



The Volunteer Voice

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January & February 2014

RSVP of Washington County, Ohio

2013 Coats for Kids Project



Eric Miller of Con-Way Freight Terminal in Williamstown made a surprise delivery of coats collected by Con-way employees.

Coats for Kids is such an awesome project and RSVP enjoys being part of keeping area children warm during the winter months.

Thanks to generous donations from the community, 538 coats were distributed in six days.

Our knitters and crocheters, Betty Rhodes and June Rose came through for us again this year and there were plenty of hats to go around. We had fewer gloves and mittens donated so supplies of those items were limited.

Thanks to all of the volunteers who sorted, hanged and distributed coats, and to our co-chairs Mary Emge and Pearl Guyer. Your service makes a difference.

Volunteering and Civic Life In America

Here is just a taste of a new national study on Volunteering and Civic Life in America that was released by the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) and the National Conference on Citizenship (NCoC).

The study revealed that older Americans 65 years and older donated nearly twice as many hours per volunteer than the population as a whole, with a median of 90 volunteer hours in 2012 compared to 50 hours for the general population.

In comparison, RSVP volunteers here in Washington County served an average of 133 hours in 2012.

In Ohio, the top 5 volunteer activities were fundraising (29.5%), followed by collecting and distributing food (27.5%), general labor (23.1%) mentoring youth (17.6%), and tutoring or teaching (17.2%).

In Washington County, we are very close to the Ohio numbers in collecting and distributing food at 22%.

View the complete study online at www.volunteeringinamerica.gov.

AARP Tax Aide

AARP Tax Aide volunteers will report to training in January and begin servicing clients from February 3 through April 15, 2014

District Coordinator Art Jones said that last year, volunteers prepared 1,494 tax returns at three locations: Marietta Knight of Columbus Hall, Barlow Public Library and Beverly Public Library. The same locations will be used this year. See the schedule provided for days and times.

AARP Free Tax Preparation
Starting February 3 ~ Ending April 15

Knights of Columbus Hall in Marietta
Mondays & Thursdays ~ 9:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Beverly Public Library
Tuesdays ~ 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Barlow Public Library
Wednesdays ~ 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

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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RSVP Office Volunteer - Carolyn Miller
AmeriCorps VISTA - Caitlin Harville

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hello again...
by Lisa Valentine, Director

RSVP had a great year in 2013 which would not have been possible without you... the most talented, giving people on the planet. Thank you for your service and your belief that together we can change our world.

Thank you to the Senior Wheels drivers and dispatchers who make sure area seniors get to the grocery store and the doctor's office. You answered hundreds of phone calls and drove more than 10,000 miles.

Thank you to all of the volunteers who work to make sure people have enough to eat... thank you to those of you who drive for Franciscan Meals, serve at food pantries, and prepare free lunch and dinner for those less fortunate. Thanks to the volunteers who brave the heat, the cold, the rain and the snow to distribute Commodity Boxes each month.

Thank you to the volunteers who stepped up to help our AmeriCorps VISTA with the Homeless Project. It is indeed a special volunteer who can wrap her head around the complexity of this growing epidemic. Thanks for supplying baked goods to raise money for motel rooms, for putting together personal care kits for the homeless and supporting Caitlin on her yearlong mission.

Thank you to the volunteers who give seniors the peace of mind in knowing that their taxes are prepared accurately. Not many know the hours and hours of studying and testing that each of you put in before providing your great service.

Thanks to all of you working on community priorities like Coats for Kids, in our local museums, supporting non-profits, and building capacity.

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:

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Your Service
Matters



Your Service
Makes a Difference

Phone Reassurance Program

New volunteer opportunity in 2014

RSVP and Area Agency on Aging (AAA) announce a partnership to help shut-ins feel more connected to the community. The Caring to Help Others Phone Reassurance Program begins in January. Washington County was one of two programs chosen to serve as a pilot project. If our program is successful, it will be launched in other RSVPs across Ohio.

Volunteers will begin training on Tuesday, January 7 at 3:00 p.m. in the 2nd floor conference room at Selby General Hospital. The training will be led by Gail Schultice, Licensed Independent Social Worker with Senior Intensive Outpatient Services.

The training will help volunteers understand depression and loneliness in seniors. They will learn how to talk to clients and how to respond to some questions that might arise. Volunteers will also learn to recognize problems that may need to be referred to the Area Agency on Aging for follow-up.

Phone Assurance Volunteers will be invited to monthly "Lunch and Learn" sessions at Marietta Memorial Hospital. Lunch will be provided for volunteers and hospital employees who work with patients suffering from depression and dementia. These meetings will give volunteers a place to learn and ask questions.

RSVP volunteers will work from home calling their client list once or twice a week just to check in with them. The calls may be the only human contact the client has that day, so this program is very important to helping seniors stay connected and able to remain in their own homes.

There are still a few openings for the training, so call RSVP at 373-3107 by January 6 to register for this meaningful volunteer opportunity.

Upcoming Disaster Training

Popcorn and a movie

A star-studded blockbuster movie as disaster training? That's just what the Washington County Health Department is going to do... show a movie to RSVP disaster volunteers.

"Contagion," the 2011 Steven Soderbergh film starring Matt Damon, Gwyneth Paltrow, Jude Law and Kate Winslet was recently used to start a community dialogue with local first responders and health agencies. The film shows how an airborne virus in Hong Kong could infect the entire globe.

The movie follows an international traveler played by Gwyneth Paltrow back to her home and family in Minneapolis, and tracks every opportunity the virus has to spread.

The agency training was so successful, Angela Lowry, Emergency Planner at Washington County Health Department decided to make it a volunteer training.

The movie will be broken down into three sections. During the breaks, volunteers will discuss their observations. The training is expected to last 2-1/2 hours.

RSVP Director, Lisa Valentine participated in the county agency training and said, "It was frightening how quickly the virus spread once it took hold. I think this will be a great volunteer training."

Current Health Department volunteers will receive a "ticket" to the movie. The training will be held in February at the Emergency Operations Center which has a large movie screen and seats 30 people in comfy leather office chairs.

If you are interested in becoming a disaster volunteer with the Health Department or the EOC, please call Lisa at the RSVP office at 373-3107.

Call the RSVP office for more info on these great volunteer opportunities! 373-3107

Tourist Information Center

2013 was the final season

Change is in the air again. On December 16, the Board of Directors for the Convention and Visitors Bureau voted unanimously to cease operations at the Tourist Information Center in the Kroger Center at Pike and Acme Streets.

In a letter to TIC volunteers, Executive Director, Jeri Knowlton said she appreciated that the volunteers chose to spend their time supporting the CVB and its members. She added that the move to close the TIC reflected their need to be good stewards of the public money entrusted to them.

This abrupt change displaces 49 RSVP volunteers, 29 who serve solely at the TIC. Knowlton said that she will still need volunteers in the Greene Street office and that there will also be opportunities to serve at fairs, festivals and when the American Queen is in town.

If you are interested in serving at the main office on Greene Street, please contact Lisa at the RSVP office, or call the CVB directly at 373-5178 and speak with Samantha, who is in charge of scheduling volunteers.

Volunteer Opportunities

Senior Wheels Drivers

Urgent Request: Drivers needed in Belpre and Reno areas. We are unable to meet the growing need in these areas. Flexible time. Training & mileage reimbursement provided.

Senior Wheels Dispatcher

Position Filled! Thank you, Carolyn Becker!

Reassurance Callers

Serve from your own home calling homebound seniors to check in with them. Spend a few minutes listening, making sure that they are feeling well and that everything in their home is in order. Training is scheduled for January 7 at Selby General Hospital, 2nd Floor Conference Room.

Community Meals

Teams forming now for free evening meals at St. Luke's Episcopal Church on the first Tuesday, and at the Salvation Army on the last Monday. Cooks, servers and clean-up crew needed.

For more information call 373-3107

Visit our Website: rsvpwc.org

RSVP of Washington County



Belpre Center: <i>(Learning forms)</i>	Monday Monday	11:00 a.m. 1:00 p.m.
Barlow Library:	Wednesday	10:00 a.m.
Cutler Community: <i>(Call for dates)</i>	Thursday	7:00 p.m.
O'Neill Center: <i>(Learning forms)</i>	Tuesday	10:45 a.m.