



# NEWS

## NOTES

Winter 2026

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

### The Power of True Connections

by Paula Reif, Foster Grandparent and Intergenerational Program Coordinator

In his *Parting Prescription for America* (January 7, 2025), then Surgeon General Vivek Murthy outlined three pillars of community: relationships, service, and purpose. He further defines *relationships* as the connections we build with others and he notes that those connections help us improve our performance at work and at school. Murthy points out that building relationships requires a commitment to making social connection a priority.

The reciprocal benefits of serving others have been well-documented. RSVP volunteers can all testify to the benefits they receive from their service. Intergenerational volunteers serving in the new True Connections program offer a particularly impactful benefit, supporting student academics and school engagement while also nurturing that personal connection with the student. This hybrid remote and in-person program supports student literacy through weekly penpal-type writing exchanges using a secure blog platform, and once a month in-person meetups to share experiences. RSVP is partnering with the MSCR afterschool site at Lake View Elementary to pilot this new program during the 2025-26 school year.

True Connections volunteers invest their time and compassion in meaningful ways to support students, resulting in increased resilience and hope as students experience one-on-one attention from a caring adult, an opportunity that also provides volunteers with an enhanced sense of purpose and meaning. While other caring adults in the students' lives have additional roles that they play, such as teacher, parent, grandparent, etc., True Connections volunteers share their time getting to know and supporting their students solely because they want to make a difference in that child's life. To learn more about the True Connections program contact Paula Reif, Intergenerational Programs Coordinator at [preif@rsvpdane.org](mailto:preif@rsvpdane.org).



The MSCR afterschool students at Lake View Elementary school and their intergenerational volunteer mentors are participating in the True Connections program.



Artist, retired art teacher, and RSVP volunteer Lori Henthorne guides the group through the first steps of a clay planter project. Sharing artistic experiences is a wonderful way to connect the generations and everyone had a great time!

## In This Issue

**Looking for  
volunteer  
opportunities?  
Pages 17 and 18**

RSVP Board Notes.....	2
From the Desk of the Executive Director.....	3
Honoring Dave Maboney.....	4
RSVP Remembers Tom Howells.....	4
Never Ending Service.....	5
Return of the Oregon RSVP Group .....	6
Good Food and Fellowship.....	7
Empowering Our Seniors.....	8
Welcome New Volunteers.....	9
#GivingTuesday.....	10
Let's Talk.....	10
Want to get in Touch with US?.....	11
UW Health Information.....	12
MG&E Information .....	13
RSVP Donor Honor Roll.....	14
SSM Health and TDS Information .....	15
Memorials and Tributes.....	16
New Funding.....	16
RSVP Volunteer Opportunities .....	17
RSVP Volunteer Opportunities (cont.).....	18
RSVP Calendar .....	20



## RSVP Board Notes

It's a perfect winter day. Snow is falling and they're predicting a foot of snow. Officially we got 9.3 inches. Happy Holidays!

It is with a heavy heart that I must inform you of the passing of long-term RSVP Volunteer and Board Vice President, Tom Howells, on Friday, October 17, 2025. Tom's death was totally unexpected and a shock to his family and all of us.



I had just been chatting with Tom the morning before about giving RSVP Staff the day after Christmas as a paid holiday. Tom was all about ensuring that RSVP was a favorable and enjoyable workplace for all Staff. Not only was Tom the Vice President, but he was also the Chair of the Personnel Committee, which really matched his skill set.

That same afternoon Tom went to the RSVP Office to meet with the Assessment Committee, of which he was an active member. I heard later that he was his usual jovial self with a ready smile and kind and positive words for everyone he encountered.

Tom started volunteering with RSVP approximately fourteen years ago within the Intergenerational Program. He also provided Medical Rides and, as a Vet, volunteered with the Vets Helping Vets Program. Tom also volunteered with WayForward Resources of Middleton.

We will miss Tom.



I want to thank all of you who participated in the recent Group Projects Survey for the Assessment Committee. Your participation will ensure that we provide better service to you, the volunteers, and those who benefit from your work.

Thank you to all of you who participated in our Giving Tuesday Event. It was nice hearing all the different stories and comments which made the day a great success.

By now you should have received our Annual Campaign Letter. Please consider contributing, and to those who have already made contributions, thank you.

Respectfully submitted,

Deborah Ann Speckmann  
President, RSVP Board of Directors

## From the Desk of...

**R**eflecting on 2025, I am reminded of how fortunate we are to work with such dedicated volunteers and supporters – people who believe in RSVP’s mission and are committed to strengthening our community. RSVP’s 2025 theme, “*Neighbors Helping Neighbors*,” captures the many hours of service our volunteers contributed, the strong partnerships with other organizations, and the generous support of

those who helped make our community a better place to live.

As I started to think about 2026 and how we, as RSVP staff, volunteers, and supporters, can make it a positive and joyful year for our community, two items caught my attention.

First, we will mark America’s Semiquincentennial – our nation’s 250th birthday! To honor this milestone, there has been a

*Diana Jost  
Executive Director*

nationwide call to revitalize volunteerism across the country. One organization that has been in the headlines recently is America Gives. Former Presidents Barack Obama and George W. Bush serve as the honorary national co-chairs of this “*major nationwide service initiative, which was launched to make 2026 the most active year of service in American history, coinciding with the nation’s 250th anniversary.*” America 250, Americagives.org AmeriCorps Seniors, along



with the United Way, Points of Light, the American Red Cross, and other nonprofit and for-profit organizations, are sponsors of this program.

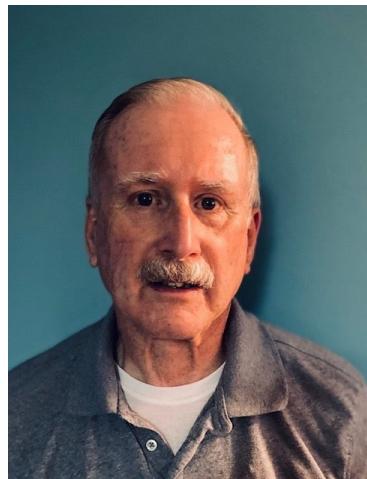
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## Honoring the Life and Service of Dave Mahoney

*By Steve Jaeschke, Driver Services Program Manager*

**O**ur community recently lost a remarkable individual whose compassion, dedication, and unwavering service touched countless lives. **Dave Mahoney**, a proud veteran and longtime volunteer, passed away on **Tuesday, December 2, 2025**. His legacy, however, will continue to inspire all who knew him.

Dave dedicated much of his time to volunteering within the community. One of the places was **RSVP of Dane County**, where he served as a volunteer driver who ensured that veterans and community members could access essential medical appointments. With a steady hand, a warm smile, and an unshakeable commitment to helping others, Dave logged countless miles, each one representing a moment of support, dignity, and care for someone in need.



For the veterans he transported, Dave was more than just a driver. He was a fellow servicemember who understood the challenges many faced, offering conversation, companionship, and heartfelt encouragement along each journey. For his community, he was a reliable presence, someone who could always be counted on to show up, lend a hand, and put others first.

Dave's work exemplified the spirit of volunteerism that strengthens our community. Through his kindness and generosity, he made a meaningful difference in the lives of hundreds. His contributions will not be forgotten, and his example will continue to inspire future volunteers to serve with the same dedication and heart. As we remember Dave, we extend our deepest condolences to his family, friends, and all those whose lives he touched. We are grateful for the time we had with him and forever thankful for his service, both in uniform and throughout his life as a devoted volunteer.

## RSVP Remembers Tom Howells

*By Kate Seal, RSVP Assistant Director*



**T**om Howells devoted more than a decade of service to RSVP of Dane County, sharing his time and talents in countless meaningful ways.

Tom's RSVP journey began in the classroom as a volunteer tutor and on the road as a Driver Escort, providing transportation for seniors and Veterans to medical appointments. His commitment to service only deepened from there. He generously shared his extensive professional expertise as a member of the RSVP Board of Directors and later as Board Vice President. Tom also contributed thoughtfully on numerous RSVP committees, all while remaining steadfast in his hands-on service as a volunteer driver.

A steady and reassuring presence, Tom consistently went above and beyond, demonstrating a genuine and unwavering commitment to helping others, along with a masterful ability to make those around him chuckle and feel truly valued. Over the years, he contributed nearly 1,000 recorded hours of service, though we are certain there were countless additional hours given quietly and without recognition.

We are profoundly grateful for Tom's leadership, kindness, and remarkable ability to put others at ease by bringing warmth, laughter, and a sense of home wherever he went. He will be fondly remembered and honored in memoriam, 2025.

(continued from page 3)

The second item that caught my attention was a simple Facebook post titled *Facebook Positive Posts 12/30/25*. It shared the following reflections:

- **Stay in love with life** — Enjoy what you do, have fun, and make each day count.
- **Be positive** — Make a commitment to be a positive influence in the community.
- **Be passionate** — About helping others and your community.
- **Be joyful** — And share this joy with others.
- **Stay focused** — On how you can help make the world a better place.
- **Be peaceful** — In your actions and in what you teach.
- **Be persistent** — In working to change the world for the better.
- **Believe in togetherness** — Together, we can do so much more.
- **Always be grateful** — For all that you have and all that you can give.

As I read this list, I immediately thought about how volunteering brings these values to life — by helping others, strengthening our community, and enriching our own lives in the process.

After reading about the call for volunteerism for 2026 and Facebook's Positive Posts, I am filled with hope and excitement for a renewed commitment to helping others — through volunteering, kindness, and working together — to create a stronger, more caring community for all. I know that RSVP volunteers will proudly stand at the forefront, leading the way and rising to this challenge.

## Never Ending Service

*By Lorrie Hylkema, RSVP Vets Helping Vets Coordinator*

**I**t's that time of year again, when we gratefully spotlight our wonderful Veterans who volunteer with RSVP. Two of our regular Driver Services volunteers helped at this year's Stand Down Madison on October 25th at the Salvation Army on Darbo Drive. Stand Down is held every October to support Veterans who are homeless or at risk of homelessness. Services available included housing and employment assistance, benefits support, transportation, warm clothing, blankets, backpacks, haircuts, foot care, music therapy, acupuncture, and even massages.

New additions this year included eye exams provided by the Lions Club of Mt. Horeb and pet therapy from the American Red Cross. The therapy dogs were a huge hit, each with their own "business card." In total, 91 Veterans received services, supported by 103 volunteers who served as buddies, meal prep helpers, greeters, runners, and set-up/clean-up crews in the Salvation Army gym.

Our second event was a special Veterans Day car wash held at Bubbletime Express Car Wash on Grand Canyon Drive. Despite the cold and windy November 11th weather, 12 Veterans came out for a free wash, a photo, hot Starbucks coffee, warm RSVP winter gloves, and delicious homemade muffins from Hubbard Street Diner in Middleton. This event honored our Veteran volunteer drivers and celebrated the 50th anniversary of Driver Services.

For those Veteran volunteers who couldn't attend, we mailed handmade thank-you cards created by the Fitchburg Senior Center RSVP Group Projects Volunteers. Each card included a free car wash gift card. Bubbletime Express manager Ethan also donated free dash wipes, air fresheners, and a discounted basic wash for every Veteran. As always, if you are interested in becoming an RSVP Driver Services volunteer, please contact: Lorrie Hylkema at 608.238.7901 or Steve Jaeschke at 608.441.7892.

## Stitching Hope: The Resilient Return of the Oregon RSVP Group

*By Julia Pierstorff, Group Projects/Homeworkers Program Coordinator*

**F**or Karen O., a simple walk through the Oregon Senior Center changed everything. After spotting two women quilting, she signed up with the Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) on the spot. At the time, she joined a small, dedicated group of six women knitting, quilting, and sewing tote bags for those in need.

### Overcoming Challenges

Like so many community groups, the COVID-19 pandemic forced a pause in their meetings. However, the needles didn't stop moving. Karen continued to quilt at home throughout the year-long hiatus, amassing a significant stack of quilts to donate once they could finally reunite.

Over time some members changed interests or moved, and when the group eventually began meeting again, they faced a heartbreak of their own: three of their original members had passed away leaving only Karen and one other volunteer. Despite the small numbers, Karen stayed on, hopeful that new hands would soon join the circle.

### A Growing Community

That hope has since turned into a reality. In the last 18 months, three new members and a new liaison have joined the group, bringing the current total to five active volunteers.

- **Carol C.** joined just over a year ago. She loves the camaraderie of gathering to tie fleece blankets and the thrill of learning new techniques from her peers.
- **Maria K.** finds deep meaning in the work. "Making things for someone gives me purpose," she says. For Maria, the friendships built within the group are just as important as the items they create for the residents of Dane County.
- **Anne S.** is the group liaison and is extremely helpful in picking up finished items from the group and delivering their donated items to the RSVP Storeroom. She is a great support and encouraging member of this group.

### Join the Group!

The Oregon RSVP Group Projects team is looking to grow even further. Whether you are a seasoned quilter or a casual knitter, your skills can help provide comfort to those in need throughout our community.

- **When:** 4th Tuesday of each month
- **Time:** 1:00 PM – 2:00 PM
- **Where:** Oregon Senior Center
- **Contact:** To join, please reach out to **Julia Pierstorff**, Group Projects/Homeworkers Program Coordinator.



## Good Food and Fellowship

*By Paula Reif, RSVP Foster Grandparent Program Coordinator*

**F**oster Grandparent Program volunteers gathered at Imperial Garden Restaurant to celebrate the service they have provided: uplifting students throughout 2025. Hearts were warmed as stories were shared. The fellowship in the room was a testament to the caring souls that drive the service-oriented heart of each Foster Grandparent. Thank you, Foster Grandparents, for your commitment to supporting Madison area students, teachers, and schools!



## Empowering our Seniors: A Morning of Safety and Strategy

*By Mike Thomsen, Triad Program Coordinator*

**M**ore than 100 older adults and experts gathered at **Vista West Senior Living Apartments** for the **Wisconsin Senior Safety Resource Fair** on October 29th. Hosted by RSVP of Dane County's Triad program, the event was a packed four-hour session dedicated to learning and engagement intended to help raise seniors' awareness of the many risks to their safety and to empower them with information and resources to cope with these risks.

The resource fair focused on education and active participation at the resource tables and in the discussion panels. Its objective was to enhance seniors' understanding of various safety risks and provide them with essential information and resources to effectively manage these challenges.

The morning began with an hour of meet-and-greet networking followed by two insightful panel discussions. The first panel's topic was "**Personal Finance Issues in Retirement.**" The panel featured financial advisor Robert Broadhead (Akamai Investment Advisors), Attorney Amy Devine (Haskins Main and Devine), and information specialist Abigail Musselman (Dane County Dept of Human Services) offering a wide range of valuable wisdom on navigating the complexities of personal finances in retirement.

The second panel shifted focus to a topic that's on nearly everyone's mind: "**Recognizing and Avoiding Scams and Frauds.**" Attendees got the inside scoop from a diverse group of experts, including Bader Beheiri of Capitol Bank, Detective Michelle Viney from the Dane County Sheriff's Office, and the duo of Attorney Michael Gavigan and securities examiner Brooks Martin from the Wisconsin Department of Financial Institutions. From digital safety to spotting red flags, the group inspired tremendous engagement with attendees.

Before and after the panels, the atmosphere was lively as participants explored **sixteen resource tables**. Whether it was learning about brain health with the Alzheimer's Association and UW Alzheimer's Research Center or discussing advocacy with AARP Wisconsin and the Better Business Bureau, there was a wealth of knowledge in every corner.

This year's resource fair was a team effort made possible by the support of:

- **AmeriCorps Seniors**
- **Wisconsin Department of Health Services**
- **Dane County Department of Human Services**
- **Vista West Senior Living Apartments** (Our wonderful hosts!)

Events like these remind us that safety is a community-wide concern. A huge thank you to all of the organizations that provided panel members and resource experts to support our neighbors, to Vista West for providing a wonderful venue, and to all of the seniors who attended.



Personal Finance Issues  
Panel Discussion



AARP Wisconsin Resource  
Table



Recognizing and Avoiding Scams and Frauds  
Panel Discussion

## WELCOME New Volunteers

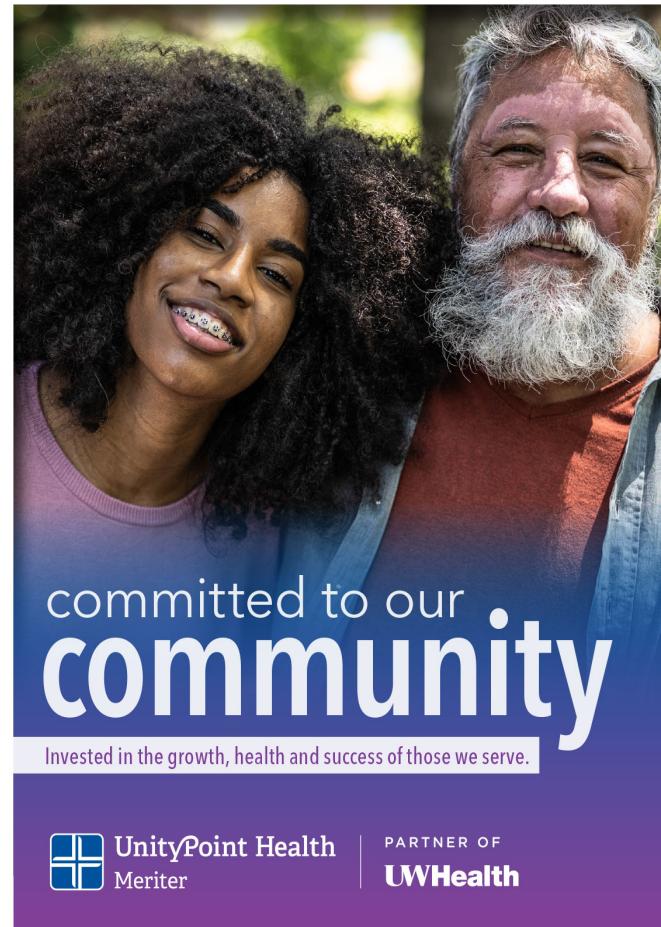
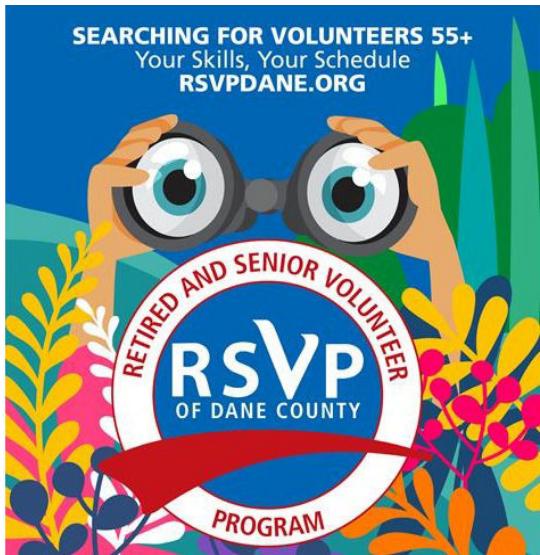
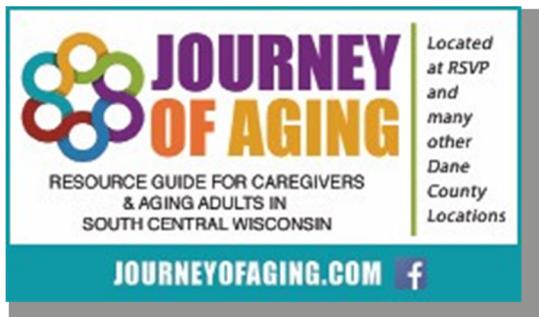
We enrolled 83 new volunteers from October 2025 through December 2025, serving in a wide variety of assignments throughout Dane County. Do you know someone who might like to volunteer? RSVP volunteers are our best recruiters as they spread the word about why they like volunteering and the need for more volunteers. Please pass this newsletter on to a friend or neighbor and tell them what RSVP means to you!

Bonnie Allard  
 Gloria Anderson-Bartlett  
 Cindy Barker  
 Jean A. Bisenius  
 Daniel C. Booth  
 Gretchen Bradt  
 Anthony J. Braus  
 Kathleen Bretl  
 Ann Brink  
 Stephen Bushnell  
 Barry P. Cash  
 Kimberly A. Cash  
 John Christianson  
 John D. Cotter  
 Kathy Danielson  
 Daniel K. Day  
 Debra Dorschied  
 Eleanor Dougherty  
 Karen M. Dreyfuss  
 Christopher L. Eddy  
 Jessica A. Fazio

Patricia Fitzgerald  
 Henwood (Chip) Flesher  
 Rachel Frye  
 Jane Greenberg  
 Mark Greenberg  
 Richard J. Grundman  
 Michelle Gustafson  
 Barbara Hamel  
 Brook A. Hayes  
 Mary Heckard  
 Diane Helt  
 Lori Henthorne  
 Kathleen Howe  
 Jerome P. Joyce  
 Jamie M. Kazmerzak  
 Nancy Keller  
 Gretchen M. Klein  
 Frank Koss  
 Jeff M. Kraemer  
 Kerryne E. Kraemer  
 Beverly Kramer

Michelle K. Larkins  
 James M. Lehman  
 Theresa Lenaghan  
 Sandy Madelung  
 Sonam Marpa  
 Barbara Marten  
 Nancy Mastricola  
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 Audrey L. McIntosh  
 Michael P. McIntosh  
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 Sylvia Sheeler-Herron

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 Helen Viskup  
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 Kathleen Weaver  
 Jan-ann White  
 Laura Wichman  
 Marybeth Wilk  
 Marie Wonders  
 Rose Marie Wood



# GIVING TUESDAY

*By Kate Seal, RSVP Assistant Director*

**R**SVP of Dane County sincerely appreciates your support during our #GivingTuesday2025 campaign and throughout the year. While #GivingTuesday was officially observed on December 2, for RSVP of Dane County, the spirit of giving begins long before that day. This campaign is especially meaningful to us because it reflects what we value most: collaboration and the coming together of people and organizations to celebrate and inspire generosity.

The services we provide to support seniors, Veterans, and families in our community require extensive volunteerism, coordination, programming, and fundraising. We are honored to contribute to the well-being of our community and are deeply grateful for your role in helping make this work possible.

We also extend our heartfelt thanks to all who followed our #GivingTuesday campaign on Facebook ([www.facebook.com/RSPVofDaneCounty](https://www.facebook.com/RSPVofDaneCounty)) and supported RSVP of Dane County through financial contributions. Your ongoing partnership, generosity, and commitment to our community are truly inspiring and make a meaningful impact. Thank you!

## Let's Talk

*By Steve Jaeschke, Driver Services Manager*

**O**ver the past several months, our Driver Services team has been delighted to host a series of **Coffee Talk Events** for our volunteer drivers. These gatherings offered an opportunity for the dedicated individuals behind our transportation services to come together, share experiences, and strengthen the sense of community that makes our program so special.

Each Coffee Talk provided an informal, welcoming space for drivers to chat with one another and with program staff. Volunteers shared stories from the road, discussed common challenges, and offered helpful advice drawn from their day-to-day experiences. Many drivers said it was refreshing to hear from others who understand the unique joys and responsibilities of volunteer driving.

In addition to conversation and coffee, the events served as a platform for valuable updates. Driver Services staff reviewed recent program improvements, answered questions, and provided reminders about safety procedures and rider support. These discussions helped ensure that all drivers stay informed and continue to feel supported in the important work they do.

One of the greatest successes of the Coffee Talk series has been the sense of connection it fostered. Because so much of volunteer driving happens independently, many participants appreciated the chance to meet fellow volunteers face-to-face. The events helped build relationships that extend beyond the meetings themselves, strengthening the foundation of our transportation community.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to all the volunteer drivers who attended the Coffee Talk Events and to everyone who supports our riders every day. Your dedication, compassion, and generosity make an enormous difference in the lives of community members who rely on safe, friendly transportation.

More Coffee Talks are being planned, and we look forward to welcoming even more of our volunteers to join us. Until then, thank you for everything you do to keep our community moving!



## Want to get in Touch with Us?

Simply dial 608.238.RSVP (7787) or e-mail us at [info@rsvpdane.org](mailto:info@rsvpdane.org) – or you can reach individual staff members directly at the phone numbers/e-mail addresses listed at right. In the event we're not available at the time you call, our 24-hour voice mail will ensure you receive a prompt response.

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Debbie Vogt, *Driver Services Administrative Assistant and Bus Buddy Program Assistant*  
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# Tips to Keep Your Home Warm This Winter



***From Madison Gas and Electric Company (MGE)***

Use these simple tips to keep your home warm this winter:

1. Open drapes on sunny days to allow sunlight to warm the room. Close drapes at night to help keep warmth inside the home.
2. Set your thermostat to 68 degrees Fahrenheit or lower if health permits. Turn the thermostat down 5 to 10 degrees Fahrenheit at night and when you leave your home (60 degrees Fahrenheit is the lowest recommended setting for forced air furnaces).
3. Use your primary heating source, like your furnace boiler or heat pump to heat your home. Using a space heater can be very expensive.
4. Keep furniture and drapes away from heat registers so warm air flows into rooms.
5. Your furnace fan should be set to "AUTO" not "ON."
6. Add caulk or weatherstripping to seal air leaks around leaky doors and windows.

By working together to save energy, we can advance our shared sustainability goals. MGE is targeting at least an 80% reduction in carbon by 2030 and net-zero carbon electricity by 2050. To learn more about our carbon reduction goals and the role of energy efficiency and conservation visit [mge.com](http://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.

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James and Kathy Esser  
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(continued from page 14)

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Stephanie Moritz  
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Loretta Zinkel  
Sandra Zinkle  
Diana Zweifel

**In-Kind**  
Carolyn Kuhn  
Deborah Wier

## 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:**

Virginia Adler, Elizabeth "Betty" Amacker, Audrey Boushon, Bernadette Diericks, Lois Marie Fitzsimmons, Diana Fjelstad, Gladys Hartwig, Dick Hoffman, Thomas A. Howells, Barb Johnson, Karl, Gene Knepprath, Terry Kringle, Dave Mahoney, Stephen Edward Marshall, Barbara Palmer, Nellie C. Perry, the Pirozzoli Family, Arthur Redmond, Dennis Sherraden, Robert H. Skilton, Dave Stucki, Ed Vervoort, Laura Katherine Werner

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

All Volunteers, Margaret Jensen, Kate and Robb Seal, Mike Thomsen



## New Funding

Thank you to the Sun Prairie Lions Club for a \$500.00 donation in support of RSVP programs.

We are grateful to the Stoughton Area Community Foundation for awarding RSVP a \$2500.00 grant in support of the Vets Helping Vets Program.

Thank you to the American Legion Auxiliary Unit 59 for the \$500.00 donation in support of the Vets Helping Vets Program.



# RSVP VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

*...where volunteers make a difference*

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

## WINTER OPPORTUNITIES

**BRAILLE LIBRARY AND TRANSCRIPTION SERVICES** is gearing up for a new February training to become volunteer transcriber 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.

**DAIS (Domestic Abuse Intervention Services)** is looking for volunteers for their Help Line and Shelter Hospitality programs! 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. The 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 brand new program that is focused on maintaining cleanliness of our shelter space and supporting our Shelter Advocates as they tend to resident needs.

**OAKWOOD VILLAGE UNIVERSITY WOODS** has the following volunteer needs:

- Digital Display Data Entry & Voice-Over Volunteer to help the campus Life Enrichment Manager create slides with calendar data, and do a voice-over for the slides, on current campus display equipment.
- Volunteer Services Data Entry/Computer Projects Volunteer to help the Volunteer Services Coordinator with volunteer records database data entry and other possible data reports, plus other special computer projects to include Excel documents.
- Village Store & Gift Shop volunteers needed to help do simple online grocery item ordering once a week, help with Tuesday grocery items delivery/shelving once a week, or serve as a cashier a few times a month.
- Therapy Department Volunteers needed to help Therapy Department staff bring residents to department for therapy appointments and other possible extra tasks once a week Monday-Friday morning or afternoon.
- Weekend Skilled Nursing Front Desk Volunteers to greet and help direct visitors a few times a month or once a week on Sundays, 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM, or also possibly help as a Saturday back-up

**OPERATION FRESH START** empowers emerging adults on a path to self-sufficiency through education, mentoring, and employment training. They are 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. to assure criteria for adoption is met and send the application on to an adoption coordinator. Volunteers work one or two 3 hour shifts a week. Must have internet

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

**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.

*(continued on page 18)*

*(continued from page 17)*

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

**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.

**SOCIAL JUSTICE CENTER** on Williamson St. needs volunteers to help with their food pantry and information desk to support their efforts to connect people with needed resources such as food, housing, and other essential living services.

**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.

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

**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.

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

**Memorials and Tributes**

Please use this form to make a contribution to RSVP in memory or honor of someone special.  
Enclosed is my gift of \$

In honor of \_\_\_\_\_  In memory of \_\_\_\_\_

Personal tribute \_\_\_\_\_

Check payable to RSVP of Dane County Credit Card:  MasterCard  VISA

PayPal (Pay online with PayPal at [www.rsvpdane.org/donateonline.html](http://www.rsvpdane.org/donateonline.html))

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If you would like, we will send an acknowledgement of your contribution to the person(s) below  
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**News Notes**, (Winter, 2026, edition, Vol. 53, No. 1), is the official publication of RSVP of Dane County, Inc. It is published quarterly and sent to Volunteers and Friends of RSVP. **RSVP seeks to improve the quality of life for all Dane County citizens through significant volunteer service.** Membership is voluntary. We are located at 6501 Watts Road, Suite 250, Madison, WI 53719-1397, Telephone: 608.238.7787, Fax: 608.238.7931, Email: [info@rsvpdane.org](mailto:info@rsvpdane.org), Web site: [www.rsvpdane.org](http://www.rsvpdane.org). News Notes Editor – Diana Jost; Editorial Assistants – Karen Cunningham and Mike Thomsen. Creative design by Jack Guzman. Bulk mailing permit #2372.

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## RSVP Calendar

### January

**January 28**, Triad Monthly Virtual Program, *I Need to Move! What are My Options?*  
With Jess Lex, Real Estate Broker (Jess Lex Homes, LLC; Realty Executives  
Cooper Spransy), 10:00 AM

### February

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

**February 18**, Triad Monthly Virtual Program, *Cybersecurity, Privacy and AI  
for Older Adults* with UW's Tim Bohn, 10:00 AM

For the latest information, visit <https://www.rsvpdane.org/events/>.

RSVP of Dane County is planning an All-American Picnic in  
celebration of America's 250th Birthday and in support of  
the America250GIVES initiative - an effort dedicated to  
supporting and encouraging volunteerism throughout the nation.

Date: Thursday, June 11th, from 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.  
Location: RSVP of Dane County Office grounds (6501 Watts Road  
in Madison)

