



The Volunteer Voice

RSVP

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www.rsvpc.org

Volume VIII, Issue 4
July & August 2011

Retired and Senior Volunteer Program of Washington County, Ohio

Serving for 38 Years...and still counting!

Thirty-eight years and counting... that's how long RSVP has been serving in Washington County. The Annual Recognition Dinner brought 228 volunteers, station representatives and elected officials together to celebrate 52,241 hours of service to the community. That translates in to over ONE MILLION DOLLARS in service, based on figures compiled by Independent Sector, a non-profit organization that estimates an hour of volunteer service to be worth \$20.85.

Three volunteers were awarded Presidential Lifetime Service Awards for 4,000 hours of lifetime service. Please congratulate Jim Bladinger, Jaye Warman and Charles Miller.

The Friends of RSVP donated gift cards ranging from \$10 to \$25 for twenty-two volunteers who served over 500 hours in 2010.

Carol Wharff, Executive Director of the Marietta Community Foundation was the keynote speaker. She told

the story how small donations translate into sizeable grants that support the organizations where RSVP volunteers serve. She said that forty RSVP stations have received Foundation

Grants, including RSVP.

The dinner wasn't without a few glitches and the Lafayette Hotel has apologized profusely for the problems. After every event, the RSVP Evaluation Committee makes a detailed report outlining what went really well and how we could improve things next year.

Your input is very valuable and we welcome your comments. Please jot them down and drop them off at the office by July 15. Lisa and Ashby will make sure that the Committee gets them and your opinion is noted.

Thanks to all of our volunteers! The dinner celebrates and honors your accomplishments. You really make a difference in the lives of the people you serve.



County Commissioner Tim Irvine poses with RSVP Charter Member Dennis Morris who is 104 years old.

2011 Presidential Service Awards

Jim Bladinger	4,713	Charles Miller	4,021	Jaye Warman	4,557
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RSVP

Retired & Senior Volunteer Program of Washington County

Sponsored by:

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

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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 Ashby:

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hello again...

by Lisa Valentine, Director

If there was ever a time to tell the story of RSVP, it is now! We recently received a 20% cut to our federal funding which makes up more than half of our total budget. While the 2012 White House budget proposal included funding for RSVP next year, the House of Representatives proposal calls for the elimination of all programs funded by the Corporation for National and Community Service. If the House of Representatives proposal should pass both branches of Congress, RSVP programming throughout our nation would effectively be eliminated.

The Washington County Commissioners are committed to our program and are working with RSVP to implement cost reductions to our already bare-bones operation. The Friends of RSVP are looking at ways to earn additional money through our largest fundraiser of the year, the Glenwood RSVP 5K.

Maintaining the Mileage Reimbursement Program to supplement those volunteers who need it is important to us. There are no immediate plans to reallocate those funds, but the probability of having money available to continue the program in 2012 is questionable.

It is time to spread the word about the great work RSVP accomplishes in Washington County. Tell us your stories so we can publish them to build awareness of the work being done here. You are on the front lines, serving at the food pantries and thrift stores, delivering Franciscan Meals and working in the public schools. You see the awe in the faces of children as they learn about Ohio history at Campus Martius Museum, or explore what life was like during Victorian times at The Castle. You hear the gratitude of visitors to our area at the Tourist Information Center.

Share these stories with us, so that we can share them with those making the decisions about the fate of RSVP.

Our volunteer stations can send us letters about how important your volunteers are to your organizations. Let us know what the impact of losing RSVP, both long and short term might be.

We want to share your stories and hope that you will follow our lead by telling your peers about the difference

Continued on page 3

Be the Change... Opportunities with Impact

Harmar School

Imagine sitting next to a child. Now open a book and read. Discuss the pictures and ask questions. This simple act can open up the world through reading for a kindergartener, and have an impact on the rest of her life. One hour per week starting in the fall. Background check required.

RSVP / O'Neill Project

Help keep your senior neighbors living independently. We are looking for volunteers to take seniors without transportation to the store, pharmacy, hair dresser and to run errands. The program is in the development stage, but we are interested in finding out how many volunteers would be willing to participate. Mileage reimbursement will be available.

Harvest of Hope

Spend a few hours on Saturday or Sunday once a month delivering fresh vegetables to group homes in Marietta. Pick up the produce at the market and drive the route. Residents at the homes will come out to your car and select their veggies. Recruit an RSVP volunteer friend or spouse to help and the time will go even faster!



**Do you want to
volunteer for one
of the best races in
the Mid-Ohio
Valley?**

*Call our office to find out
how you can help.*

***Glenwood RSVP 5K Race
September 24 ~ 9 a.m.
O'Neill Center***

Way to GO!!!

Jim Naylor

Becky Bowles, Brick Street BBQ: "Jim Naylor is the ideal volunteer. He signs up for two hours and works four then returns the following day and works another six unscheduled hours. Jim took the tough job - standing at the entry gate asking for money. The gate donations fund the event and are a big factor in our bottom line. We appreciate Jim's dedication."

Jayne Stehle

Georgene Johnson, Washington State Community College's Library: "We really appreciate Jayne."

Harvest of Hope Volunteers

Karen Kumph, Harvest of Hope: "Thank you for initiating a partnership between RSVP and Harvest of Hope. From bagging seeds to planting veggies, weeding and picking, your volunteers are filling a gap in our donation program. We are grateful!"

In observance of

Independence Day



Our office will be
Closed Monday, July 4th

Continued from page 2

you make in the lives of others. We want everyone to know about the important role RSVP volunteers play in our community every day.

We can take your stories in writing or you can stop by the office and we can do a quick video interview. We will post them on our website and direct the public to them via social media outlets like Facebook and Twitter.

Help us get the word out about RSVP! Thanks. I look forward to hearing from you.

The Volunteer Voice
RSVP of Washington County
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Arthritis Foundation Tai Chi

The RSVP volunteer instructors completed new Tai Chi for Arthritis training allowing them to teach exciting new Sun Style movements. Last year the volunteer instructors taught moves 1-6. Since completing the training, they can teach moves 1-12.

Join a free class today - see what you are missing! Join an ongoing class at three locations.

O'Neill Center: Mondays 10 a.m.
 Tuesdays 10 a.m.

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

Cutler Community: On Break until Fall

*Call 373-3107 for more information on
EVENING CLASSES FORMING NOW!*

***Arthritis Foundation Tai Chi for
Arthritis classes are FREE!***

Volunteer Opportunities

Harmar Railroad Museum

This museum is opening soon and they need volunteers to act as "Tour Conductors" Thursday through Saturday from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. and Sunday from 12-5 p.m.

Washington State Community College

Mail room assistant. Call our office for days and times.

Summertime Festivals Need Volunteers Too!

**Washington County Fairgrounds Demolition Derby
and Mud Bog - July 2 & 3**

Sweet Corn Festival - July 15 & 16

Harmar Days - July 30

Inland Waterways Festival - August 6 & 7

For more information call 373-3107