



The Volunteer Voice

RSVP

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Volume IX, Issue 1
January & February 2012

Retired and Senior Volunteer Program of Washington County, Ohio

Coats for Kids Successful in 2011

Many children on these cold winter mornings might have gone to meet the bus in a light jacket or none at all. Because of your efforts, this year they will be warm. Congratulations RSVP volunteers and partners, once again for a job well done to provide a service that impacts our community greatly!!

RSVP volunteers in collaboration with sponsors: Peoples Bank, Washington Electric Cooperative, The Marietta Times, The O'Neill Center, Washington State Community College, Mancan, Marietta City Schools, Promanco and Washington-Morgan Community Action all contributed to this year's success.

A total of 726 coats were collected and 554 were distributed to local families who needed them. The remainder of the coats were donated to the Samaritan House in Caldwell to be distributed throughout the year.

New Volunteer Coordinator

I would like to take a minute to introduce myself as the new Volunteer Coordinator. My name is Susan Hill and I am excited to be working with Lisa and the Seniors of Washington County to make an impact in our little corner of the world.

My husband Dale and I have been married for 20 years and live in Waterford. We have 2 daughters. Sarah just graduated from high school in 2011 and is a student at Washington State Community College and she loves to dance. Laura is a sophomore at Waterford High School and she is active in Volleyball and Softball. We stay very busy chasing our girls in whatever direction their activities lead us.

In my spare time, I love to sew and cross stitch. I look forward to meeting each one of you over the course of this year!

The RSVP Tuesday Crafters have been very busy in 2011

Here is a glimpse of how the Tuesday Crafters spend their time and their generosity. Twenty bibs were given to the residents at The Inn in Marietta and approximately 36 were donated to the daycare at the O'Neill Center. Teddy bears were handmade and delivered to the Sheriff's department to be given to children who have been removed from their homes. Approximately 15 lap quilts were given to shut-ins in our area. Five quilts were donated to students at Ewing School to cover their wheelchairs as they come and go from their school buses. Washington County Home residents were the recipients of six lap robes. Table favors were made for the Senior Nutrition Program and the Meals on Wheels program during the months of February, March, April, July, September, November and December for a total of 1,708. Three quilts were made and donated to fundraisers for local organizations. Baby quilts were made and donated along with diapers for the Women's Care Center. Cancer caps were made and donated to cancer patients. Lap quilts, ditty bags, wheelchair bags, walker bags and bedside caddies were delivered to the Veteran's Hospital. They were privileged to give one quilt to a recently wounded vet who lives in our area.

A member of the group also helps WASCO Seniors do monthly art projects and the Tuesday Crafters help them with supplies to do the crafts. Members also helped the VFW decorate plates with poppies to be distributed to the public. Several bake sales and craft shows to earn money for materials that are needed for projects were also done this year. The Tuesday Crafters invite you to come and join them!

RSVP

Retired & Senior Volunteer Program of Washington County

Sponsored by:

The Corporation for National & Community Service
Ohio Department on Aging
Washington County Commissioners
The Senior Levy
The Friends of RSVP

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Volunteer Coordinator - Susan Hill
RSVP Office Volunteer - Pam Hess
RSVP Office Volunteer - Carolyn Miller

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The Volunteer Voice is printed bimonthly. Articles must be submitted by the 22nd of the month to be considered for publication in next issue.

Send submissions to the attention of Susan:

RSVP Volunteer Voice
333 Fourth Street
Marietta, Ohio 45750

Phone: (740) 373-3107 • Fax: (740) 373-7251

Email: info@rsvpwc.org • Web: www.rsvpwc.org

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hello again...
by Lisa Valentine, Director

The New Year is bringing new volunteer opportunities... great ways to make a difference in our community. Two programs set to start in March are Commodity Box Distribution and Senior Transportation.

The Commodity Box Program helps seniors stretch their groceries by providing a block of American cheese, a can of juice, four cans of vegetables, three cans of fruit, three cans of milk, two boxes of cereal, a package of pasta and either peanut butter, beans, or canned meat.

Volunteers are needed to distribute the boxes during a three day period at the end of each month. The Washington County Fairgrounds has donated office and warehouse space behind the Fair Board Office. Seniors enrolled in the program will drive up to the garage doors and volunteers will have them sign for their box of groceries. Some people may also need help loading the box into their car.

If this sounds like a volunteer activity that you might enjoy, please call me at the office. The current distribution window is two hours. If people don't pick up their box during the two hours the truck is parked at the fairgrounds, they miss out for the month. Extending the distribution time to cover three days will allow seniors more pickup options and ensure that they don't miss the monthly box of food.

We touched on the Senior Transportation program in the last newsletter. The funding has been approved and mileage reimbursement will be offered at the IRS rate of \$.55 per mile. Training will start in February. Don't let the unpredictable weather that February is famous for keep you from signing up. We will work around inclement weather to get everyone trained. The goal is to find one or two drivers from the following areas: Marietta, Beverly/Waterford, Lowell, Cutler, Belpre, Little Hocking and New Matamoras.

We will only be able to offer transportation services to seniors in areas we have an active driver, so please get the word out in your community for volunteer drivers. Drivers must be 55 years or older, possess a valid driver's license and good driving record. Call today for more information! We need you!

RSVP's - Ohio Benefit Bank News

Mid-November (16th, 17th, & 18th) was a busy time for RSVP's Ohio Benefit Bank Counselors. Penny Arsenault and Mary Emge, together with Sara Beaver, Benefits Counselor at the O'Neill Center, worked to enroll thirty-eight WASCO clients in the Golden Buckeye discount card program. This program connects Ohio's elderly and disabled residents to information about resources in their community and discounts on goods and services like prescription drugs, restaurant meals, and state park admission fees.

In addition, this enrollment project provided WASCO clients with the opportunity to practice general application process skills. WASCO Inc. is located off of Muskingum Drive in Marietta. WASCO is a non-profit organization which provides vocational opportunities and habilitation for people who have developmental disabilities.

Healthy U - Coming Soon

Healthy U will be offering another program in Chronic Disease Self-Management. You will learn:

- How to work and communicate with your doctor
- Medication "how to's"
- How to personalize a fitness and exercise program
- How to relax
- How to deal with negative emotions
- How to improve communications

And much more

AARP tax aide available beginning February 1, 2012

The AARP Tax Aide program to help low and moderate income taxpayers will be available to Washington County and other area residents starting February 1st.

Three sites are available in Washington County. They are as follows: **Barlow Branch Library** site opens Wednesday, February 1st with hours from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. and will be open each Wednesday through April 11th; the **Beverly Public Library** site opens Monday, February 6th from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. and will be open each Monday through April 9th. The Marietta site at the **Knights of Columbus** building in Harmar opens Thursday, February 2nd from 9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and will be open each Monday and Thursday through April 12th.

Taxpayers are asked to bring photo ID, Social Security cards for themselves and any dependents, all W-2, 1099's, brokerage reports, last year's income tax report (if available) and itemized expenses (if you plan to itemize).

All of the volunteers are trained and certified by the IRS. The returns are prepared on computers and e-filed unless the situation requires paper filing. Taxpayers do not have to belong to AARP or be seniors to be helped. The service is entirely free.

If you are interested in participating in this new session, please call the office to express your interest and we will give you more information as it becomes available. Call the RSVP office at 373-3107.

This program is administered by the:

Volunteer Opportunities

URGENT NEED!

The Marietta Community Food Pantry is looking for 1 volunteer to work on Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., or can be divided into 2 hour shifts for 2 volunteers. Also needing 1 volunteer on Wednesday evening from 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 pm.

Franciscan Meals are in need of drivers to deliver meals in the Marietta area. You would be scheduled to drive 2-3 days per month and the average route takes approximately 1 to 1-1/2 hours. Also needing 1 volunteer on Tuesday from 9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. to do weekly billing for Franciscan meals.

The **Senior Transportation Program** to take seniors without transportation to the store, pharmacy, hair dresser and to run errands is soon to begin and we are looking for volunteers to drive. Volunteers are also needed to schedule trips. Be sure to read Lisa's column for more details.

Please call the office at 740-373-3107 and ask for Susan to express your interest in any of these areas of volunteer opportunity.

**RSVP offices will be closed on Monday, February 20th
in observance of President's Day**

The Volunteer Voice
RSVP of Washington County
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Arthritis Foundation Tai Chi

O'Neill Center:

Learning Forms	Mondays	10:00 a.m.
Practicing Forms	Tuesdays	10:00 a.m.
6 Adv. Movements	Thursdays	5:15 p.m.

All forms taught at these locations:

Marietta YMCA: Tues. & Thurs. 12:30 p.m.

Belpre Center: Mondays 11:00 a.m.
12:30 p.m.
Wednesdays 12:00 p.m.

Lighthouse Baptist: Wednesdays 10:00 a.m.

Lower Salem: Fridays 6:00 p.m.

Cutler Community: Thursdays 7:00 p.m.

Volunteer Training Opportunities

The Castle is offering a training class on: Saturday, February 18, 2012 from 10:00 a.m. until noon. Call the office at 740-373-3107 to sign up for this class.

Volunteer Program Computer Software Upgrade

In April 2012, please be aware that a new software upgrade for the volunteer program will be loaded into our computers. Any outstanding hours up thru March of 2012 must be turned in to the Volunteer Coordinator by no later than April 10th in order to receive credit for them. We will do our best to remind you as the time draws closer.