



# NEWS NOTES

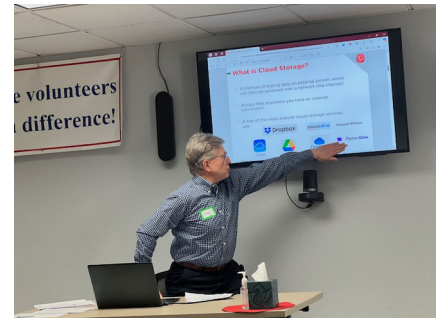
Spring 2025

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

## Triad Introduces Senior Planet Tech Skills Classes!

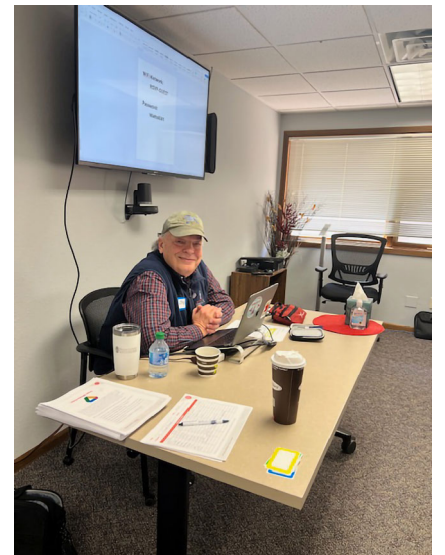
*by Mike Thomsen, Triad Program Coordinator*

**BIG NEWS!** We have begun holding Senior Planet tech skills classes for older adults. Senior Planet from AARP is a nonprofit organization that brings older adults together to help seniors learn new skills, save money, exercise, make new friends, and so much more through the SeniorPlanet.org website and in-person classes, such as those we have begun at the RSVP office. If you enjoy participating online, take advantage of everything on the website. But if you prefer in-person classes, join us at the RSVP office.



So far, we have held three two-and-a-half-hour classes on online security and privacy; smartphone basics; and using cloud storage tools, such as Google Drive and Microsoft OneDrive. The classes have eight to ten participants in addition to the two or three trainers who lead the classes and help participants with their questions and practice activities. These learning opportunities are also a chance to socialize a bit and make new friends. We begin with coffee, tea, donuts, and conversation and finish up with a light lunch and more time to get to know the other participants.

We hope to offer a class every week and eventually to offer classes at locations such as senior centers. But this all depends on our ability to recruit volunteers to take the Senior Planet "Train the Trainer" training and become Senior Planet Trainers. You don't have to be a computer nerd to volunteer to be a Senior Planet Trainer. If you feel reasonably comfortable using a computer, a smartphone, and the Internet, and if you would like to give back to the community by helping older adults improve their tech skills, please consider volunteering. Email Mike at [mthomsen@rsvpdane.org](mailto:mthomsen@rsvpdane.org) to learn more. We Need You!



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## RSVP Board Notes

Welcome to Spring! I hope you have an opportunity to get out in the warmer weather.

It is with a heavy heart that I share the passing of Richard Hoffman, a longtime Board Member. Richard was President of the Board before my term began. He was a warm and caring individual, as well as extremely knowledgeable. He was Chairman of the Board's Grants Committee and was an integral part of our Covid-19 Policy Group. Richard was very active in the Stoughton Community and oversaw our RSVP Drivers' Services Program for the Stoughton area. Richard will be very much missed.

The Board did not meet in February due to scheduling conflicts; however, the various Committees did meet. Notably, the Finance Committee met to discuss the budget for this year.

The Development and Grants Committees have merged. A calendar of grant due dates was developed. If you know of any grants which meet our Mission, please let Diana Jost know at [djost@rsvpdane.org](mailto:djost@rsvpdane.org). If you are interested in writing grants, please also contact Diana Jost.

The Marketing Committee met to discuss how to increase RSVP's footprint. The Madison Metro bus wraparounds were a success, bringing in several new volunteer drivers. This year marks the 50th Anniversary of Drivers' Services. The next Board Meeting is scheduled for Monday, April 21st, at 1:30 p.m.

On Wednesday, April 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2025, RSVP will host an Open House between the hours of 1:00 and 3:00 p.m. at our office at 6501 Watts Road, Suite 250. Many Staff and Board Members will be present to answer questions and offer conversation. We hope to see you then.

Deborah Ann Speckmann

President, RSVP Board of Directors



# From the Desk of...

*Diana Jost*  
Executive Director

## Survey Says.....

Each year, RSVP sends a survey to all volunteers to ensure they enjoy their assignment, feel like they are making a difference in their community, and feel productive and appreciated. We also ask if volunteering helps them feel more connected to the community, and less isolated; if volunteering helps them feel more active, and healthy; and if volunteering helps give

them a more positive outlook.

This year, about 350 people responded to the survey.

- 94% reported that they felt their volunteer work helps meet important community needs.
- 95% reported feeling appreciated, and 94% felt productive in their volunteer role.
- 91% reported that they feel volunteering helps

keep them healthy and active.

- 93% reported that they feel volunteering gives them a more positive outlook.
- 86% reported that their volunteer experience helps them stay more connected to the community and feel less isolated and alone.

Research shows that social isolation leads to poor health, increased risk of mortality, and other



negative outcomes. RSVP volunteers, through their dedicated service, stay connected to each other and their community,

*(continued on page 6)*





**Retired & Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) of Dane County**  
shines a light on the enduring contributions of volunteers during  
**National Volunteer Week, April 20-26, 2025!**

## **RSVP of Dane County VOLUNTEER OPEN HOUSE**

**Wednesday April 23<sup>rd</sup>, 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM**

**RSVP Office: 6501 Watts Road, Suite 250, Madison**

**Are you 55+? Looking for service opportunities that feed your soul  
AND match your schedule? Meet our Volunteer Coordinators on  
April 23<sup>rd</sup> to learn how you can make a difference in our community!  
CURRENT VOLUNTEERS ARE ENCOURAGED TO COME FOR FELLOWSHIP  
& NEW OPPORTUNITIES!**

**Visit [www.rsvpdane.org](http://www.rsvpdane.org) or call 608.238.7787**



**AmeriCorps  
Seniors**







WHERE VOLUNTEERS  
MAKE A DIFFERENCE

## **RSVP of Dane County BUS BUDDY Group Outings**

**Are you an older adult (age 60 or over) interested in learning how to navigate the Madison Metro Bus System while enjoying a fun, social outing? Join us!**

- ✓ Trips are free of charge!
- ✓ All participants will receive a bus pass to use for any of the scheduled outings /tours they register for!
- ✓ An RSVP Volunteer Bus Buddy Coordinator will work with you to plan your route!

### **BUS BUDDY 2025 SCHEDULE**

- Thursday, May 22<sup>nd</sup>                      WI Veterans Museum, (downtown), 10 AM
- Tuesday, June 24<sup>th</sup>                      Fired Up Pottery, 10 AM
- Thursday, July 24<sup>th</sup>                      UW Space Place, 11 AM
- Thursday, August 21<sup>st</sup>                      Forest Products Laboratory Tour, 9:30 AM

To participate, please register with Jan Karst by calling **608-441-7891** or emailing [jkarst@rsvpdane.org](mailto:jkarst@rsvpdane.org).



This program is funded in part by the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) as authorized Under 49 U.S.C. § 5310 Mobility Options of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities Program (CFDA 20.521).



## Meet Volunteer Jan Stuebinger

*By Julia Pierstorff, Group Projects Program Coordinator*

**M**y friends think I have thread in place of blood! My name is Jan Stuebinger, and I am a dedicated longarm quilter as well as a member of the RSVP team.

My career as a home economist has included serving as the department chair of the textile department and teacher at Waukesha County Technical Institute and department chair of Family and Careers at Mukwonago High School.

Since retirement I have created quilts for the Women's Community Center in Wausau, Help in Door County, GSafe, and RSVP. And, of course, my family has multiple quilts!

I was told about RSVP by the owner of Blue Bar Quilts. Gayle suggested I give RSVP a call. Since then, I have created numerous twin size quilts with a creative assist from my husband, Lowell. He is a retired engineer who masters the computer creating quilting patterns. He also cuts fabric with the rotary cutter thus allowing me more time to piece.

Creating and donating those twin size quilts for children and adults is my pleasure. There are so many in need of help. This is my way of keeping a few warm and aware people care.



**Jan Steubinger and husband Lowell**

*(continued from page 3)*

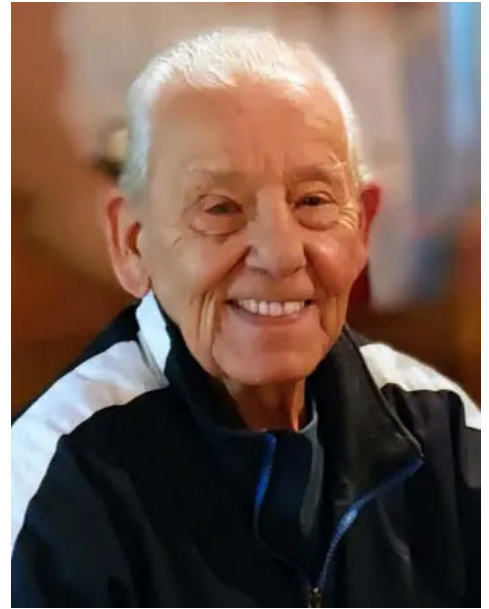
reducing the risk of social isolation for themselves while improving the lives of those they serve.

Over 50% of our volunteers join because they learn about our programs through friends, neighbors, or relatives. Please help us reach as many people as possible by sharing what you do and emphasizing the importance of your volunteer efforts. We all need to feel appreciated, productive, and connected to our community!

## Remembering Dick Hoffman

**D**ick Hoffman dedicated over 17 years of service as a volunteer with RSVP of Dane County, making significant contributions in a variety of roles. He shared his vast business expertise as a member of the RSVP Board of Directors and as Board President. Dick also served on the Finance, Grant, Executive, and Personnel Committees. When the Covid-19 pandemic hit, he stepped up to lead the Covid-19 Committee, ensuring the organization adapted to new challenges. Additionally, Dick served as the Driver Escort Coordinator in Stoughton and volunteered as a VHV driver. He consistently served in a supportive role, always going above and beyond to demonstrate his unwavering dedication to service. He was passionate about helping others and made a lasting impact through his actions and support. Throughout his time with RSVP, Dick contributed an impressive 6,721.5 hours of service.

We are grateful for all of Dick's leadership and service. He will always be remembered and honored in memoriam, 2025.





## Can You Help? Driver Services Volunteers Needed!

*by Camela King, Driver Services Program Coordinator*

**R**SVP's Driver Services program needs you -- now!

The number of new passengers flooding into RSVP's Driver Services program is wildly outpacing the number of new drivers we have signing up to help.

Seniors in your community face challenges in getting meals and access to healthcare visits due to limited mobility and lack of public transportation. **Can you help?**

If you've got a car and some free time, **yes, you can**, and we should talk!

### Why Volunteer?

- **Make a Difference:** Help seniors maintain their independence and health by ensuring they receive the nutrition and medical care they need.
- **Flexible Scheduling:** You can choose your availability, whether it's a few hours a week or a few times a month.
- **Mileage Reimbursement:** 70 cents per mile!
- **Meet Wonderful People:** You'll be surprised by the friendships you'll form.

### Interested?

If you're interested in becoming a volunteer driver, please reach out to:

Steve Jaeschke, Driver Services Manager, 608.441.7892

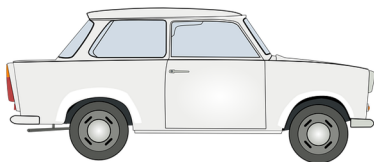
Camela King, Driver Services Coordinator, 608.441.7896.

### SAVE THE DATE!

### RSVP's Annual Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon

**Celebrating 50 YEARS of Driver Services &  
25 YEARS of Foster Grandparent programs!**

**Thursday, September 25, 2025  
Barnwood Events, Madison**



**Watch for invitations arriving in August.**

**SPECIAL NOTE: Only volunteers reporting hours in the last year will receive invitations.  
Submit your volunteer hours and join in the celebration!**

## WELCOME New Volunteers

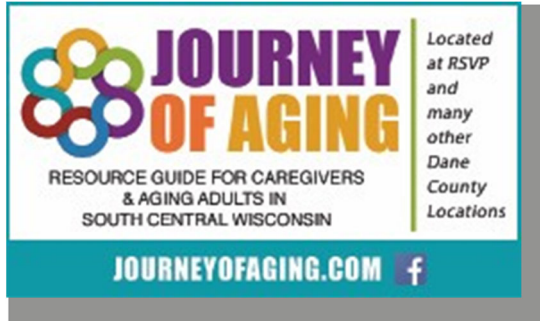

We enrolled new volunteers from January 2025 through March 2025, serving in a wide variety of assignments throughout Dane County. Do you know someone who might like to volunteer? RSVP volunteers are our best recruiters as they spread the word about why they like volunteering and the need for more volunteers. Please pass this newsletter on to a friend or neighbor and tell them what RSVP means to you!

Sue Ackerman  
Linda Albedyll  
Deborah Anderson  
Sandy Baron  
Terry M. Barton  
Caroline Benforado  
Logan J. Berglund  
Debbie K. Bongard  
Barbara Boushon  
Gayle Boushon  
Stephanie Bradley Wilson  
Sarah Calvin  
David W. Charles  
Victoria Chi  
Debra S. Chicks  
Terry M. Cline  
Ralph M. Cohen  
Carol Crotty  
Beth Dodsworth  
Ceferina J. Dunn  
Pamela Edl  
Lucinda (Cindy) Eley  
Donna Erickson

Mary Evenson  
Sandra M. Faust  
Steven J. Freitag  
JoAnn A. Gallagher  
Emma Gribble  
Karen Grochowski  
Kenneth Grochowski  
Ralph Guerin  
Mary Heckard  
John C. Henke  
Molly Hoholik  
Joanie Hopkins  
Emma Johnson  
Peggy Kalscheur  
Donna Ketelboer  
Barbara (Barbie) Kippley  
Michael Klawitter  
Margo M. Komplin  
Doris Kontos  
Phyllis Kornemann  
Sara Krebsbach  
Diane Lee  
Charles M. Litweiler

Victor W. Marsh  
Cathy A. Martin  
Zoe A. McGraw  
Kathy McKenzie  
Carol McNeill  
Bonnie McSherry  
Lucy Meier  
Janet Murdock  
Diane Newby  
Mark A. Oldenburg  
Linda Othrow  
Brandy R. Pate  
Deb Pollock  
Grace Ravnika  
Susan Rees  
Joan Richner  
Angela S. Riedel  
John P. Roberts  
Mary J. Roberts  
Margaret A. Roberts  
Karen P. Rogers  
Cindy E. Rykal  
Douglas A. Rykal



Warren N. Sarbacker  
Becky L. Schmidt  
Mark Shapleigh  
Mike Shelton  
Sara Siddiqui  
Tracy Simonson  
Alex Singer  
Jodi Slattery  
Lane A. Slotten  
Virginia Slawicki  
Donna Strabala  
Roseanne Strohl  
Michael Vivian  
Jim Warner  
Wayne A. Weis  
Jon Wellik  
Bette Whited  
James R. Wick  
Edna Wrchota  
Sara Yaeger

**DRIVE CHANGE, ONE RIDE AT A TIME**  
Join the RSVP of Dane County Team of Volunteer Drivers!

- Take seniors & veterans to essential medical appointments
- Receive reimbursement at 70 cents/mile
- Set your own schedule, weekdays only
- Get covered with extra liability insurance


Visit [www.rsvpdane.org](http://www.rsvpdane.org)  
or call 608-441-7896

 AmeriCorps Seniors  



committed to our  
**community**

Invested in the growth, health and success of those we serve.

 UnityPoint Health Meriter | PARTNER OF **UWHealth**

## Target Fundraising Opportunity

To our Friends and Supporters,

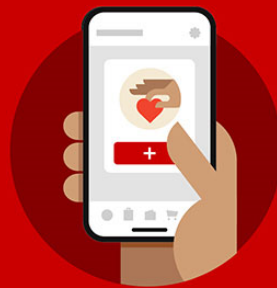
We are honored and excited to announce that we have been chosen to participate in a special charitable giving campaign sponsored and funded by Target. Now through June 30th, vote for us through the Target Circle program to help determine how Target's giving campaign will be divvied up. Find out more about Target Circle here: [www.target.com/circle](http://www.target.com/circle).

Please help us make the most of this incredible opportunity! Every vote counts, and you can vote multiple times through June 30th. Thank you for your support and please pass this info around!

We're a **Target Circle** participant  
and here's how you can vote for us.



1 Choose  
My Target



2 Tap  
Cast votes



3 Find us &  
vote



**April is National Volunteer Month, and we want to take a moment to recognize and thank all of our incredible RSVP and Foster Grandparent volunteers.**

Your dedication and generosity make a meaningful difference in our community every single day. We are truly grateful for everything you do and so proud to have such an inspiring group of volunteers as part of the RSVP family!



## Want to get in Touch with Us?

Simply dial 608.238.RSVP (7787) or e-mail us at [info@rsvpdane.org](mailto: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

Diana Jost, *Executive Director*  
608.441.1393, [djost@rsvpdane.org](mailto:djost@rsvpdane.org)  
Kate Seal, *Assistant Director*  
608.661.4271, [kseal@rsvpdane.org](mailto:kseal@rsvpdane.org)  
Jack Guzman, *Office Support Administrator*  
608.238.7933,  
[jguzman@rsvpdane.org](mailto:jguzman@rsvpdane.org)  
Krishna Sijapati, *Accountant*  
608.441.7899, [ksijapati@rsvpdane.org](mailto:ksijapati@rsvpdane.org)

### PROGRAM COORDINATORS

Jan Karst, *Community Connections Coordinator*  
608.441.7891, [jkarst@rsvpdane.org](mailto:jkarst@rsvpdane.org)  
Paula Reif, *Foster Grandparent and Intergenerational Program Coordinator*  
608.441.7894, [preif@rsvpdane.org](mailto:preif@rsvpdane.org)  
Julia Pierstorff, *Group Projects/Homeworkers Program Coordinator*  
608.310.7280,  
[jpierstorff@rsvpdane.org](mailto:jpierstorff@rsvpdane.org)

Mike Thomsen, *Triad Coordinator*  
608.441.7897,  
[mthomsen@rsvpdane.org](mailto:mthomsen@rsvpdane.org)

### DRIVER SERVICES PROGRAM

Steve Jaeschke, *Driver Services Manager*  
608.441.7892,  
[sjaeschke@rsvpdane.org](mailto:sjaeschke@rsvpdane.org)  
Camela King, *Driver Services Coordinator*  
608.441.7896, [cking@rsvpdane.org](mailto:cking@rsvpdane.org)  
Dell Barlow, *Madison/Monona Ride Coordinator*  
608.441.7898, [dbarlow@rsvpdane.org](mailto:dbarlow@rsvpdane.org)  
Lorrie Hylkema, *Vets Helping Vets Coordinator*  
608.238.7901,  
[lhylkema@rsvpdane.org](mailto:lhylkema@rsvpdane.org) or  
[vetshelpingvets@rsvpdane.org](mailto:vetshelpingvets@rsvpdane.org)  
Debbie Vogt, *Driver Services Administrative Assistant and Bus Buddy Program Assistant*  
608.310.7281,  
[dvogt@rsvpdane.org](mailto:dvogt@rsvpdane.org)

# Reduce your risk of falling at home.

- Avoid placing electric cords across walkways
- Stay alert when pets are underfoot
- Remove clutter from stairs and walkways
- Keep a clear path to frequently accessed spaces



• Participate in the  
Home Safety Challenge

**UWHealth**



L1-2117556-25



## **Behind on Your Energy Bill? Madison Gas and Electric can Help.**

*From Madison Gas and Electric Company (MGE)*

Have you fallen behind on your MGE bills and can't pay in full by the due date? MGE is here to help.

Customers who are behind on their MGE bill can work with our customer service representatives to set up a personalized payment arrangement, also called a Deferred Payment Agreement (DPA), and discuss financial assistance that may be available from our community partners. A payment, even if minimal, and an established payment arrangement, can help customers who are behind on their bills and may prevent collection activity, late-payment fees or potential disconnection of service.

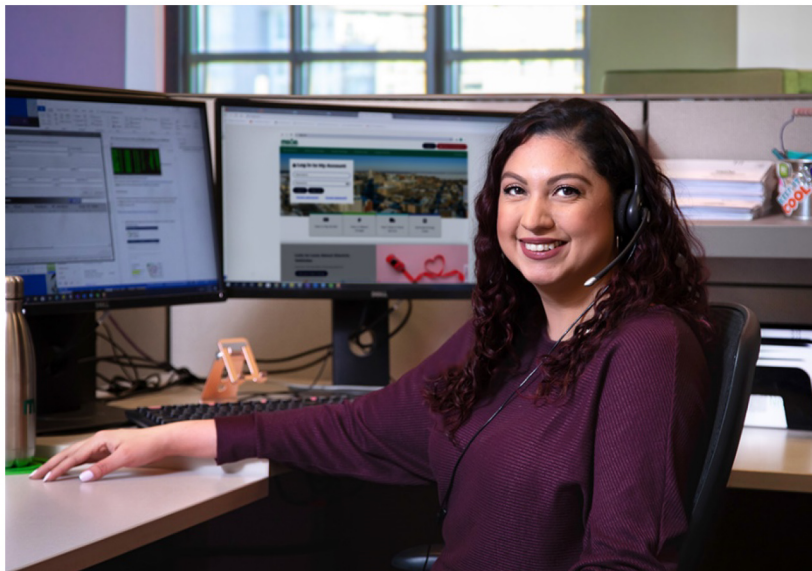
### **Contact MGE.**

Our customer service representatives are available to help. Contact us Monday through Friday at (608) 252-7144 between 7 a.m. and 7 p.m. to set up your payment arrangement.

### **Need Financial Assistance?**

Financial assistance may be available for your household through Energy Services, Inc. (ESI). Visit [esiwi.com](http://esiwi.com) to see if you're eligible. Visit [energybenefit.wi.gov](http://energybenefit.wi.gov) to apply online for Home Energy Plus assistance.

Find other community resources at [mge.com/help](http://mge.com/help).





# 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-\$2,000+

Grant and Nancy Gelhar

## Builders \$1,000-\$1,999

Leroy Adler

Thomas and Margie Krauskopf  
NewBridge

Harold and Donna Sabot

Mary Stamstad

Tom and Kathy Thousand  
Oregon-Brooklyn Memorial  
VFW Post 10272

## Facilitators \$500-\$999

Trudy Brule

## Sustainers \$250-\$499

Norman Bair

Thomas Duter

Mary Odell

## Partners \$100-\$249

Edward Baker

Charles and Joanne Bunge

Bruce Erickson

Mark Kolan

Maurice and Colleen

McCormick

McFarland Lioness Club

Bonnie McKenzie

Mt. Zion Baptist Church

St. John and St. Paul Lutheran  
Churches

Nan Weyer

## Friends \$1-\$99

Sherrie L. Belter

Jeanne Edmunds

Robert H. Gwynne

Debra Hallgren

Molly Hoholik

Theodore H. Johnson

Vib Kale

Bonnie Manglos

Maxine Meixner

Larry R. Noyce

Mary Riek

Robert and Mary Ann Welch

Laverne York

Keith and Margie Zutter

## In-Kind

Jeffrey L. Beatty

Donna Christesen

Ron Gatti

Linda Longenecker

Sandy Madelung

Brenda Stephens



## MEMORIALS AND TRIBUTES



**M**emorial 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:

Virginia Adler, Audrey Boushon, Dick Hoffman, and Georgia Post

### CONTRIBUTIONS WERE MADE TO RSVP IN HONOR OF:

Jack and Donna Anderson, Audrey Boushon, Dave Tetzlaff, Rita Haring, Isabel Hubbard, Ed and Elaine Huck, Lorrie and John Hylkema, Margie Zutter, and RSVP Volunteers

## New RSVP Funding

### March 2025 Fundraising

\$200 donation from **Mt. Zion Baptist Church Ministry** for our Group Projects & Homeworkers Program. Thank you for this generous donation.

\$2,500 donation from **UnityPoint Health - Meriter**. Thank you for your continued sponsorship.

\$1,000 donation from **Mike & Barbara Foley**. We are grateful for your continued sponsorship.

\$500 donation from **Corporate Business Systems**. Thank you for your continued sponsorship.

## Special Thank You In Memory of Laura Werner

RSVP welcomes all donations in support of our Group Projects program. We extend our heartfelt thanks to the Werner Family for their memorial gift in honor of their daughter, Laura. Their generous contribution, directed toward Group Projects—particularly our partnership with Madison Street Medicine—continues to help us purchase a large supply of flannel and fleece used to create items of warmth donated to MSM this year.



Dear RSVP Staff,

I write a lot of thank yous to your amazing volunteers, but I wanted to send you a note. The impact your work has on the community is profound. I've had the honor of engaging with your staff for several years now. I just wanted you to hear you are incredible people. So kind + helpful for your volunteers + the community. You have helped countless people on both sides. Thank you for your services.  
Dana Maynard + MSM



## RSVP VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

*...where volunteers make a difference*

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

### SPRING OPPORTUNITIES

**HENRY VILAS ZOO** is ready for volunteers to help with the Zoo train and carousel! They would also like to have Gate Greeters to welcome visitors!

Help support adult students, immigrants, and refugees achieve their literacy goals by being a volunteer tutor with the **LITERACY NETWORK**! Training and ongoing support will be provided.

**NEIGHBORHOOD HOUSE COMMUNITY CENTER** needs volunteers to help host their Memory Café – a social gathering for anyone with memory loss or dementia. They meet on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of each month from 11:00 am -12:30 pm followed by a Healthy Living Luncheon (‘lunch and learn’) and discussion of health topics. Volunteers can assist where they feel comfortable: help with set up, welcome guests, engage attendees in conversation, help serve snacks and meals, or help with clean up.

Volunteers are also needed for the Connections program on Thursdays from 10:00 am -12:00 pm. Connections is a casual drop-in program for older adults (age 50 plus). Volunteers prepare coffee and set up the Community Room to welcome guests, engage in conversation, games, cards, or any other casual connections.

**CATHOLIC MULTICULTURAL CENTER** needs help delivering fresh and healthy food to local schools! Their Culinary Creations Catering enterprise delivers catering orders prepared by trainees and staff to four area schools each weekday. Volunteers are asked to sign up for a weekly shift, one day each week, driving the CCC catering van, so it is not necessary to have your own vehicle. All you need are good driving skills and the ability to do moderate lifting (15-20 lbs.).

**PHONE PALS**, RSVP’s new friendly caller program, is partnering with NewBridge and the Goodman Community Center to recruit volunteers who would like to call an isolated senior once a week to check in and chat for a few minutes. Volunteers will be matched with someone in the community who needs some connection and a friendly voice!

**BADGER PRAIRIE NEEDS NETWORK** is a resource center in Verona – totally run by volunteers – that provides not only a Food Pantry but many other social services and resources in Dane County. Volunteers are needed to help with shifts in the Food Pantry, and with picking up and delivering donated food from stores and businesses in the area.

**HABITAT RESTORE** needs volunteers to do construction and to help sort and shelve used and new building materials and supplies, assist shoppers, and work at the cash register with purchases.

#### Donation Processing – ReStore East

- Help at our ReStores, which are critical to raising funds that allow Habitat to build affordable housing.



*(continued from page 16)*

This work includes unloading the donation truck, sorting through donated items, assembling/repairing small items, and merchandising the store floor. Shifts are Tuesday-Saturday from 9:00 am -1:00 pm or 1:00 pm - 5:00pm.

- Location: 4207 Monona Dr, Madison WI

### **Construction – Oregon**

- Build homes with us! No experience is needed: all tools and training will be provided on site. This work includes any number of construction tasks! Be sure to dress for the weather! We welcome volunteers to help build duplexes in Oregon, Thursdays-Saturdays, 8:15 am -3:30 pm.

- Location: 557 Kay Ct, Oregon WI

**SOCIAL JUSTICE CENTER** on Williamson St. connects people with needed resources like food, housing, and other essential living services. They need volunteers to help with their food pantry and information desk.

**BRAILLE LIBRARY AND TRANSCRIPTION SERVICES** is gearing up for their Fall training for volunteer transcribers, who prepare and provide books in braille. You can learn to turn print into braille! All transcribers take a one-year braille transcription course that consists of weekly classes and culminates in certification by the Library of Congress.

**WHEELS FOR WINNERS** is an earn-a-bike program that rehabs used bikes and offers them to participants who earn them through community service. You can help clean and fix bikes and see the smiles on kids' faces when they earn a bike and helmet!

**ALDO LEOPOLD NATURE CENTER** needs dedicated volunteers at their reception desk to engage with visitors, assist community members in person and via phone and email, and perform administrative tasks. Weekday and weekend shifts are available!

**SECOND HARVEST FOOD BANK** needs volunteers to help sort, label, and pack food into family-friendly portions for distribution. Volunteer projects are well-organized, safe, and led by wonderful staff members! Shifts are flexible and easy to sign up for!

**ST VINCENT'S FOOD PANTRY** needs more volunteers to help sort and shelve produce in the mornings from 8:00 am - 10:00 am. They also have shifts for Client Greeters, Online Order Fillers, Outside Food Loaders, and Cart Re-loading and Running. The need for food resources has increased and many volunteers are needed to keep the Food Pantry running.

**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.

**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.

**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), and Surgical Waiting Area (supporting families while their loved one is in surgery), offering a caring presence and support.

*(continued on page 18)*

(continued from page 17)

**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! Great place to use your kitchen and cooking skills.

**REACH DANE EAST MADISON** is seeking compassionate volunteers to assist teachers and staff in a newly opened classroom supporting parents transitioning to work. The program provides temporary childcare for families who are seeking long-term employment. If you love nurturing children and want to help create a safe, supportive environment for our youngest community members, they would love to have you join their volunteer team! Email Paula, our Intergenerational Program Coordinator, [preif@rsvpdane.org](mailto:preif@rsvpdane.org), for information about specific responsibilities, time commitment, schedule, children's ages, and more.

Please contact Jan Karst, RSVP Volunteer Programs Community Connections Coordinator, for more information about these Volunteer Opportunities at [jkarst@rsvpdane.org](mailto:jkarst@rsvpdane.org) or 608.441.7891.



## Update on the Foster Grandparent Program

By Paula Reif, RSVP Foster Grandparent Program Coordinator

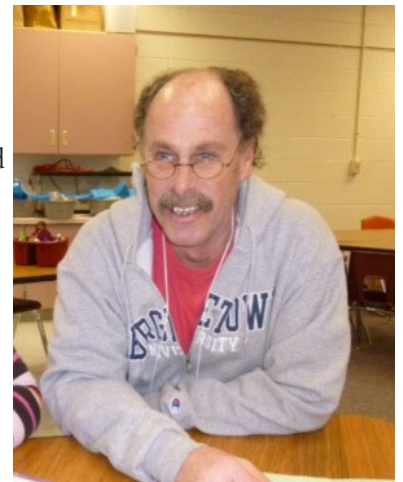
The Foster Grandparents learned about the treasure trove of services, support, and enrichment opportunities offered to older adults by the Goodman Community Center at their in-service training held on February 21st. Gayle Laszewski, Assistant Director of Older Adult Programs at Goodman, provided an overview of these programs and services and took the Foster Grandparents on a tour of the Center. Everyone enjoyed a great meal prepared by the Goodman congregate meal staff. To learn more about the Goodman Community Center and all it has to offer, visit their website <https://www.goodmancenter.org/> or contact Gayle at 608.204.8032 for more information.

If you are interested in learning more about the Foster Grandparent Program, visit the FGP webpage <https://www.rsvpdane.org/programs/foster-grandparents/> or email Paula, the RSVP Foster Grandparent Program Coordinator, at [preif@rsvpdane.org](mailto:preif@rsvpdane.org).



RSVP Foster Grandparents meet at the Goodman Community Center in Madison

With heavy hearts we share news of the sudden passing of Foster Grandparent Ken Alexander April 6. Ken faithfully served as a Foster Grandparent since 2011, and was passionate about supporting the students at Hawthorne Elementary school. He dedicated many volunteer hours each year tending the school garden, offering families connected with the school a place to grow fresh food. Ken is remembered fondly by school staff and students, fellow Foster Grandparents, and the RSVP staff.



Ken Alexander

**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

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



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## RSVP Calendar

### April

**April 21**, Board Meeting, RSVP Office. 1:30 - 3:00 pm

**April 23**, RSVP's ANNUAL OPEN HOUSE! RSVP Office

### May

**May 26**, Office closed for Memorial Day holiday

### June

**June 16**, RSVP's Annual Meeting, Time TBD

**June 19**, Office closed for Juneteenth holiday

**June 25**, June Zoom Event, featuring Braille Library & Transcribing Services, Inc., 1:00 pm