. Unfortunately, Wayne did not live to see the Stand Down take place in Madison, but his comrades from that era made it happen in Dane County in 1993. The services for this event include resources for housing, transportation, food, clothing, massages, foot care, hair-cuts, dental, mental health, financial and legal help, insurance benefits, music, and spiritual care. These services are all provided free of charge by community partners in Dane county and surrounding areas. **Volunteers are especially needed to escort Veterans** to visit with the various partners available to them during this event. Other volunteer opportunities include food prep and serving, set-up and clean-up, errand runners, transportation drivers, and security volunteers. If you are interested and have the time, please sign up on the Stand Down Madison website as a volunteer: <https://www.standdownmadison.org/>. **You can play a part in this day of giving to those men and women who served our country and are now in need of help themselves.**