

RSVP of Dane County

...where volunteers make a difference

Retired and Senior Volunteer Program and Foster Grandparent Program

2024 Annual Report



Our 52nd Year

RSVP...where volunteers make a difference

The theme for 2024, 'NEIGHBORS HELPING NEIGHBORS', captures the spirit of RSVP of Dane County. Volunteering is, at its heart, about caring for one another, and RSVP is honored to be the bridge that connects seniors with opportunities to give back and make a real difference in the lives of others. We are committed to supporting local seniors and veterans in ways that strengthen our entire community, harnessing the power of volunteerism to make a meaningful difference.

Highlights from 2024:

- The annual April Open House embraced an international theme, featuring global cuisine from local restaurants and grocers. The event provided a valuable opportunity for community outreach, helping to inform both new and current volunteers about the full range of RSVP programs. Held during National Volunteer Week, it also celebrated the lasting impact of our volunteers.
- In 2024, the RSVP Vets Helping Vets (VHV) Program hosted two special events honoring veterans. In April, an event at the Middleton VFW featured Kevin Hampton, curator and historian from the Wisconsin Veterans Museum, who gave a presentation on World War I. In November, the Annual Veterans Day event included a performance by local veteran band Vets for Frets and a presentation by Kevin Hampton titled "*Wisconsin Was There: D-Day.*"
- On September 11, RSVP held its annual drive-thru donation event in remembrance of 9/11. Staff and volunteers collected food and essential items for the Social Justice Center's resource pantry.
- In September, we celebrated RSVP's 52nd anniversary with a 'Mad Hatter Tea Party-themed' volunteer appreciation event at Barnwood Events in Madison. Dr. Roopa Shah gave the keynote address, and John Stofflet served as master of ceremonies. More than 200 volunteers, partner representatives, funders, and sponsors attended to honor the vital contributions of our volunteers. Six volunteers received the President's Lifetime Achievement Award for contributing over 4,000 hours, and 18 received the RSVP Length of Service Award for 20 years of continuous service.
- The Driver Services Program launched a comprehensive marketing campaign to recruit more volunteer drivers, addressing the growing number of passengers in need of medical rides. One of the most successful recruitment tools was our bus tail advertisements, created in partnership with Madison Metro Transit.
- Monthly Zoom presentations were offered to volunteers, partners, and community members to help prevent loneliness and social isolation among seniors. Presentations included guest speakers from Henry Vilas Zoo, Gentle Breeze Honey, Aldo Leopold Nature Center, and Gail Ambrosius Chocolatier.
- In November, a two-part virtual Triad Conference was held, focusing on two key themes: *Senior Safety in Our Digital World* and *Senior Safety at Home*. The event featured four professional presentations that provided valuable education to older adults and professionals from Dane County, as well as participants from ten other counties across Wisconsin.

2024 was a year of growth and impact. Over 1,240 volunteers contributed 136,708 service hours across more than 80 nonprofit and public agencies. We welcomed 244 new volunteers and added several new stations. By partnering with local nonprofits, we created new volunteer opportunities, such as the Phone Pals Program. Together with NewBridge, Goodman Community Center, and Madison Senior Center, we secured a state grant to combat social isolation among older adults. We launched a new senior tech training program in collaboration with Senior Planet from AARP. Most volunteers returned to in-person service while we continued to offer fun virtual options. We sincerely thank all our volunteers for their dedication and the difference they make in our community.

Diana Jost, Executive Director

HISTORY, MISSION, AND VISION STATEMENT

HISTORY

In 1969, the Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) was created as a national volunteer program under the Administration on Aging as part of the Older Americans Act. In 1971, eleven programs were launched, and they became part of the national volunteer agency ACTION (now the Corporation for National and Community Service-AmeriCorps Seniors programs.)

In 1972, we became the first RSVP program in Wisconsin. In 2000, we added a Foster Grandparent Program (FGP). Today, 170,000 AmeriCorps Seniors volunteers in RSVP, FGP, and Senior Companion programs serve nationwide. With over 1,200 volunteers, RSVP of Dane County is one of the largest AmeriCorps Seniors programs in the United States.

MISSION

To make a positive impact in the community by recruiting volunteers 55 and older to help public and nonprofit organizations deliver essential services to people of all ages and identities, providing Dane County with a valuable resource.

RSVP seeks to:

- ◆ utilize the skills, knowledge, and life experiences of people who are retired, helping them to lead healthy, productive lives;
- ◆ respond to increasing requests for volunteers to help meet critical needs;
- ◆ increase the variety of volunteer opportunities;
- ◆ provide opportunities for intergenerational projects and age-integrated activities;
- ◆ plan programming in cooperation with the groups, agencies, and institutions with which it is involved, as needed and requested;
- ◆ involve volunteers in planning and decision-making on community programs, boards, and committees;
- ◆ increase public awareness concerning contributions and needs of people age 55 and older, and improve the image of aging.

VISION

RSVP aspires to build and expand a community-wide network of volunteers and organizations that value individual differences, life experiences, knowledge, innovation, self-expression, and talent.

RSVP strives to enrich the lives of senior volunteers and enhance support services for all Dane County residents.

BOARD and COMMITTEE MEMBERS

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Deborah Speckmann, President
Retired, Employee Trust Funds
Employee

Karen M. Cunningham
Retired, U.S. Department of the
Interior

LuAnn Paepke
Retired, State of Wisconsin FGP
Coordinator

Tom Howells, Vice President
Retired, Wisconsin Motor Carriers
Association

Carroll Heideman
Retired, MMSD Teacher

Robert Smith
Retired, COO, Gray Television
(Broadcasting)

Kelly Krein, Secretary
Student Government Advisor, UW-
Madison

Melvin Hinton
Teacher, Performing Artist,
Radio Host

Mary Stamstad
Retired, RSVP of Dane County

Jack Anderson, Treasurer
Retired, University Teaching

Isabel Hubbard
Retired, Educator

Muriel Whiteagle-Lee
Volunteer with Ho-Chunk Nation
Tribal Advisory Board

Jane Bannerman
Retired, College Library, UW-
Madison

James G. Jenkins
Retired, State of Wisconsin, Project
Employee, Dane County Department
of Human Services

In Memoriam
Richard R. Hoffman

Pat Carroll
Retired, Special Education Director

RSVP COMMITTEES

Board Committees:

Assessment
Development
Executive
Financial Oversight
and Planning
Grants
Marketing
Nominating
Personnel
Recognition

Support Committees and Subcommittees:

Triad Conference Planning
Dane County Triad
FGP Advisory Council

RSVP COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Courtney Anclam, Jack Anderson,
Michael Austin, Jane Bannerman,
Kevin Brown, Diana Camargo,
Karen Cunningham, Mary Dwyer,
Patricia Eldred, Leslie Fox, Lea
Gough, Kevin Gould, Melvin
Hinton, Tom Howells, Isabel
Hubbard, Jim Jenkins, Margaret
Jensen, Tom Krauskopf, Kelly
Krein, Sandy Kreul, Bernie
Kowalchyk, Gene Kundert,
Beverly Maddrell, Neal
McCallum, Heidi Meyer, Mary
Odell, Larry Orr, Pat Osborn,
LuAnn Paepke, Mike Plautz, Srin
Ramachandra, Lisa Reilly,
Rebecca Rogers, Harold Sabot,
Amy Scarr, Tiffany Schultz,
Robert Smith, Deborah
Speckmann, Mary Stamstad,
Luann Williams, Laura Whitmore,
Peggy York

WHO WE ARE/VOLUNTEERS IN SERVICE

RSVP seeks to utilize the skills, knowledge, and life experiences of older adults, helping them lead healthy, productive lives while making a positive impact in the community. RSVP volunteers provide direct service, helping a wide variety of public and nonprofit organizations in Dane County. What makes RSVP so unique? Volunteers are personally interviewed and matched with appropriate assignments that meet their time, interest, and lifestyle needs, as well as skills required by community agencies. We also provide regular follow-up to ensure volunteer satisfaction. Survey results indicate that over 94% of RSVP volunteers feel their volunteer work keeps them active, and that they have a more positive outlook because they help their community.

2024 Volunteers in Service

Total volunteer hours: 144,385

This is the equivalent of more than 139 employees working twenty hours per week dedicated to serving thousands of Dane County residents in need! Our volunteer hours are valued at over \$5.02 million using data reported by the Independent Sector (www.independentsector.org).

Total volunteers reporting hours: 1,260

Gender: 31.2% Male, 68.8% Female

Number of Volunteers by Age

Honorary	117	9.3%
Age 55-59	46	3.7%
Age 60-69	276	21.9%
Age 70-79	547	43.4%
Age 80-84	164	13.0%
Age 85+	110	8.7%

Number of Volunteers by Community

Belleville - 94
Black Earth - 10
Blue Mounds - 4
Brooklyn - 14
Cottage Grove - 11
Cross Plains - 16
Dane - 4
Deerfield - 7
DeForest - 60
Lodi - 5
Madison/Monona/Fitchburg - 356
McFarland - 52
Marshall - 6
Mazomanie - 8
Middleton - 105
Mt. Horeb - 36
New Glarus - 11
Oregon - 94
Stoughton - 55
Sun Prairie - 42
Verona - 119
Waunakee - 113
Windsor - 12
Other Communities - 26
Total volunteers recruited in 2024: 269

COMMUNITY IMPACT



Community Connections volunteers extend agency services in nonprofit and public agencies throughout Dane County. RSVP matches a wide variety of volunteer opportunities with the skills and interests of volunteers.



423 Volunteers

**46 Volunteer
Stations**

42,048 Hours

Bus Buddy volunteers teach other older adults, individually or in groups, how to achieve more independence and mobility by using the Madison Metropolitan Bus System.



**1 Bus Buddy
Volunteer**

**1 Volunteer
Station**

**5 Bus Buddy
Trips**

45 Participants

69 Hours



COMMUNITY IMPACT

Group Projects/ Homeworkers



235 Volunteers

**9 Volunteer
Stations**

17 Group

Projects

61,808 Hours

**14,469 Items
Distributed**

**7,394 Pounds of
Recycled
Donated
Materials**

RSVP's Group Projects/Homeworkers volunteers share their sewing, knitting, and crocheting talents to create quilts, shawls, afghans, and other items of warmth and comfort. They also make tote bags, walker and wheelchair bags, chemo caps, fidget quilts, and a variety of other useful specialty items. All of these handcrafted goods are then distributed to local nonprofit and public agencies, to be given to those in need.



COMMUNITY IMPACT



Foster Grandparent Program volunteers serve in classrooms between 5 and 30 hours per week providing focused one-on-one support to enhance school readiness, school engagement, and promote social/emotional regulation and academic success for students in Dane County elementary schools, After School Programs, and Reach Dane Head Start classrooms. In addition they make an impact by serving as remote penpals supporting emerging writers with practice and composition skills during the early years of development. Income eligible adults age 55+ receive a tax-free stipend, meal, and travel reimbursements to remove barriers to service. Foster Grandparents are committed to lifelong learning and continue to grow in their role through inservice trainings and Book Club participation.

14 Volunteers

**7 Volunteer
Stations**

7,677 Hours



"As a foster grandparent for over a decade, I have seen so much. My observations, discussed with teachers and staff, have given me better understanding of the needs."

- RSVP Foster Grandparent Volunteer

"It helps kids stay positive and less likely to get in trouble." - RSVP Foster Grandparent Volunteer

"My feedback gave them incentive to stay with discussions, presentation, and assignments in all subjects." - RSVP Foster Grandparent Volunteer



COMMUNITY IMPACT



52 Volunteers

**6 Volunteer
Stations**

1,983 Hours

Intergenerational volunteers serve students, teachers, and classrooms throughout Dane County. Volunteers can be found in schools, afterschool programs, community centers, and nonprofit programs, serving in a wide variety of roles. You will find volunteer tutors, mentors, classroom assistants, guest speakers, and computer buddies offering student support to increase engagement and improve student success. Intergenerational volunteers provide the presence of an additional adult allowing the added attention needed to increase student confidence in learning.

“The anticipation when I checked my phone each morning to see if she had sent me a message. Also meeting her at the picnic was a lot of fun. To learn from her about things that are so different for the kids now than 60-70 years ago.” - RSVP Computer Buddy Volunteer

“I enjoyed being [able] to offer my 28 years of teaching to make learning easier and more important to the students.” - RSVP Intergenerational Volunteer



COMMUNITY IMPACT



Volunteer drivers provide help that promotes independent living for Dane County Seniors, 60 years and older, and Veterans of any age, through three different programs plus the Vets Helping Vets Program.

Driver Escort

Drivers provide rides to Dane County residents, 60 years and older, to medical and other important appointments.

Home Delivered Meals

Drivers deliver noon hour meals to seniors and veterans in Dane County communities outside Madison/Monona to help them maintain access to healthy, nutritious meals.

627 Volunteers

14 Volunteer Stations

30,454 Hours

Food Bridge

Drivers are paired with a senior living in Madison or Monona who is low-income and homebound, to shop for and deliver groceries from area food pantries to them on a regular basis.



Driver Services

- **7,306 rides for 832 passengers**
- **165,704 meals to homebound seniors**
- **351,971 miles of driving**

COMMUNITY IMPACT

Vets Helping Vets Drivers

Veteran Drivers provide medical rides to veterans and their immediate family members of any age.

**1,574 Vets rides for
776 passengers**

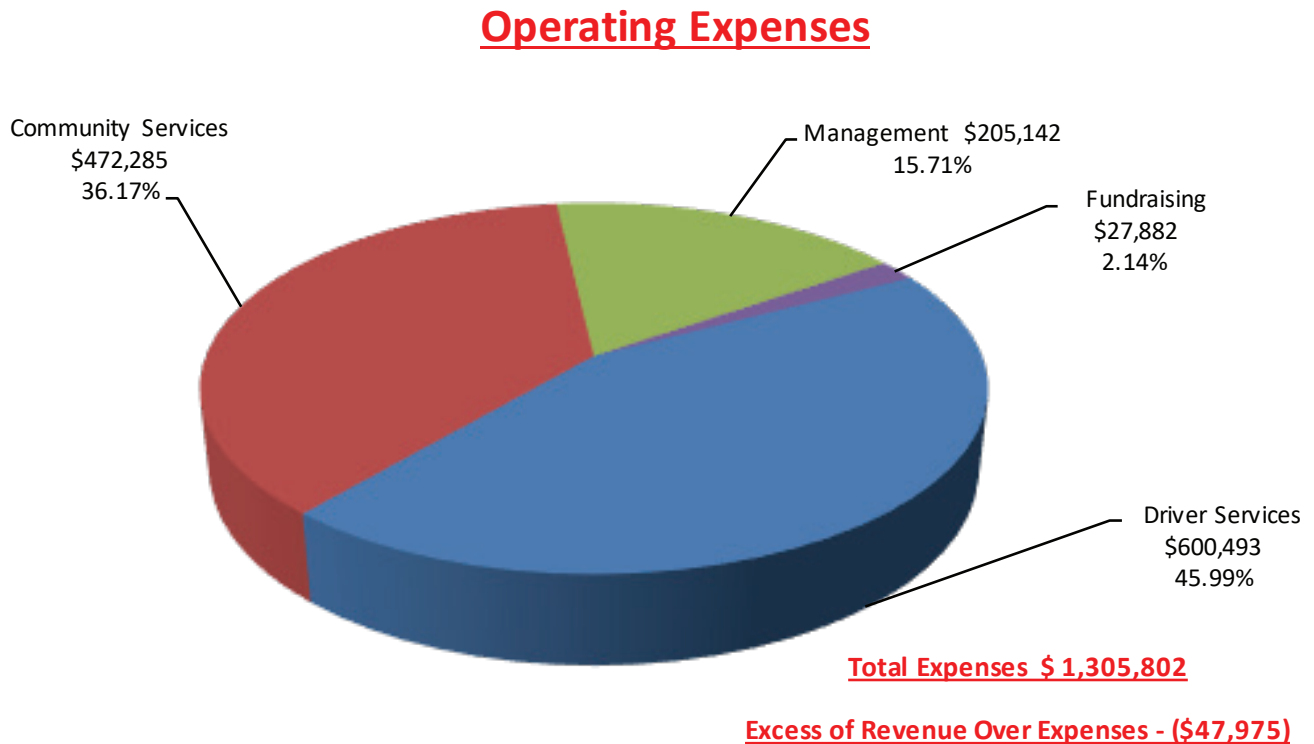
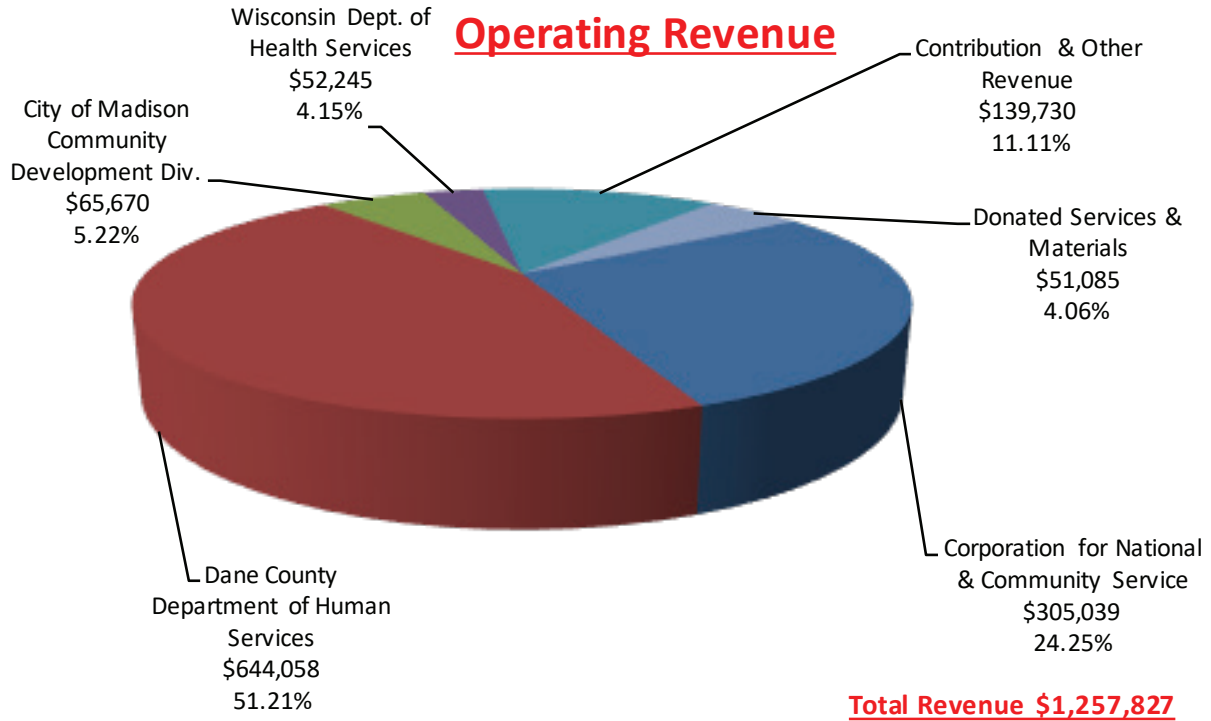


Triad brings together older adults, law enforcement, and the community at-large to promote safety and reduce the fear of crime. Providing information about personal safety and crime prevention is vital to our mission. Volunteers are a key element in our success. Triad's numerous safety programs provided nearly 700 hours of safety education to older adults.



**13 Volunteers
2 Triad Sites
347 Hours
19 Programs
547 Participants**

RSVP OF DANE COUNTY, INC
AUDITED ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT 2024



Legacy Fund: 12/31/2024 Balance	\$1,531,093
MCF Fund	\$38,949
Rent Stabilization Fund	\$541,405

Audited Financial Statement

The Legacy and Rent Stabilization Fund Investment management policies are designed to provide 4% to 6% of the year end balances to support personnel, facility and equipment costs, to enhance volunteer programs, to foster new programs, to provide grant matching funds, and to assist with short-term cash flow needs.

GIVING STATEMENT

Thank you to all who support RSVP of Dane County. We are grateful for all the individuals, community groups, corporations, and funders who have helped RSVP volunteers respond to community needs through a 2024 contribution. Due to space constraints, only gifts of \$100 or more are recognized here. We also thank our many in-kind donors who help sustain our programs. All donors are listed in RSVP News Notes.

There are several ways to make a contribution to RSVP:

Annual Fund, Memorials and Tributes: Volunteers, family members, and friends can be recognized through a tribute or memorial listed in *RSVP News Notes*, our quarterly newsletter.

Tony Farina Endowment Fund: This permanent endowment fund was created in 1998 to support RSVP volunteer programs. You may make your gift directly to RSVP of Dane County, Inc. or to the Madison Community Foundation by noting your contribution is for the Tony Farina Endowment Fund for RSVP.

Heideman Endowed Fund for Staff Compensation: This fund was created in 2007 to provide program and support staff with a minimal salary increase during difficult economic times. You may make your gift directly to RSVP by noting your contribution is for the Heideman Endowed Fund.

Legacy Fund: By including a planned gift in your estate plan, you help to ensure that RSVP will have the financial support to continue its programs for future generations. You also make a lasting, powerful statement to family and friends about your values and encourage others to share in your vision.

In 2015, RSVP received significant planned gifts from the Eileen Erb Trust and the Dave Stucki Individual Retirement Account, establishing a Legacy Fund. Our **Legacy Circle** recognizes our friends and supporters whose generous donations will help us meet the ever-growing demands for our services in the future.

In-Kind Gifts: RSVP welcomes in-kind contributions, which are tax-deductible, such as program supplies, volunteer appreciation gifts, and office equipment or supplies.

The **Leadership Circle**, formed in 2008, recognizes individuals whose combined contributions to RSVP are \$2,000 or over. These contributions have been significant, enabling RSVP to maintain and expand services.

Qualified Charitable Distribution - If you are 70 1/2 or older, you can make charitable gifts directly from your individual retirement account (IRA) to RSVP of Dane County or other qualifying charities reduce your taxable income. If you are 73 or older, these gifts can help satisfy your required minimum distribution (RMD) for the year while giving pretax dollars to charity.

Donor-Advised Funds - A donor-advised fund (DAF) is a powerful way to build or continue a tradition of family philanthropy by establishing a charitable investment account, receiving an immediate deduction, and recommending grants to your charities of choice over time. The investment growth is tax-free. Please consult your financial advisor to learn more about setting up a DAF to benefit RSVP of Dane County.

Matching Gifts - Many companies offer a matching gift program to encourage charitable giving among their employees, including sponsors and retirees. Contact your HR department to see if your company has a matching program that can increase the impact of your donation. Some companies also donate to RSVP of Dane County if they know you are a registered RSVP volunteer.

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DONORS

2024 MAJOR FUNDERS

AmeriCorps Seniors (Corporation for
National and Community Service)
City of Madison Community Development
Division
Dane County Department of
Human Services
Madison Community Foundation
Wisconsin Department of Health Services

LEGACY CIRCLE

Jack and Donna Anderson
Kathryn S. Arndt
Bill Arthur*
Holly Brassington
Eileen Erb Trust*
George A. Fait Family Trust*
Rose Mary Feltzkowski
Kevin Gould
Carroll Heideman
Isabel Hubbard
Roland Krogstad*
Harold and Donna Sabot
Dave Stucki*
Dick Sweet*
Margie and Keith Zutter

LEADERSHIP CIRCLE

Lifetime Members - \$40,000+ cumulative

Jack and Donna Anderson
Kevin Gould and Nancy Bailies
Carroll Heideman
Dawn Stucki

Visionaries - \$30,000 - \$39,999

Michael and Marita Menard
Mary Odell

Benefactors - \$20,000 - \$20,999 cumulative

Margaret Jensen
Thomas and Margie Krauskopf

Advocates - \$10,000 - \$19,999 cumulative

Leroy Adler
Michael J. and Barbara Foley
Wayne and Barbara Halverson
Kit-Yin Ling
Rita and Reiny Meihnsner*
Patricia Mitchell
Harold and Donna Sabot
Mary Stamstad

Tom and Kathy Thousand
Keith and Margie Zutter

Developers - \$5,000 - \$9,999 cumulative

Trudy Brule
Thomas Duter
James and Kathy Esser
Grant and Nancy Gelhar
Lee and Mary Ihlenfeldt
James Jenkins
Donald and Audrey Kasper
Susan Kernats
Frederick Kruger
Robert Lenz
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Daniel and Robin McCarthy
John and Donna Montgomery
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Doris Schroeder
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Dave and Helen Tetzlaff
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John Woodford
David and Julie Worzala

Stakeholders - \$2,000 - \$4,999 cumulative

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Holly Brassington
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Arnold and Donna Chandler
Diane Corey
Karen Cunningham
Lou Ceil Dahlen
Jenny Dahm
Peg Davey
Richard Dewitt
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Lucile McFee

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Ron and Ann Semmann
Deborah Ann Speckmann
Charles and Kay Spelbring
Tim and Lori Stadelman
Robert and Pat Thomasgard
Sandy Turk
Judy Zvara

* In Remembrance

ANNUAL FUND - Friends of RSVP

BUILDERS

(\$1,000-\$1,999)

James and Elaine Beyer
Sue and Mark Blahnik
Sharifa S. Merchant
Oregon-Brooklyn VFW Post 10272
Judy and Dan Peterson
Robert Smith

FACILITATORS

(\$500-\$999)

American Legion Auxiliary Unit 59
Karen Cunningham
Cycling Friends of Norm Moore
Rodney Huebner
Robert and Gail Korb
Derek and Karyn Moehring
Sun Prairie Lions Club Foundation
Jim Weber

SUSTAINERS

(\$250-\$499)

Mel Bankes
Abigail Christiansen
Jane Eisner
Ginger Gostomski
Gwen Jaeger
Monna S. Kolbe
Ashley Kowalchuk
John and Pat Perkins
Terrance and Helen Peterson
Rhea Schultz
Gertrude Stelsel
Judith Thompson
Jodee Tierney
Katelny Zutter

(continued on page 14)

DONORS

(continued from page 13)

PARTNERS

(\$100-\$249)

Judith L. Allen
Brian Alme
Judith Amacker
John Amundson
Ken Anderson
Norman Bair
Jane Bannerman
Marion Frances Brown
Linda Buel
Martin Bunge
Andrew Burns
Mary Caulfield
Susan Chapman
Rick and Mari De Moya
Ross and Penny DePaola
Sarah Donovan
Donald Duerst
Mary Dwyer and
Mike Plautz
Cathy, James, and Rebecca Eastman
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Andrew Fell
Ann Fisher
Virginia Froland
Susan Fulks
Andrew Fuller
Pam Gallagher
Jane Gellman
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David Gill
Lisa Gits
Neil and Cindy Gleason
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Lydia Haynes
Kathleen Heimann
Harold D. Hilton
Donna Howell
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Diana Jost
Carol and Richard Karls
Jan Kaufman
Melissa Kepner and
James Adney
Bonnie and Brian Kirmse
Denise Kirmse

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Mark Kolan
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Louise Maier
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Maurice and Colleen McCormick
McFarland Lioness Club
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Amy Miller
Lauren Odesky
Jennifer O'Neal
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Susan Ridley
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Leonard and Deborah Rogan
Sally Ross
Roma Rowlands
Michael Schmit
Lynda Schultz
Rose C. Sime
Janice Stanek
Merle and Patricia Sweet
Terri Taylor
Bill and Gloria Theisen
Ralph and Pat Thiede
Ellyn Thompson
Thrivent Financial for Lutherans
Mary and Earl Updike
Margaret Urban
Victor and Barbara Vaade
Len Van Ess
Vennevoll, Inc.
Darlene Vervoort
Carol Weidel
Fred Wolden
Dennis and Pat Wood
Darlene (Dee) Wylie
Karen Yee
Lynn Yudice

RSVP also expresses its sincere appreciation to the Donors who contributed up to \$99 during 2024 but due to space constraints could not be listed. All donors are listed in RSVP News Notes.



RSVP appreciates donors who contributed through the United Way of Dane County State Employees Campaign.

GRANTS

The Evjue Foundation
Madison Rotary Foundation
Madison South Rotary Foundation
Middleton VFW Post 8216
Stoughton Area Community Foundation
Triad of Wisconsin, Inc.
Wisconsin Bureau of Health Services -
Division of Public Health, Bureau on
Aging and Disability

CORPORATE EVENT AND PROGRAM SPONSORS

Madison Gas & Electric
UW Health
Unity Point Health - Meriter
Custer Burish Financial Services
Mike and Barbara Foley
SSM Health at Home
US Bank
Corporate Business Systems
Group Health Cooperative
Sub-Zero Group Foundation, Inc.
Wegner CPAs

BUSINESSES PROVIDING HOME - DELIVERED MEAL DRIVERS

RSVP Driver Services salutes the following businesses for encouraging their employees to serve as Home Delivered Meal Drivers:
Placon
Lake Ridge Bank
Holcim

CAR CHECK EVENT SPONSOR

Smart Motors

RSVP OF DANE COUNTY STAFF

RSVP STAFF

Diana Jost
Executive Director

Kate Seal
Assistant Director

Jack Guzman
Office Support Administrator

Krishna Sijapati
Accountant

Dell Barlow
Madison/Monona Ride
Coordinator

Julia Pierstorff
Group Projects/Homeworkers
Program Coordinator

Lorrie Hylkema
Vets Helping Vets Coordinator

Steve Jaeschke
Driver Services Manager

Jan Karst
Community Connections and
Bus Buddies Coordinator

Camela King
Driver Services Coordinator

Paula Reif
Foster Grandparent Coordinator
and Intergenerational Program
Coordinator

Mike Thomsen
Triad Coordinator

Debbie Vogt
Driver Services
Administrative Assistant

Employment ended in 2024
Tara Curtis

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Corporate Sponsorship - Your business can help RSVP say thank you to our volunteers by becoming a sponsor of our annual Volunteer Recognition Event. Contact Executive Director Diana Jost at 608.441.1393 for more information.

Donating Stocks and Mutual Fund Shares - RSVP of Dane County can accept gifts of securities and mutual fund shares. This allows you to avoid capital gains tax on any appreciation and take a charitable deduction for the full fair market value of the donated assets.

Would you like to provide for RSVP of Dane County as part of your legacy? You might designate RSVP as a beneficiary in a will, trust, insurance policy, or investment. Please talk to your legal or financial advisor. For more information, you may also contact Executive Director Diana Jost at 608.441.1393.



RSVP of Dane County
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Website: www.rsvpdane.org

