



NEWS NOTES

Fall 2025

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

Annual RSVP Volunteer Recognition Luncheon

by Kate Seal, RSVP Assistant Director

This year's Annual RSVP Volunteer Recognition Luncheon took place on **September 25th at Barnwood Events**. The gathering was especially meaningful as we celebrated two remarkable milestones: the **50th Anniversary of Driver Services** and the **25th Anniversary of Foster Grandparents**.

The luncheon, as it always does, honors RSVP volunteers' service to our community and expresses our deepest gratitude for the positive impact they make throughout Dane County.

We were inspired by **De'Kendrea Stamps of MG&E** whose keynote address was both heartfelt and impactful, reminding us of the power of service and community. Thanks to our generous sponsors and supporters, listed below, we were able to host this event at the beautiful **Barnwood Events** and enjoy a delicious meal catered by **Upstairs Downstairs**. Guests also enjoyed raffle prizes, anniversary cakes, and even car races for prizes – making the day especially memorable.

We are grateful to the RSVP staff and Recognition Committee volunteers who thoughtfully planned and carried out this special event. We were also honored to celebrate alongside our senior center partners and distinguished guests, including **Senator Melissa Ratcliff, Senator Kelda Roys, and Nathaniel Brown, the Dane County Specialized Transportation Manager**. As the saying goes, *it takes a village* – and this event was a true reflection of that spirit.

Congratulations to Our Award Recipients!

RSVP Lifetime Achievement Award (4,000+ recorded hours of service): Mary Lou Condon, Melvin Hinton, Nancy Klaas, Mary Ruppert, Ginny Sleigh, Marge Stuht, Kathleen Vandennymeleonberg, and Susan Wolf.

RSVP Length of Service Award (20 consecutive years of service): John J. Anderson, Gail Bogdanow (in memory of), Mary Jane Burkholder, Juanita Harbort, Margie Krauskopf, John D. Luther, Suzanne Matias, Marcella Ortman, Terry Ortman, Georgia Punswick, Barb Schoenberg, and Kathy Wilson.

Thank You to Our Sponsors: MG&E, UW Health, UnityPoint Health – Meriter, Mike and Barbara Foley, SSM Health, US Bank, TDS Metrocom, Group Health Cooperative, Wegner CPAs, and Corporate Business Systems! Each year, sponsors help cover the expenses of this event and support RSVP programming.

We are proud to work alongside so many dedicated volunteers who generously give their time, talent, and compassion to our community. **We love our volunteers!**



**Guest Speaker De'Kendrea
Stamps of Madison Gas &
Electric**



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volunteer
opportunities?
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RSVP Board Notes

Hello! Welcome to the extension of summer weather!

The Board of Directors met Monday, August 18, 2025, via Zoom and in person. This is the first meeting following the Annual Meeting.



Based on a recommendation by Vice-President Tom Howells, the Board will be hosting a lunch for the Staff to show our support for all that they do. The luncheon is scheduled for Tuesday, October 7, 2025. Earlier this year the Board had made a resolution in support of the Staff; however, we felt that hosting a luncheon would further show the Staff that we were in their corner.

The Assessment Committee is in the process of reviewing the Group Projects and Homeworkers Assessment. We want to thank everyone who completed the Assessment tool. These Assessment tools are used to better serve both the participants and the Community at large.

The Finance Committee has met and will be presenting possible budgets for approval of a budget for the 2026 calendar year at the October 20, 2025, Board Meeting.

The Marketing Committee encourages everyone to follow us on social media.

On Thursday, September 25, 2025, we held our Annual Volunteer Recognition Luncheon. It included a Car Show of electric vehicles. We were celebrating the 50th Anniversary of Driver Services and the 25th Anniversary of the Foster Grandparents Program. The Event was held at Barnwood Events, and picnic food was provided by Upstairs Downstairs Catering. De'Kendra Stamps was the Guest Speaker from MG&E. It was a wonderful event and the weather cooperated. Approximately 150 people were in attendance.

Mark your calendar! The Wisconsin Senior Safety Resource Fair hosted by Triad will be held on October 29, 2025, from 8:00 to 12:00 at Vista West Senior Living Apartments. Two expert panels will be held, one at 9:00 a.m. and another at 10:30 a.m. One panel will focus on financial considerations in retirement, and the other panel will discuss scams and frauds affecting seniors and prevention resources.

Respectfully submitted,

Deborah Ann Speckmann
President, RSVP Board of Directors

From the Desk of...

Diana Jost
Executive Director

Fall Season - A Time of Change and Consistency

I love fall; it's my favorite time of year. As we enter the season, the leaves change colors, there's a chill in the air, and it becomes a time of change. I am reminded of the song by the Byrds.

To everything, turn, turn, turn
There is a season, turn, turn, turn

Seasons aside, for some

people, it may feel like a lot of changes are happening right now. This can sometimes feel overwhelming. It might seem difficult to decide how to respond, find the strength to stay focused, direct our energy as we choose, and stay connected to our purpose. For others, it seems that the more things change, the more they crave consistency and dedication in what they do.

This week, I had the

pleasure of witnessing this consistency firsthand at RSVP's Annual Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon. I spoke with volunteers who have been helping in the community for many years. Many received the RSVP Length of Service award for over 20 years of service or the RSVP Lifetime Achievement Award for over 4,000 hours of service. One volunteer I spoke with has been helping for more than 48 years - now that is true consistency and



dedication! I also experienced firsthand what is called the "ripple effect." We've all heard how tossing a stone into

(continued on page 6)

RSVP Driver Services Celebrates 50 Years of Impact and Community Care

By Steve Jaeschke, Driver Services Program Manager

This year marks a major milestone for **RSVP Driver Services** — **50 years** of dedicated service to older adults and individuals with mobility challenges in our community. Since 1975, RSVP has been more than just a ride; it's been a symbol of independence, dignity, and care for those who need it most. Alongside its vital Driver Escort service, RSVP also provides transportation for a countywide Home-Delivered Meals Program, ensuring that clients not only get where they need to go but also have nourishing meals brought right to their doors. Together these services reflect the core mission of RSVP: to make a positive impact in the community by recruiting volunteers who are 55 and older to help public and non-profit organizations deliver essential services to people of all ages and identities, providing Dane County with a valuable resource.



Over five decades, RSVP Driver Services has safely transported thousands of older adults to critical medical appointments, grocery stores, social activities, and more, helping them maintain independence and access essential services. Volunteer drivers have logged countless miles, offering not just rides, but companionship and peace of mind.

Through the Home-Delivered Meals Program, volunteers also bring hot, nutritious meals to those who are homebound or unable to prepare food themselves. For many recipients, it's more than a meal — it's a daily wellness check and a friendly face at the door.

These programs work hand-in-hand. Transportation and nutrition are critical to helping seniors stay independent and thriving at home. We're proud to offer both powered by the generosity of our volunteers.

As the needs of the aging population grow, the RSVP Driver Services program is looking ahead. Plans are underway to:

- Recruit a new generation of volunteer drivers and meal deliverers.
- Explore technology upgrades to improve ride coordination and meal routing.
- Expand partnerships with local healthcare providers and community agencies.
- Reach more underserved seniors with both transportation and meal services.

As we celebrate 50 years, we reaffirm our core values:

Dependability – Partnership – Service – Volunteerism – Innovation.

These principles have guided us for half a century and will continue to inspire our path forward.

We are deeply grateful to the volunteers, partners, and community members who make this work possible. Here's to the next 50 years of **driving impact, one ride and one meal at a time.**

Group Projects Homeworkers and Storeroom Volunteers

By Julia Pierstorff, Group Projects/Homeworkers Program Coordinator

Welcoming a new volunteer to the Group Projects and Homeworkers storeroom is always a special experience. Their eyes light up as they take in the shelves brimming with hundreds of handcrafted items waiting to be donated to people in need throughout Dane County. The excitement and admiration from someone new to the storeroom is truly energizing, as they marvel at the beautiful creations made by our dedicated volunteers, all eagerly awaiting their chance to brighten someone's day in our community.

Maintaining the storeroom's organization, neatness, and inviting atmosphere requires ongoing dedication. We strive to keep it visually appealing and easily accessible for volunteers to drop off and pick up materials. This effort ensures that the storeroom is a welcoming hub for all who visit.

The Group Projects and Homeworkers program is exceptionally grateful for the commitment of four outstanding volunteers who devote their time to the storeroom each week. Whenever you stop by, you'll be greeted with a friendly smile and a warm "hello" from one of these wonderful individuals. The storeroom volunteers are always busy unpacking the many bags of donated items. Sometimes the tables are filled practically to the ceiling with new treasures. The volunteers work diligently to sort and shelve each item properly, ensuring everything is in its place. After organizing the donations, they promptly begin filling orders for local nonprofits, carefully completing each step and all necessary paperwork along the way.

Meet the Storeroom Volunteers

Lynn Caravello joined our volunteer team in September 2024 and began volunteering in the storeroom every Monday starting in February. Lynn finds great joy in connecting with fellow volunteers who stop by to drop off finished items or pick up new materials. She loves hearing about everyone's latest projects and future plans. Lynn's passion for organization shines as she helps keep the storeroom tidy and inviting—a place volunteers are eager to visit.

On Wednesday mornings, you'll find **Donna Spencer** and **Nanci Marshall** working side by side in the storeroom. Donna began volunteering with RSVP Group Projects and Homeworkers in January 2023 and joined the storeroom team at the start of this year. She relishes her time surrounded by the handcrafted items made by volunteers and takes pride in making the storeroom a welcoming and joyful place to visit. Nanci started with RSVP in March 2024 and soon after began volunteering in the storeroom. She enjoys talking with volunteers who come in and learning about their current projects and sharing in their enthusiasm. Nanci's passion for organization

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Barb Borkovec



Nanci Marshall



Donna Spencer



Lynn Caravello

(continued from page 3)

water creates concentric waves. A simple act, such as volunteering, can trigger a chain reaction of positive impacts that extend far beyond the initial deed. When I talked with volunteers, I heard stories of happiness and pride in how they are helping others. Conversations with special guests revealed how inspired they are by stories of service and how this has motivated them to get involved. Talking with community members, sponsors, partners, and government officials, I listened as they praised the vital role each volunteer plays in the community and how RSVP volunteers, both individually and collectively, strengthen the community by fostering a culture of service. RSVP of Dane County volunteers have been helping for 53 years ...now that is consistency and dedication!

Can one person truly make a difference? Based on what I saw at this event, I can confidently say YES! Volunteering — helping those in need of services, rides, meals, warm clothing, or simply being a friend to assist with reading — is a gift, and any way you support another person brings a sense of satisfaction and purpose. Remember, you may not be able to change the world, but you can be part of the great “ripple effect.” Maintain your purpose, choose where to focus your attention, and make a difference in this world — that kind of change is really powerful.



Triad Update

By Mike Thomsen, Triad Program Coordinator

First, our Triad Program will host the **Wisconsin Senior Safety Resource Fair** on October 29, 2025, from 8:00am to 12:00pm in the Community Room at Vista West Senior Living Community in Madison. The resource fair is FREE and open to the public. The goal is to empower older adults for a safe and secure retirement. There will be two insightful panel discussions and 16 exhibitor and resource tables with knowledgeable, friendly experts. For more information and the registration link, please visit <https://bit.ly/triadrinfo25> or scan this QR code.



Second, **thank you, Smart Motors**, especially Peter, Sam, Bryce, Matt, Jenna and all of the technicians, for making our Car Check vehicle safety inspection event a terrific success. Without Smart's generous sponsorship, Car Check would not be possible. Numerous participants mentioned to me that they really appreciated the peace of mind they received from having their car inspected before winter hits. **Thanks also to Neil and Darcy from AARP Wisconsin Driver Safety and CarFit team** for helping participants get a good "fit" in their vehicles. A dozen drivers are sitting more safely and more comfortably in their cars thanks to you!

Foster Grandparents Join in 60th Anniversary Celebration

By Paula Reif, RSVP Foster Grandparent Program Coordinator

RSVP's Foster Grandparent Program volunteers, staff, and Advisory Council members gathered September 12th to take part in the 60th Anniversary of the Foster Grandparent National Program. All together 1,771 participants from 162 locations across the country came together to honor the six decades of service and impact of Foster Grandparents nationwide. It is inspiring to see the energy, contributions, and commitment made by Foster Grandparents in communities all around the United States.



RSVP's Foster Grandparent Program is celebrating 25 years of service! Foster Grandparents support students in Madison area elementary schools, after school programs, and Reach Dane Head Start Centers, providing focused support to enhance student engagement and success. Are you interested in supporting students this school year? Contact the Foster Grandparent and Intergenerational Programs Coordinator, Paula Reif, preif@rsvpdane.org, to learn more.



Meet Michael Hirsch, a Volunteer Extraordinaire

By Lorrie Hylkema, Vets Helping Vets Program Coordinator

Not only does Michael help veterans and seniors get meals and get to their medical appointments in the DeForest, Sun Prairie, and Madison areas, he has also been a longtime volunteer for an organization called *From Houses to Homes*. He started this volunteer work with the encouragement of his wife, Bernice, 18 years ago in Mexico. More recently, twice a year he spends a week helping to build homes for the citizens of Guatemala. Over the years he has played a key role helping to build over 2,000 homes for Guatemalans and Mexicans.

Mike has gotten his wife, two sons, and his granddaughter also involved in this mission work. He personally knows the founders of *From Houses to Homes*, which is based in New Jersey, and considers them family. Mike says that the Guatemalans provide their own labor with the help of builder's fees provided by the *From Houses to Homes* organization and sometimes have to carry 20-pound blocks up steep hills on their heads as part of their job.

Mike is a retired occupational therapist (OT) who served in the Army Reserves as an OT. He was deployed to Germany during the Desert Storm Era for six months. Mike has 25 years of military service and has taught occupational therapy at a local college. He has also served our communities for 14 years as a volunteer driver for RSVP of Dane County.

As for volunteering as a driver for RSVP, Mike says it is "different every time" and though he is a bit on the reserved side, it "helps to be more open" by talking with his passengers while driving. One quote that Mike said he learned from some of the Guatemalans he has met is that "all they need is faith and family." This is something I see Mike and his family practicing as volunteers with RSVP and their mission work with *From Houses to Homes*.

If you are interested in following in the footsteps of Mike Hirsch and other volunteer drivers for RSVP of Dane County, please call Steve Jaeschke at 608.441.7892 or Camela King at 608.441.7896 and see how life changing being a volunteer can be.



(l to r) RSVP volunteer Mike Hirsch, wife and RSVP volunteer Bernice Hirsch, a Houses to Homes volunteer, granddaughter Emily, two other House to Home volunteers, Guatemalan family consisting of a single mother and her two children, and three Guatemalan masons.



House built by volunteers and masons; flower drawn by granddaughter Emily, Guatemalan national flower (white nun orchid)

New Funding

Thank you to the Evjue Foundation for a \$5,000 grant to support volunteer recruitment, transportation for low-income volunteers, program supplies, and platforms that enable remote volunteering and engagement.

WELCOME New Volunteers

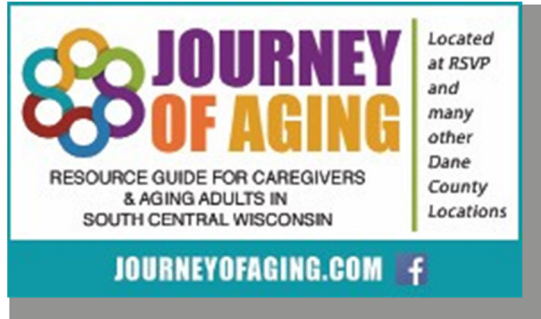
We enrolled 56 new volunteers from July 2025 through September 2025, serving in a wide variety of assignments throughout Dane County. Do you know someone who might like to volunteer? RSVP volunteers are our best recruiters as they spread the word about why they like volunteering and the need for more volunteers. Please pass this newsletter on to a friend or neighbor and tell them what RSVP means to you!

Jennifer Acker
Marjorie Beery
James H. Bell
Cynthia Bilzing
Ann C. Camillo
Joel G. Deremo
Kathleen Doran
Susan Dukin
Korrie E. Edwards
Linda Endsley
Jacqueline M. Fairman
Jill M. Falkosky
Andrew Fuller
Pat Gebhardt
Patricia K. Geishert

Nancy Gerhard
Nate Godfrey
Dean Gorrell
Janis Goss
Catherine Gronemus
Daniel G. Gronemus
Paul A. Harns
Laura Ingram
Eddie Jackson
Tammy Johnson
Amy Keleny
Linda M. Kieffer
Susan K. Kittleson
Jerome L. Koeppe
Arthur E. Kurtz

Jackson L. Lancaster
Carla Lauber
Ilene Lawson
Mary B. Liebig
Jo Luttrell
Michelle G. Matysik
Suma Menon
Sharon Mikkelsen
Alan R. Muirhead
Sharon Mulvey
Mary Nelson
Neil P. Nicholas
Sharon Paukert
Bob J. Power
Barbara Schmidt

Kate Schneider-Braus
Leslie Selkirk
Mavis Severson
Elizabeth G. Simpson
Janice Smith
Karen L. Sommers
Joshua D. Soper
Lloyd L. Statz
Douglas L. Thompson
Meredith A. Thompson
Bonnie Traverse
Kent W. Wells

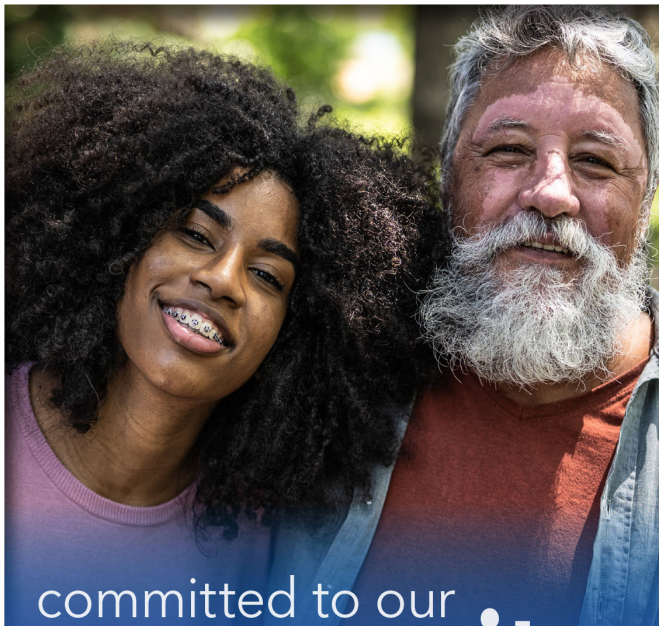



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This #GivingTuesday, Help RSVP of Dane County Strengthen Our Community!



RSVP is once again participating in **#GivingTuesday on December 2, 2025** – a global day of giving and unity. Our goal this year is to raise **\$20,000** between **November 2nd** and **December 2nd** to meet the growing needs of our neighbors.

When you give to RSVP, you're not just supporting one program. You're investing in an entire **network of connections**. Hundreds of nonprofits rely on over 1,200 RSVP volunteers to help achieve their missions. Thanks to your generosity, RSVP can recruit and provide skilled, well-matched volunteers who are ready to make an immediate impact for nonprofits and public organizations all over Dane County.

Because of supporters like you, RSVP volunteers accomplished so much this past year:

- **1,260 volunteers** donated **144,385 hours of service** to fellow nonprofits, local families, veterans, and seniors.
- **165,704 meals** were delivered by volunteers to homebound seniors.
- **14,469 handmade items** (hats, blankets, pillows, and more) were crafted by RSVP volunteers and distributed to nearly **100 nonprofit agencies**.

And we don't stop there. RSVP's own programs continue to grow:

- **Driver Services celebrates its 50th Anniversary** – five decades of helping seniors get to essential medical appointments and stay independent in the community!
- **The Foster Grandparent Program turns 25**, a milestone of dedicated intergenerational service!
- **New initiatives such as Senior Planet Technology Skills Classes** are expanding rapidly, ensuring older adults stay connected in today's digital world!

Your support makes all of this possible. Every gift – big or small – fuels the volunteer power that strengthens our entire community.

Ways to Give

Online: www.rsvpdane.org/donate (designate your gift as “Giving Tuesday” in the special instructions).

By mail: RSVP of Dane County, 6501 Watts Rd., Suite 250, Madison, WI 53719 (write *Giving Tuesday* in the memo line).

It takes an incredible amount of volunteerism, coordination, and generosity to keep our community strong. We are honored to do our part – and deeply grateful for you doing yours.

Thank you for supporting RSVP this #GivingTuesday!

Want to get in Touch with Us?

Simply dial 608.238.RSVP (7787) or e-mail us at 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
Kate Seal, *Assistant Director*
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Krishna Sijapati, *Accountant*
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Dell Barlow, *Madison/Monona Ride Coordinator*
608.441.7898, dbarlow@rsvpdane.org
Lorrie Hylkema, *Vets Helping Vets Coordinator*
608.238.7901,
lhylkema@rsvpdane.org or
vetshelpingvets@rsvpdane.org
Debbie Vogt, *Driver Services Administrative Assistant and Bus Buddy Program Assistant*
608.310.7281,
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



Ten Tips for Saving Energy This Fall

From Madison Gas and Electric (MGE)

With the change in season, some simple changes at home can help you save energy—while still maintaining comfort—in the cooler fall months.

1. **Get a free energy-saving pack.** FOCUS ON ENERGY®, our partner in energy efficiency, offers eligible customers a variety of energy-saving packs, including weatherization, sent at no cost to you. Visit focusonenergy.com/free to select one.
2. **Reset your thermostat.** When you are home and awake, set the thermostat to 68°F or as low as is comfortable and your health permits. When you are asleep or away, turn the thermostat to 60°F to reduce your energy use by as much as 10% a year. Also consider a smart thermostat, which makes it easy to set back your temperature.
3. **Consider a heat pump,** which is an energy-efficient way to heat and cool your home. If you have a heat pump, you can "set it and forget it" until the seasons change again.
4. **Skip the space heaters.** Using a space heater on high for four hours a day every day for a month will cost about \$30. Using it on low will cost about \$15. Using your furnace, even for just a few hours a day, is more energy efficient.
5. **Let in the sun** during the day to warm your room, and close your window treatments in the evening to keep out the colder night air.
6. **Change your ceiling fans** to rotate clockwise. This forces warmer air to the floor.
7. **Close upper returns and open lower returns.** This allows the cooler air near the floor to be pulled back to the furnace to be reheated.
8. **Seal air leaks** by adding caulk or weather stripping around leaky doors and windows.
9. **Cover drafty windows** with insulating drapes or shades.
10. **Schedule routine service** for your home heating system. Replace furnace and heat pump filters once a month or as needed.

Interested in learning more about your home's energy efficiency? Consider an energy assessment. Focus on Energy can help you find a qualified trade ally contractor to perform the assessment, which will help identify and prioritize projects. Visit focusonenergy.com to get started.

Saving energy helps to reduce our collective carbon footprint. If you have energy-related questions, contact our energy experts on our Home Energy Line at 608-252-7117 or email AskExperts@mge.com.

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+

James and Diana Buechner

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

Trudy Brule

Robert Lenz

Target Circle Community
Support Program

Facilitators \$500-\$999

James E. Duffy

Frederick Kruger

Partners \$100-\$249

Jessica Bigler

Judy Captain and

Kate Stormer

Audrey Casey

Susan Chapman

Thomas Duter

Andrew Fell

Susan Fulks

Ed and Colleen Gregorich

Diane Maertz

Georgia Punswick

Hal Wissink

Friends \$1-\$99

Linda Cottingham

Vera Fortune

Thomas L. Glassel

Lydia Haynes

Molly Hoholik

Dale and Ruth Ann Koebke

Linda McIntosh

Melvin B. Morgenbesser

Dawn Schmitt

Eunice M. Schmitz

Brenda K. Stewart

Elizabeth M. VanKampen

In-Kind

Tina Abert

Kris Carlson

Terri Escher

Susan Norby

Barbara Paulson

Jan Usery

Mark Werner



MEMORIALS AND TRIBUTES



Memorial 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:

Francis Long and Merry Wissink

CONTRIBUTIONS WERE MADE TO RSVP IN HONOR OF:

Volunteers



(continued from page 5)

helps ensure that everything in the storeroom has its proper place, making the space more efficient and user friendly for everyone.

Barb Borkovec joined Group Projects and Homeworkers in February 2024 and started volunteering in the storeroom that April. In addition to her storeroom role, she is also part of the Cross Plains Group Projects team. Barb volunteers in the storeroom on Friday mornings where she delights in meeting the many volunteers who stop by to drop off donations. She enjoys putting faces to the names on the donated items and loves hearing about the creative plans volunteers have for the materials they find. Many volunteers share their excitement with Barb, telling her they “can hardly wait” to get started on their next project.

Together, these dedicated volunteers make the storeroom an exciting part of our program, a space that is not only well-organized and efficient but also filled with warmth, camaraderie, and inspiration. Thank you to Barb, Donna, Lynn and Nanci!

 SSMHealth.

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RSVP VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

...where volunteers make a difference

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

FALL OPPORTUNITIES

NATURAL RESOURCES FOUNDATION works to save lands and preserves around Wisconsin. They need volunteers to help with various office duties such as mailings, simple data entry, and some computer research projects.

OPERATION FRESH START (education, mentoring, and employment training) is looking for volunteers to work at the front desk/reception area to greet visitors and maintain sign-in sheets, answer phone calls and take messages, open the front door via remote button behind the desk, and other light clerical duties. Shifts are Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday 3:00-5:15pm at their office on Milwaukee St. in Madison.

OAKWOOD NATURE PRESERVE on Mineral Point Road is looking for helpers to pull weeds in wooded areas around Oakwood Village. Volunteers work with one of their committee members to identify, pull, and dispose of weeds such as garlic mustard.

9 LIVES CAT RESCUE, INC. (cat foster and adoption service) needs volunteer Application Processors to work from home within an animal adoption software program to review the applications to assure criteria for adoption are met and send the application on to an adoption coordinator. Volunteers work one or two three-hour shifts a week. Volunteers must have an internet connection, be comfortable learning new computer programs, have good verbal and written skills, and like to work independently.

STEENBOCK CENTER, Wisconsin Academy of the Arts, Science, and Letters on University Avenue needs Gardening Volunteers to help maintain the gardens and to help keep their grounds well cared for and welcoming! If you like weeding, digging, planting, working with your hands, and being creative, this job is for you!

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!

RONALD MCDONALD HOUSE needs volunteers interested in helping on weeknight evening shifts and weekend shifts.

LITERACY NETWORK is seeking volunteer tutors to help support adult students, immigrants, and refugees achieve their literacy goals! Training and ongoing support is provided.

DAIS (Domestic Abuse Intervention Services) is looking for volunteers for our Help Line and Shelter Hospitality programs! Our Help Line volunteers are trained to respond to survivors, concerned family and friends or health/services providers on our 24-hour Help line and Text. Our Help Line is often the first point of contact for survivors and conversations are often centered around support and resource sharing. The Shelter Hospitality role is centered in maintaining cleanliness of our shelter space and support our Shelter Advocates as they tend to resident needs. New Advocate Training is in November to prepare volunteers for each role!

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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 a week. You will be driving the 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.).

BADGER PRAIRIE NEEDS NETWORK is a resource center in Verona, run entirely 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 picking up and delivering donated food from stores and businesses in the area.

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.

Donation Processing – ReStore East

- Help at our ReStores which are critical to raising funds that allow Habitat to build affordable housing. This work includes unloading the donation truck, sorting through donated items, assembling/repairing small items, and merchandising the store floor. Shifts are 9am-1pm or 1pm-5pm offered Tuesdays-Saturdays.
- Location: 4207 Monona Dr, Madison WI

Construction – Oregon

- Build homes with us! No experience is needed and 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, 8:15am-3:30pm.
- Location: 557 Kay Ct, Oregon WI

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

BRILLE LIBRARY AND TRANSCRIPTION SERVICES is gearing up for their Fall training to become volunteer transcribers and 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 help sorting, labeling and packing 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!

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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 3rd Mondays of each month from 11am-12:30pm followed by a Healthy Living Luncheon which is ‘lunch and learn’ and discussion of health topics. Volunteers can help with setup at 10:30am, welcome guests, engage attendees in conversation, and help with serving snacks/meals, and clean up. Volunteers can assist where they feel comfortable.

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

Please contact Jan Karst, RSVP **Community Connections Coordinator**, for more information about these Volunteer Opportunities at jkarst@rsvpdane.org or 608.441.7891.



Each year, **RSVP of Dane County** observes 9/11 with a *Day of Service*. In 2025, we expanded this tradition into a *Month of Service*, supporting our partners at **WayForward Resources** by helping fill their pantry.

From **September 11 to September 30**, donation bins were placed in the RSVP office for volunteers, partners, and community members to drop off much-needed pantry items. Digital contributions were also welcomed, making it easy for everyone to participate. **WE WANT TO THANK EVERYONE WHO CONTRIBUTED TO THIS PANTRY DRIVE!**



Join us
for a **FREE**
community
event!

Flip the Script

on Aging

PEOPLE OF ALL AGES ARE ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND!

WHEN: Wednesday, October 22
1:30 pm - 4:00 pm

WHERE: Madison Marriott West

COST: FREE admission & parking

Register today!
<http://bit.ly/45vLVWM>
Or, call (608) 230-4321

Get ready for an unforgettable experience as we confront ageism head on! Explore the subtle stereotypes shaping our neighborhoods, workplaces, and relationships and learn how to challenge them with empathy, understanding, and action.

Hosted by:



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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)

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 _____



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RSVP Calendar

October

October 20, Board Meeting at RSVP, 1:30 pm

October 23, RSVP Monthly Zoom Program featuring De’Kendrea Stamps from MG&E, “Energy Efficiency Month,” 1:00 pm

October 25, Stand Down Madison, Madison Salvation Army, 8:30 am - 1:00 pm

October 29, Wisconsin Senior Safety Resource Fair hosted by Triad, Vista West Retirement Community Room, 8:00 am - 12:00 pm

November

November 2, #GivingTuesday Virtual Campaign begins!

November 11, RSVP VHV Veteran’s Day Event, Bubbletime Express Car Wash, 8:00 am - 12:00 pm

November 11, Triad Monthly Virtual Program, “Dementia Care Resources,” 10:00 am. via Zoom

November 27-28, RSVP Office CLOSED, Holiday

December

December 2, #GivingTuesday Virtual Campaign ends!

December 15, RSVP Board Meeting at RSVP, 1:30 pm

December 22, Monthly Zoom event featuring NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness)
“Caring for our personal mental health,” 1:00 pm

December 24, 25, 31, RSVP office CLOSED, Holiday