

RSVP of Dane County

...where volunteers make a difference

Retired and Senior Volunteer Program and Foster Grandparent Program 2025 Annual Report



Benjamin Franklin founded America's first all volunteer fire department in 1736

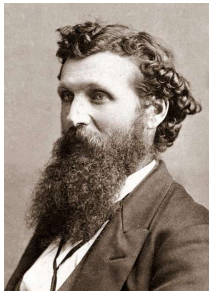


Clara Barton founded the American Red Cross in 1881



RSVP
Celebrates

**250 Years of
Our American
Volunteers**



John Muir founded the Sierra Club in 1892

Father Edward J. Flanagan founded Boys Town in 1917



Our 53rd Year

RSVP...where volunteers make a difference

The theme for the 2025 Annual Report is “America Gives 250.” As the nation prepares to celebrate its 250th anniversary, the America Gives initiative honors the spirit of volunteerism that has shaped our nation’s history. This theme reflects the mission and vision of RSVP of Dane County. RSVP volunteers embody the spirit of service every day through a wide range of efforts that address critical community needs and enhance the lives of people throughout Dane County.

2025 Highlights:

RSVP celebrated this spirit of volunteerism as we marked two major milestones in 2025. RSVP’s Driver Services Program celebrated its 50th anniversary. Since 1975, Driver Services volunteers have transported thousands of older adults to critical medical appointments, while Home Delivered Meals volunteers have delivered thousands of nutritious meals to homebound seniors. Together, these programs help older adults remain safe and independent in their homes. The Foster Grandparent Program celebrated its 25th anniversary. Volunteers in this program have supported hundreds of students in Madison-area elementary schools, after-school programs, and Reach Dane Head Start centers. On September 12th, Foster Grandparent volunteers, staff, and Advisory Council members gathered to celebrate the 60th anniversary of the national Foster Grandparent Program.

- To honor our veteran drivers, the RSVP Vets Helping Vets (VHV) Program hosted a Veterans Day Car Wash at Bubbletime Express Car Wash. Veterans were treated to a free wash, a photo, hot Starbucks coffee, warm RSVP winter gloves, and delicious homemade muffins from Hubbard Street Diner in Middleton.
- In September, we celebrated RSVP’s 53rd anniversary at Barnwood Events with more than 200 volunteers, partner representatives, funders, and sponsors. Our keynote speaker, De’Kendra Stamps, delivered a heartfelt and impactful message about the power of service and community. Eight volunteers received the President’s Lifetime Achievement Award for contributing more than 4,000 hours of service, and twelve volunteers received the RSVP Length of Service Award for 20 years of continuous service.
- 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 stock their food pantry.
- In October, the Triad Program hosted the Wisconsin Senior Safety Resource Fair at Vista West Senior Living Apartments. About 100 participants attended the four-hour event focused on senior safety awareness, education, and resources. The event featured two panel discussions: “Personal Finance Issues in Retirement,” addressing the complexities of retirement finances, and “Recognizing and Avoiding Scams and Frauds,” with a special focus on digital safety.
- The new Senior Planet Technology training program also grew rapidly in 2025. Beginning with its first class in February, the program expanded to 44 classes and workshops, serving more than 170 older adults, with most classes reaching capacity. As interest increased, classes expanded to the Monona Senior Center and Verona Senior Center, with additional classes planned at Vista West Senior Apartments.
- RSVP’s Bus Buddy Program added a new feature this year. In addition to individual and summer group training activities, the program received multiple requests from senior living facilities for resident bus training. In response, RSVP has started to provide one-hour bus training for residents with a scheduled follow-up bus trip the following day.

In 2025, more than 1,200 volunteers contributed over 149,000 hours of service across more than 80 nonprofit and public agencies. RSVP welcomed 299 new volunteers and added several new volunteer stations. Working with community partners, RSVP introduced exciting new opportunities, including the Phone Pals Program and a new hybrid intergenerational program, True Connections. Developed in partnership with schools and MSCR afterschool sites, this program supports student literacy through weekly pen pal-style writing exchanges and monthly in-person activities exploring art, food, and culture. The program helps build meaningful connections across generations and cultures.

We sincerely thank all our volunteers for their dedication and the difference they make in our community.

Diana Jost, Executive Director

HISTORY, MISSION, AND VISION STATEMENT

HISTORY

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

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

MISSION

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

RSVP seeks to:

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

VISION

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

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

BOARD and COMMITTEE MEMBERS

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Deborah Speckmann, President
Retired, Employee Trust Funds
Employee

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

Kelly Krein, Secretary
Student Government Advisor, UW-
Madison

Jack Anderson, Treasurer
Retired, University Teaching

Brian Benford
Social Worker/Success Coach
UW-Madison Odyssey Project

Pat Carroll
Retired, Special Education Director

Melvin Hinton
Teacher, Performing Artist,
Radio Host

Isabel Hubbard
Retired, Educator

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

LuAnn Paepke
Retired, State of Wisconsin FGP
Coordinator

Robert Smith
Retired, COO, Gray Television
(Broadcasting)

Mary Stamstad
Retired, RSVP of Dane County

Margie Zutter
Retired, RSVP of Dane County

Terms Ended in 2025:
Jane Bannerman
Carroll Heideman
Muriel Whiteagle-Lee

In Memoriam
Tom Howells
Richard Hoffman

RSVP COMMITTEES

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

**Support Committees
and Subcommittees:**
Triad Conference Planning
Dane County Triad
FGP Advisory Council

RSVP COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Courtney Anclam, Jack Anderson,
Michael Austin, Brian Benford,
Kevin Brown, Mike Butler, Diana
Camargo, Karen Cunningham,
Patricia Eldred, Barb Evans,
Leslie Fox, Lea Gough, LeAnn
Grimm, Melvin Hinton, Isabel
Hubbard, Jim Jenkins, Teresa
Johnson, Tom Krauskopf, Kelly
Krein, Sandy Kreul, Bernie
Kowalchyk, Bonnie Lee, Claire
Merkt, Jayne Mullins, Melody
Reidel, Anne Schoenemann, Larry
Orr, LuAnn Paepke, Mike Plautz,
Srini Ramachandra, Harold Sabot,
Robert Smith, Deborah
Speckmann, Mary Stamstad,
Jason Weber, Luann Williams,
Margie Zutter

WHO WE ARE/VOLUNTEERS IN SERVICE

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

2025 Volunteers in Service

Total volunteer hours: 149,132

This is the equivalent of more than 143 employees working twenty hours per week dedicated to serving thousands of Dane County residents in need! Our volunteer hours are valued at over \$5.38 million using data reported by the Independent Sector (www.independentsector.org).

Total volunteers reporting hours: 1,272

Gender: 400 - Male 31.4%, 872 - Female 68.6%

Number of Volunteers by Age

Honorary	100	9.3%
Age 55-59	51	3.9%
Age 60-69	272	21.3%
Age 70-79	570	44.8%
Age 80-84	153	12.0%
Age 85+	126	8.7%

Number of Volunteers by Community

Belleville - 85
Black Earth - 10
Blue Mounds - 3
Brooklyn - 13
Cambridge - 4
Cottage Grove - 9
Cross Plains - 11
Dane - 4
Deerfield - 4
DeForest - 69
Lodi - 6
Madison/Monona/Fitchburg - 362
McFarland - 57
Marshall - 6
Mazomanie - 10
Middleton - 108
Mt. Horeb - 34
New Glarus - 11
Oregon - 83
Stoughton - 54
Sun Prairie - 46
Verona - 132
Waunakee - 109
Windsor - 14
Other Communities - 28

Total volunteers recruited
in 2025: 299

Community Connections



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

Bus Buddies

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



425 Volunteers

46 Volunteer Stations

39,372 Hours

2 Bus Buddy Volunteers

1 Volunteer Station

5 Bus Buddy Trips

56 Participants

130 Hours



Group Projects/ Homeworkers

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

249 Volunteers

**9 Volunteer
Stations**

**17 Group
Projects**

68,789 Hours

**15,400 Items
Distributed**

**8,322 Pounds of
Recycled
Donated
Materials**



Foster Grandparent Program

12 Volunteers

**8 Volunteer
Stations**

6,588 Hours

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



45 Volunteers

**8 Volunteer
Stations**

2,053 Hours

Intergenerational

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



Driver Services



625 Volunteers

14 Volunteer

Stations

31,682 Hours



Volunteer drivers provide help that promotes independent living for Dane County seniors aged 60 or older through four different programs: Driver Escort, Vets Helping Vets, Home-Delivered Meals, and Food Bridge.

Driver Escort

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

Home Delivered Meals

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

Food Bridge

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

Driver Services

- **6,264 rides for 810 passengers**
- **174,022 meals to homebound seniors**
- **381,069 miles of driving**

Vets Helping Vets Drivers

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

**1,701 Vets rides for
935 passengers**



Triad

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

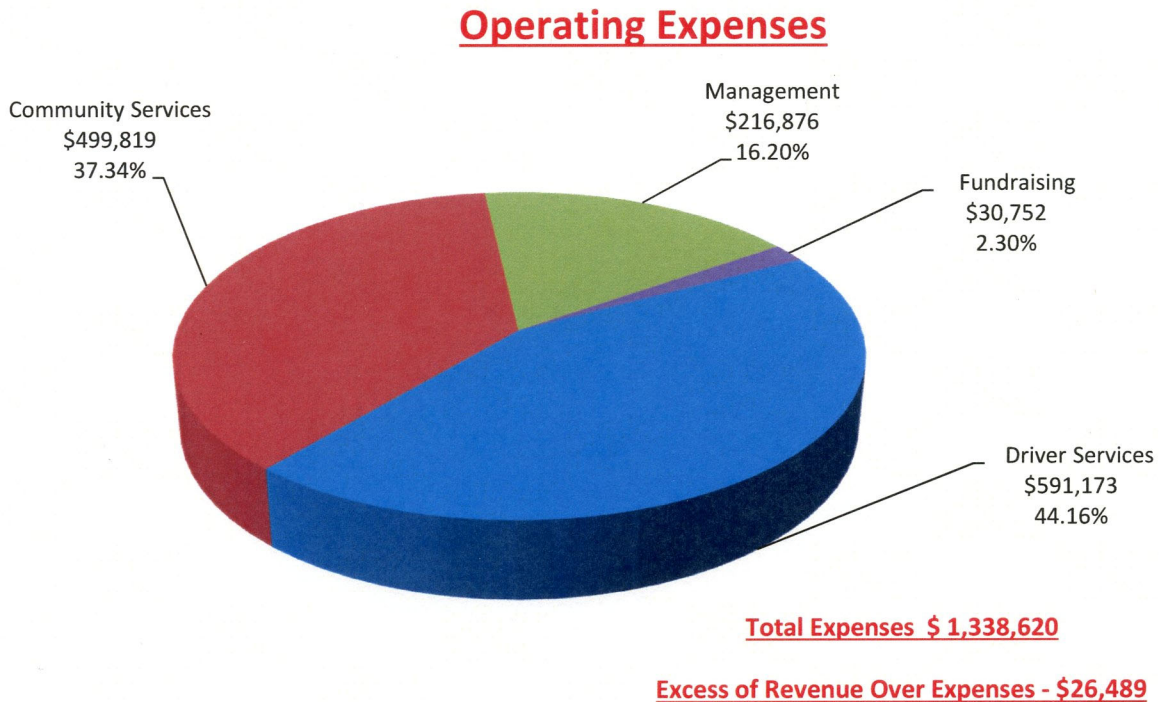
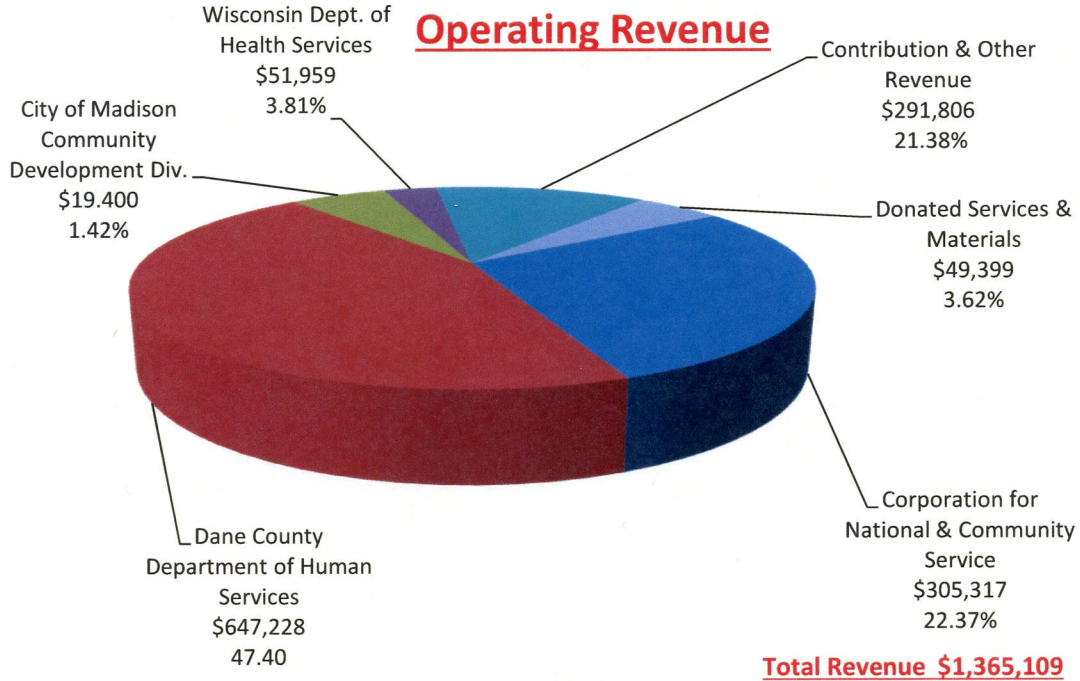


**17 Volunteers
2 Triad Sites
518 Hours
10 Programs**

FINANCIALS

RSVP OF DANE COUNTY, INC

AUDITED ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT 2025



Legacy Fund: 12/31/2025 Balance	\$1,743,859
MCF Fund	\$42,018
Rent Stabilization Fund	\$546,887

Audited Financial Statement

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

GIVING STATEMENT

Thank you to all who support RSVP of Dane County. We are grateful for all the individuals, community groups, corporations, and funders who have helped RSVP volunteers respond to community needs through a 2025 contribution. Due to space constraints, only gifts of \$100 or more are recognized here. We also thank our many in-kind donors who help sustain our programs. All donors are listed in RSVP News Notes.

There are several ways to make a contribution to RSVP:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

(continued on back page)

DONORS

2025 MAJOR FUNDERS

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

LEGACY CIRCLE

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

LEADERSHIP CIRCLE

Lifetime Members - \$40,000+ cumulative

Jack and Donna Anderson
Carroll Heideman
Dawn Stucki

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

Michael and Marita Menard
Mary Odell

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

Margaret Jensen
Thomas and Margie Krauskopf
Harold and Donna Sabot
Tom and Kathy Thousand

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

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

WPS Charitable Foundation
Margie and Keith Zutter

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

Trudy Brule
Karen Cunningham
Richard Dewitt
James and Lois Downing
James and Kathy Esser
Grant and Nancy Gelhar
Bernice Hughes
Lee and Mary Ihlenfeldt
James Jenkins
Donald and Audrey Kasper
Susan Kernats
Frederick Kruger
Robert Lenz
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Daniel and Robin McCarthy
John and Donna Montgomery
Judy Olson
Kim and Mark Pilgrim
Barbara and Morris Schoenberg
Doris Schroeder
John and Carmen Skilton
Richard and Marcia Taugher
Dave and Helen Tetzlaff
Bob and Jeanne Topel
William Wiedenbeck
John Woodford
David and Julie Worzala

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

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Judith Amacker
Bill Arthur*
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Holly Brassington
James and Diana Buechner
Charles and Joanne Bunge
Arnold and Donna Chandler
Lou Ceil Dahlen
Jenny Dahm
Peg Davey
Arnold and Diane Evensen
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Jean Rush
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Ron and Ann Semmann
Deborah Ann Speckmann
Charles and Kay Spelbring
Tim and Lori Stadelman
Robert and Pat Thomasgard
Sandy Turk
Judy Zvara

* In Remembrance

ANNUAL FUND - Friends of RSVP

BUILDERS

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

Theresa Conger
Raymond and Barbara Hamel
Donna Howell
Peter Orlik
Oregon-Brooklyn Memorial VFW
Post 10272

FACILITATORS

(\$500-\$999)

American Legion Auxiliary Unit 59
Mark and Janet Clear
James E. Duffy
Jane Eisner Fund of Madison Community
Foundation
Gertrude Stelsel
Sun Prairie Lions Club Foundation
Glenn and Jane Watts

SUSTAINERS

(\$250-\$499)

Alliant Energy Foundation
Norman Bair
Paul Berg
Judy Bluel
Barbara Borkovec
Dale W. Hall and
Marjorie R. Devereaux
Gary and Lynette Heath
Kathleen Heimann
Gwen Jaeger

(continued on page 14)

DONORS

(continued from page 13)

Family of Barbara Johnson
Mike and Linda Lovejoy
Madison Monona Lioness Club
Sharon Michel
Leo J. O'Brien
John and Pat Perkins
Sally Ross
Kenneth G. Spielman
Victor and Barbara Vaade
Darlene Vervoort
David Werner
Katelyn Zutter

PARTNERS

(\$100-\$249)

Peter and Linda Acker
Mary Ashley
Edward Baker
Jane Bannerman
Frank Barber
Jessica Bigler
Jeffrey Bonte
Gayle Boushon
Marion Frances Brown
Audrey Casey
Susan Chapman
Robert and Katie Collard
Jim A. Coon
Douglas and Claudia Craemer-Meihnsner
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Georgia Punswick
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Jeanette Rutschow
Don and Donna Schneider
Lynda Schultz
Jan Seal Smith
Dan and Jayne Simpson
Wada Smith
Lon and Susan Sprecher
Judy Stadler
Janice Stanek
James and Karen Stauffacher
St. John and St. Paul Lutheran Churches
Ilene Sweeney-Lawson
Merle and Patricia Sweet
Elizabeth M. Theisen
Ralph and Pat Thiede
Thrivent Financial for Lutherans

Gordon and Karen Tuffli
Earl Updike
Len Van Ess
Jim J. Vanevenhoven
Vennevoll, Inc.
Bob Wallace
Debbie Wayne
James and Elizabeth Westgard
Nan Weyer
T.J. Widmyer
James and Ellen Williamson
Judith Wilson
Hal Wissink
Dennis and Pat Wood
Darlene (Dee) Wylie
Susan Yaeger
Luann I. Zander
Susan M. Zander

RSVP also expresses its sincere appreciation to the Donors who contributed up to \$99 during 2025 but due to space constraints could not be listed. All donors are listed in RSVP News Notes.



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

GRANTS

Altrusa Fund of Madison Community Foundation
The Evjue Foundation
Madison South Rotary Foundation
NewBridge
Stoughton Area Community Foundation

CORPORATE EVENT AND PROGRAM SPONSORS

Madison Gas & Electric
UW Health
Unity Point Health - Meriter
Mike and Barbara Foley
SSM Health at Home
US Bank
TDS Metrocom
Corporate Business Systems
Group Health Cooperative
Wegner CPAs

(continued on back page)

RSVP OF DANE COUNTY STAFF

Diana Jost
Executive Director

Kate Seal
Assistant Director

Jack Guzman
Office Support Administrator

Krishna Sijapati
Accountant

Dell Barlow
Madison/Monona Ride
Coordinator

Julia Pierstorff
Group Projects/Homeworkers
Program Coordinator

Lorrie Hylkema
Vets Helping Vets Coordinator

Jan Karst
Community Connections and
Bus Buddies Coordinator

Camela King
Driver Services Coordinator

Paula Reif
Foster Grandparent Coordinator
and Intergenerational Program
Coordinator

Mike Thomsen
Triad Coordinator

Debbie Vogt
Driver Services
Administrative Assistant

In Memoriam
Steve Jaeschke

(continued from page 12)

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

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

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

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

(continued from page 15)

BUSINESSES PROVIDING HOME - DELIVERED MEAL DRIVERS

RSVP Driver Services salutes the

following businesses for encouraging their
employees to serve as Home
Delivered Meal Drivers:
Amrize
Lake Ridge Bank

SPECIAL EVENT SPONSORS

Bubble Time Express Car Wash
Smart Motors
Vista West Senior Living Apartments



**AmeriCorps
Seniors**



RSVP of Dane County
6501 Watts Road, Suite 250
Madison, Wisconsin 53719
Telephone: (608) 238-7787 FAX: (608) 238-7931
Email: info@rsvpdane.org
Website: www.rsvpdane.org

