# NEWS

# NOTES

Summer 2025

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

# Best Party Ever!

by Paula Reif, Foster Grandparent Program Coordinator

What makes a great outdoor intergenerational party?

- Good Weather
- Good Food
- Great Surroundings
- Excellent Volunteers!

All of the elements came together for the Computer Buddy gathering at Lakeview Elementary school! The weather was perfect for this outdoor event, and the school grounds – with a beautiful shelter and picnic tables, wooded walking paths, and ample recreation space – provided the ideal location for the Intergenerational Computer Buddy Volunteers to have an in-person gathering to meet their Madison School and Community Recreation (MSCR) after school program students.

The Computer Buddy Program is done remotely with RSVP volunteers being paired with students in MSCR after school programs. The volunteers and students use a secure blog platform to correspond on a regular basis, providing a great way for the students to practice corresponding and offering a platform for intergenerational connection.

Here's what some of the volunteers shared when asked about their favorite part of the program:

- "... Enjoying the back and forth and finding out what 4th graders are interested in."
- "Meeting my computer buddy in person."
- "Early emails when you first get to know each other. Also, this year's party was the best ever."
- "Students' enthusiasm for the things they enjoy in their lives."

If you are interested in participating in the Computer Buddy Program next school year, contact Paula, the Intergenerational Program Coordinator, at preif@rsvpdane.org to learn how to get involved.









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## **RSVP Board Notes**

Welcome to a hot and humid summer in Wisconsin!

Over the past month or so members of the all-volunteer Board have been crafting correspondence to our Congressional Representatives: Senators Tammy Baldwin and Ron Johnson, and Representative Mark



Pocan. The purpose of our correspondence has been to enlist their support for continuing funding for AmeriCorps and specifically funding for RSVP of Dane County (RSVP). To that end, we invited them to attend our Annual Meeting on Monday, June 16th. Representatives from Senator Baldwin's and Representative Mark Pocan's offices were able to attend. Later, members of the Board met with representatives for Senator Johnson and Representative Pocan. Our Congressional Representatives have been very responsive to our requests for support.

The Annual Meeting was exciting. Not only did the Program Managers report on a successful 2024 year, we had several volunteers who spoke of their experiences as RSVP volunteers. In addition, the Board welcomed two new members: Margie Zutter (YES - the Margie Zutter who has given RSVP forty-seven years of service, from student intern to Executive Director) and Brian Douglas Benford. Brian has served as a family advocate, educator, activist, City Alder, and president of the City of Madison's Equal Opportunities Commission. He is currently the Success Coach at the award-winning UW-Madison Odyssey Project.

The Development and Grants Committee decided against holding a Sweepstakes this year. Instead, it held a Spring Campaign which was very successful. Thank you to all who contributed to the Campaign.

The Marketing Committee is in the process of distributing a booklet entitled "A Legacy of Giving: RSVP of Dane County Volunteer Stories". It's a Booklet of volunteer experiences within RSVP. Look for it next time you are in a Waiting Room.

The Recognition Committee is hard at work on this year's Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon. It will be Wednesday, September 25<sup>th</sup>, at Barnwood Events from 11:30 to 1:30.

Respectfully submitted,

Deborah Ann Speckmann President, RSVP Board of Directors

# From the Desk of...

When I considered what to write in this edition of News Notes, I began reflecting on our recent Annual Board Meeting, where staff and volunteers presented information and updates on all our programs to the Board of Directors and other attendees.

What is an Annual Board Meeting? Most nonprofit organizations are required to hold an annual meeting to review the previous year's performance, set

goals, and elect new board members and officers. It is a time to invite not only the board and staff but also all volunteers, partners, and special guests. The meeting is always open to the public. We were very excited to have two special guests join us this year: Justin Williams from Senator Tammy Baldwin's office and Chandler Denhart from Congressman Mark Pocan's office.

Listening to the staff

# Diana Jost Executive Director

present program updates, I felt very proud to be part of this organization. I have been proud of what the RSVP staff, volunteers, and the Board have achieved each year since I started working for RSVP in 2013. Still, sometimes it is easy to get caught up in daily activities, and not take a chance to step back, listen, and genuinely reflect on the work we are involved in. This applies to have on the lives of those our staff, Board, and especially our volunteers. Each is so busy helping at



their volunteer station that they may not even realize the enormous impact they in Dane County every day.

(continued on page 6)

# Volunteering and Service Local Veteran is Recipient of a Chain Reaction – Pay It Forward! By Lorrie Hylkema, Vets Helping Vets Program Coordinator

Congratulations to Heather Gautsch!!

In April, Lorrie Hylkema, our RSVP Vets Helping Vets Coordinator, was contacted by Jamie Weidner (American Family Senior Vendor Management Specialist) to find a veteran or active duty service member in need of a vehicle. Lorrie immediately found Heather "in my back yard" as she says.

The lucky veteran or service member needed to demonstrate honorable service to the country and dedication by giving back to other veterans through a work or volunteer position in the community.

Lorrie has worked with Heather as a volunteer through Stand Down Madison, the Veterans Leadership Team, and with Vocational Rehabilitation Specialists Inc (VRSI) in Madison."

Heather started serving in her senior year of high school in the Wisconsin National Guard and was deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom in the summer of 2006, stationed in Taji, Iraq. Heather operated and maintained fuel trucks for missions and CARTIE TO STATE OF THE PARTY OF

l to r: Lorrie Hylkema, RSVP Vets Helping Vets Coordinator; Heather Gautsch, Veteran Volunteer; Kate Seal, Assistant Director RSVP; Angie Nickels, former President of Stand Down Madison, Veteran Volunteer

provided security detail for entry control points and dining facilities.

Upon her return to the states, Heather worked at Fort McCoy with the WI Military Academy as a Supply Technician, providing legion-related and instructional support for transportation and simulator courses. Heather then transferred to the Army Reserve to provide support and legion duties within the 86th training division until her medical retirement in 2015. Heather volunteers for Stand Down Madison, Veterans Leadership Team, and Outreach Madison as a group facilitator.

Heather's current project is to create a safe space for veterans to share their stories through her own Veteran podcast.

In addition, Heather coaches a softball team in a recreational league, writes poetry, and seeks to connect with other veterans through organizations such as Dryhootch, Vets Connect, and local Women Veterans support groups.

(continue on page 6)

# The Volunteer Experience at Braille Library & Transcribing Services (BLTS)

By Jan Karst, Community Connections Program Coordinator



Braille Library & Transcribing Services is an almost totally volunteer non-profit organization. BLTS has two main services. One is to transcribe materials from print to braille for the blind or visually impaired. The other service is a free lending library of braille books to blind people across the United States.

Lending library volunteers help the librarian with tasks involving the processing of books for the library, packing and unpacking boxes for transport to library clients, and other duties with regards to maintaining the library collection.

Most of our volunteers are braille transcribers. To become a certified braille transcriber takes about a year. We offer a course each fall, which usually includes a meeting once every other week. There may be optional study sessions as needed. All classes are held at our offices at 6501 Watts Road, Madison, WI. The classes are around 1.5 hours, and outside of class exercises, drills, proofreading, etc., average around 10 hours per week. We supply all of the software and lessons, but volunteers provide their own computer/printer.

Our Braille Coordinator assigns materials needed for transcribing. We get requests from schools, businesses, and private individuals across the U.S. These include materials such as bills, program brochures, school worksheets/books, menus and cookbooks, leisure reading, handicraft books, and many other miscellaneous items. Basically, the BLTS volunteers transcribe whatever the blind or visually impaired reader requests. We also braille almost all of the reading material in our lending library.

Literacy is an important life skill and providing materials for the blind is a rewarding and fulfilling service. Most of the transcribing that volunteers do is done in their own homes and at their own pace, subject to client deadlines. It is very flexible as to the amount a volunteer transcribes each year for BLTS. Active volunteers are asked to produce 300 braille pages or equivalent volunteer work per year for BLTS in order to maintain their brailling abilities.

Volunteers at BLTS also benefit from a friendly community of support and fellowship. We plan several continuing education opportunities throughout the year. We also find time to have fun, including group activities and lunch gatherings.



Braille Transcription



**Braille Transcription Machines** 



Transcribing Braille

### (continued from page 4)

American Family Insurance runs a fantastic program – they purchase a vehicle before it is considered a total loss and fully refurbish it with a whole lot of help from donated services given by local autobody shops and other organizations. In this case, a Honda 2025 CRV was in an accident and has been refurbished through Gerber Collision and Glass.

American Family and the Recycled Rides Program, sponsored by the National Autobody Council, donates at least six vehicles a year to service members, veterans, or other related fire and emergency personnel. More vehicles will be donated at a Milwaukee Brewers game in July and at a Wisconsin Badger game in December, to well-deserving service members.

It is only fitting that Heather has received this reward through an organization that is full of others who are paying it forward -- from American Family Insurance Vendor Specialists to autobody shops to car parts companies to other service members and sponsoring organizations such as RSVP of Dane County, which seeks to pay it forward by recruiting volunteers to help those in need in our community!

If you are interested in becoming one of the many wonderful volunteer drivers for Driver Services as part of RSVP of Dane County, especially to help veterans, spouses of veterans, or any senior citizen get to their medical appointments, please contact Steve Jaeschke at 608.441.7892, Camela King at 608.441.7896, or Lorrie Hylkema at 608.238.7901.

**\* \* \* \* \*** 

### (continued from page 3)

Three volunteers gave excellent presentations at the meeting, discussing how they started volunteering, why they continue, and what volunteering has meant to them over the years.

Sitting and listening at the meeting gave me time to reflect on how vital this organization is to our community. Every volunteer and program help transform the lives of many people in the surrounding area. This meeting truly reaffirmed why I am so proud to be a part of this organization.

Most of you who read this column are very familiar with RSVP and all that the volunteers, Board, and staff do. I wanted to share some of the information and statistics from the Annual Meeting with you, in the hope that you will have the same experience I did, realizing once again the impact of RSVP and why this organization is so essential to our community.

In 2024, 1260 volunteers contributed 144,385 hours to the community. This is equivalent to more than 139 employees working 20 hours a week, serving thousands of Dane County residents. Our volunteer hours are valued at over \$5.02 million, according to data from the Independent Sector (www.independentsector.org)

This is just a glimpse of what was discussed at our Annual Meeting and what is included in this year's Annual port. I invite you to go to our website and look at the entire Annual Report: www.rwvpdane.org.

And remember, in June 2026, our next Annual Meeting will highlight all the wonderful things our volunteers accomplished in 2025. We would love to have you join us.

# New Funding Thank You Notes

### **April**

- \$1,000 from Oregon-Brooklyn VFW Post 10272. Thank you for your continued support of our Vets Helping Vets Program.
- \$5,000 from the MGE Foundation. We are grateful for your continued sponsorship.
- \$1,000 sponsorship from TDS Telecommunications Corporation. We are grateful for your continued sponsorship.

### May

- \$1,500 from Altrusa International of Madison to support the Foster Grandparent Program. Thank you for your continued support.
- \$1,000 from Madison South Rotary to support our Group Projects/Homeworkers Program. We are grateful for your ongoing support.

# June

- \$10,000 from WPS Charitable Foundation. Thank you for your support of RSVP programs.
  - \$1,000 sponsorship from SSM Health. Thank you for your continued sponsorship.
  - \$5,000 from the Evjue Foundation to support RSVP programs and volunteer recruitment. We are grateful for your continued support.
  - \$1,000 sponsorship from US Bank. Thank you for your continued support.

# Katie Palmer Talks About Being a RSVP Group Projects Volunteer

By Julia Pierstorff, Group Projects Program Coordinator



I was invited to join the Mt. Horeb group of ladies back when they were making the small bears. The group consisted of Elaine, Doris, Eunice, Ruth, Ann, and Georgia, our group leader. Georgia would sew the bears and bring them to the group to be stuffed and finished with a face. This was a great group of talented ladies. That was in 2014. Since that time Georgia asked me to be the liaison for the group which meant delivering the completed bears and other items to the RSVP office in Madison and picking up supplies that we needed. The Mt. Horeb group has since disbanded.

At the same time, my mom, Barb, was sewing quilts with the Belleville group and needed someone to gather finished items and also take them to the RSVP office. Well, guess who volunteered! Me. I was going to the office anyway, so why not. At that time, I joined the Belleville group, cutting squares and sometimes finishing the quilts to be ready for delivery. The Belleville group continues with many talented hands making quilts. This meant that three times a month I went to one of the groups to deliver materials or pick up finished items.

Later on, Joan and Sharon in Blue Mounds needed items to be picked up and they both needed yarn. Well, why not? Then, making a trip to Belleville, I started picking up mittens from Dorothy. Yup, it was right on my way. So currently I have Elaine, Dorothy and Ann, and I continue to pick up puppy pillows, mittens, hats, scarves, and baby blankets that they have made. Along the way I also met with the group in Cross Plains, and I am now their liaison. The Cross Plains group makes quilts, tote bags, tag blankets, and almost anything that is needed by the community. This group is growing, and it is such a joy to be with.

Why did I want to join RSVP? The community needs blankets, warm mittens, hats, scarves, tote bags, and many other items. I thought I could help out. I like to sew, knit, and work on crocheting, but that is not working so well. I think we all need a purpose. Helping the community with my talents makes ME feel like I matter. The RSVP staff are just amazing and very helpful. I continue to recruit friends to share their talents also.

I mostly knit prayer shawls for RSVP. I cut material squares for quilts, and I take part with the Belleville and Cross Plains groups. The RSVP volunteers that I deliver supplies and/or pick up completed items from do not drive anymore thus they do not have a way to get supplies that they need. And, sometimes I am the only visitor they see for a period of time. They need to feel needed and appreciated for the items that they make.

I would like to share a story about one of the ladies in my group. Around Christmas time she received a letter in the mail from the Dane County Sheriff's office. She was thinking, "What did I do now?" Well, after opening the letter, she saw that it was a thank you note for the mittens, hats, and scarves she had made that were delivered to a family in Madison. Well, it does pay to open all of your mail. There just might be a note of gratitude there for what you do for the community.

In closing, I am honored and very proud to be a contributing member of an amazing group, RSVP of Dane County. And I am happy to share my knowledge with anyone I know. Hey, have you heard about RSVP? Well, let me tell you about this amazing group and what they are all about!

## WELCOME New Volunteers

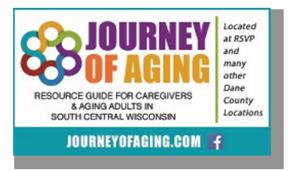
We enrolled 57 new volunteers from April 2025 through June 2025, serving in a wide variety of assignments throughout Dane County. Do you know someone who might like to volunteer? RSVP volunteers are our best recruiters as they spread the word about why they like volunteering and the need for more volunteers. Please pass this newsletter on to a friend or neighbor and tell them what RSVP means to you!

Jean Abrams
Paul Allen
Brian Benford
Barbara Bonzo
Kris Carlson
Sandra Carmean
Catherine Chow
Karen M. Christensen
Catherine S. Dunaway
Susan G. Engelbrecht
Jeanette M. Erickson
Michael Fogle
Nancy Foss
Stephanie Funck
Jeffrey A. Furst

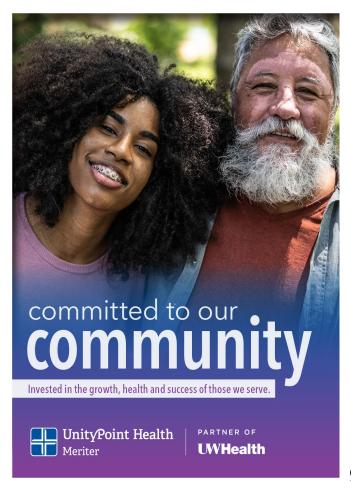
Eileen C. Goode Terri Gregory Julie A. Grogan Bonnie Grosnick Stephanie C. Haack John Hassrick Merribeth Helmstetter Michael G. Hilgers Marion K. Hoffman Carol Hollfelder Gregory R. Hooyman Hannah Jelle Ann Johnston John T. Keating Judith Kleinmaier

Carolyn J. Koepp Rhonda Lewis Mary Loew Diane L. Luebke Hedy Lukas Patrice Lynam Becky S. Mahan Deanna L. Martin Diane Maxwell Daniel J. McWilliams Sandra Muschitz Andrew M. Kakatsuka David M. Nondahl Loretta Norris Patti Offer John E. Quirk
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Daniel G. Smith
Scott W. Smith
Corey Statz
Julie Stebbins
Dale D. Struckmeyer
Lee H. Trummer
Robert O. Trummer
Marian K. Viney
Harry Weinstein
Erin J. Werner
Rebecca J. Zart

\* \* \* \* \*







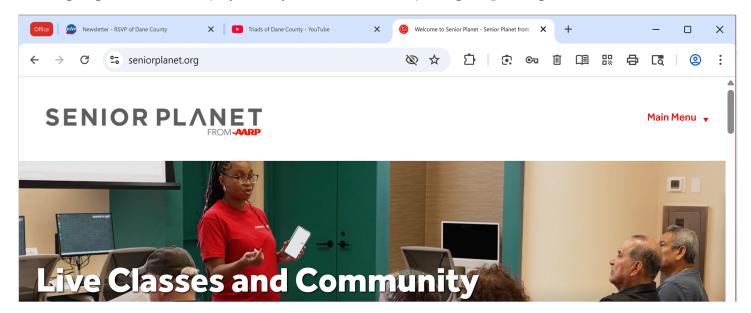
# Triad Update

By Mike Thomsen, Triad Program Coordinator

Our Triad Program has been working for over thirty years to raise older adults' awareness of and ability to cope with the public and personal safety and health risks that threaten their well-being. Triad volunteers have been their usual busy selves this Spring. We produced three monthly presentations and a Spring issue of the Triad Newsletter, held seven in-person Senior Planet technology skills classes, and participated in the City of Madison's Safety Saturday in June.

In case you missed one of the monthly programs, or want to read an article again, these are available on our YouTube channel, https://youtube.com/@triadsofdanecounty, and in our newsletter archive, https://www.rsvpdane.org/news/newsletter/. And while the Senior Planet classes are in-person and not recorded, the SeniorPlanet.org website offers Zoom classes every day and includes wide variety of technology skills help as well as 1-on-1 tech help. Click the "Main Menu" button on the upper right corner of the SeniorPlanet.org webpage.

We are planning for the annual "Car Check" FREE vehicle safety inspection event in September as well as the Triad Senior Safety Resource Fair in October. Doing all of these things takes volunteers, though, so if you would like to help us with any of these activities, from organizing events, to writing, to leading tech skills classes, please get in touch with Mike at mthomsen@rsvpdane.org. By the way, the next Senior Planet "Train the Trainer" training begins the week of July 28. If you're interested in joining us, please get in touch ASAP.



2025 Wisconsin Senior Safety Resource Fair
Hosted by Triad
October 29 at Vista West in Madison

# Want to get in Touch with

Simply dial 608.238.RSVP (7787) or e-mail us at info@rsvpdane.org - or you can reach individual staff PROGRAM COORDINATORS members directly at the phone Jan Karst, Community Connections numbers/e-mail addresses listed at right. In the event we're not available at the time you call, our 24-hour voice Paula Reif, Foster Grandparent and mail will ensure you receive a prompt response.

### **ADMINISTRATIVE**

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

Coordinator 608.441.7891, jkarst@rsvpdane.org Intergenerational Program Coordinator 608.441.7894, preif@rsvpdane.org Julia Pierstorff, Group Projects/ Homeworkers Program Coordinator 608.310.7280, jpierstorff@rsvpdane.org

Mike Thomsen, Triad Coordinator 608.441.7897, mthomsen@rsvpdane.org

#### **DRIVER SERVICES PROGRAM**

Steve Jaeschke, Driver Services Manager 608.441.7892, sjaeschke@rsvpdane.org Camela King, Driver Services Coordinator 608.441.7896, cking@rsvpdane.org 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



L1-2117556-25



### Ten Easy Ways to Save Energy This Summer

From Madison Gas and Electric (MGE)

Stay cool and comfortable at home with these tips from MGE.

- 1. Use a qualified contractor to professionally maintain your central air at least every two years. And, be sure to routinely clean leaves and grass clippings off your outdoor air conditioning unit.
- 2. Run major appliances before 10 a.m. and after 9 p.m. or on weekends. This helps lower the demand for power during peak times.
- 3. Set your thermostat as high as is comfortable, preferably 78° or higher when you are home and up to 85° when you are away. Consider upgrading to a smart thermostat—they can adjust temperatures automatically based on your routine and can make saving energy easier. Consider participating in MGE Connect® and help reduce strain on the electric grid during periods of heavy energy use—all while getting a reward!
- 4. Swap your light bulbs with LED bulbs, which use up to 75% less energy than standard incandescent bulbs and last longer.
- 5. Unplug your phone chargers, printers, computers and other electronics when you are not using them. These devices can still use energy when not in use. Standby or "phantom" power can account for 5% to 10% of your total energy use.
- 6. Run a whole-house fan, room fan or ceiling fan. Be sure to turn off ceiling and room fans when no one is in the room—fans cool people, not rooms.
- 7. Seal around your window air conditioner so cool air cannot escape. If you need to purchase a new unit, consider a Wi-Fi window air conditioner—you can control them remotely with smartphone apps, which allow you to adjust the temperature while you're away.
- 8. Keep your window coverings closed to block out direct sunlight.
- 9. Run full loads in your washer and dryer to cut down on excess energy usage.
- 10. Keep your water heater temperature set at 120°, and if you go on vacation, remember to switch it to vacation mode.

By managing our energy use collectively, we can help manage energy costs and reduce carbon emissions as we work together to achieve net-zero carbon electricity by 2050. Find other ways to save energy at 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+

Harold and Donna Sabot

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

Theresa Conger Wayne and Barbara Halverson Kit-Yin Ling Mary Odell Peter Orlik

#### Facilitators \$500-\$999

Jane Eisner Fund of the Madison Community Foundation Donna Howell Rodney Huebner Robert and Gail Korb John and Donna Montgomery Gertrude Stelsel

#### Sustainers \$250-\$499

Barbara Borkovec Karen Cunningham Thomas Duter Tom and Muriel Howells Monna S. Kolbe Madison Monona Lioness Club Deborah Ann Speckmann

#### Partners \$100-\$249

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Hilda Karlovich Janet Kleiboer Susan and Mark Klein Beverly Klumph Axel Kotch

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Regis Miller
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Stefanie Moritz
Theresa Morrissey
Burnell Morton
David and Gail Nelson
Larry R. Noyce

Mary Oldenburg Ann Ostrom Brenda Paske Jerry Patzwald Carol Pederson Joan A. Perkins Helene Pertzborn Rhona Pfeffer Tom Rapa Martin Renz Victoria J. Ross

Harvey and Alice Rottier Jeanette Rutschow Kathleen Saunders

Steve and Rita Schmudlach

Joan Schneeberger Alvin B. Schubert David Seligman and Betsy Abramson Frederick W. Seybold Alice Shuman-Johnson

Rose C. Sime Mary Stormer

Phillip and Diane Strobel Bonnie and James Summers

Elaine Swenson

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Kimba Tieu Lois E. Tyler Doreen Voit John W. Voss Beth Walters Carol Weidel

Bruce and Ann Whiting Barbara Williams Joyce Williams

Rita Wilson Karen J. Wolf

Tom and Jeanne Worden

### In-Kind

Marianna Adamczk Kendra Jacob Claudia Prunuske Carrie Waite

## Thank You for Your Support!



We are incredibly grateful to **Target** and everyone who participated in the **Target Circle Giving Program** over the past few months. Thanks to your votes, we're thrilled to share the final results:



**15,689 votes** were cast for **RSVP of Dane County**, resulting in a **\$1,529.26 grant** from Target to support our programming!

Your support is both exciting and humbling. It plays a vital role in helping us fulfill our mission and make a meaningful impact in the community.



At SSM Health, we're dedicated to delivering the care that's right for you. Rooted in our community and driven by innovation, we set the standard for high-quality, compassionate care. Our expert team prioritizes listening, respect, and collaboration.

Visit ssmhealth.com/TogetherWI to learn more.







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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

#### **SUMMER OPPORTUNITIES**

**NATURAL RESOURCES FOUNDATION (NRF)** protects Wisconsin's lands, waters, and wildlife by providing funding, leading partnerships, and connecting all people with nature. NRF needs volunteers to help with office assignments including mailings, computer research, and various office projects.

**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. Front desk volunteers are the first smiling face families see as they enter the House. Van Drivers provide rides for families to hospitals, appointments, the grocery store, and other locations around Madison.

**LITERACY NETWORK** helps support adult students, immigrants, and refugees achieve their literacy goals: you can help by becoming a volunteer tutor! Training and ongoing support is 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 11am-12:30pm, followed by a Healthy Living Luncheon which is 'lunch and learn' and discussion of health topics. Volunteers can assist where they feel comfortable: help with setup at 10:30am, welcome guests, engage attendees in conversation, help with serving snacks/meals, and clean up.

The **CONNECTIONS** program needs volunteers on Thursdays from 10am-12pm. 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, play games or 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 a week. You will be driving their 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 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 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.

(continued from page 16)

### **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 as 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 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 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!

**ST VINCENT'S FOOD PANTRY** needs more volunteers to help sort and shelve produce in the mornings from 8am – 10am. 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 Pantry running.

**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 caring presence and support through touch and conversation.

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

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



# **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:

Bill Arthur, Audrey Boushon, Tony Farina, Richard A. Gilson, Esther Haag, Dick Hoffman, Irene Keller, Melissa Kepner, Rose King, Luke MacClean, Conrad Markley, Reiny Meihsner, Barbara Palmer, Len Rush, Donald R. Schneeberger, Marie Stapleton, Richard Stormer, Janeen Sweeney-Blakesley, Diane Szymanski, Ed Vervoort, Laura Werner

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

All Americans, All Volunteers, Carol Reithel, Claire Renz, RSVP

### **RSVP** Calendar

### July

**July 30,** July Zoom Event featuring Willy Street Cooperative (Presentation topics: What is a co-op? How does the co-op work with the community? Info about local and seasonal eating. 1:00 p.m.

### August

August 18, Board of Directors Meeting, 1:30 p.m.

**August 21,** August Zoom Event, featuring Michael Engelman from Badger Talks. Presentation is called "On Wisconsin: People, Places, Health, and Aging", 1:00 p.m.

### September

September 1, RSVP office closed for holiday

September 25, Annual Volunteer Appreciation Event. The event is by invitation only. Only RSVP volunteers reporting hours from September 2024 to August 2025 will receive invitations.

September 25, RSVP office closed for off-site event

### October

October 23, October Zoom Event, featuring MG&E's DeKendrea Stamps, who will speak on energy efficiency and home programs. October is *National Energy Awareness Month*!, 1:00 p.m. October 29, Annual Wisconsin Triad Conference, held at Vista West Senior Living, 8:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

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Memorials and Tributes						
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Jack Anderson, Treasurer Melvin Hinton Mary Stamstad

### **SAVE THE DATE!**

**Bob Smith** 

**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!