



The Volunteer Voice

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Volume X, Issue 8
March & April 2014

RSVP of Washington County, Ohio

Volunteer Opportunities

Focus Area: Education

Boys & Girls Club

How can a teacher be in two places at once? When RSVP volunteers help out! The Boys & Girls Club is looking for volunteers to help with homework between the hours of 4:00 p.m. and 5:00 p.m., Monday through Thursday.

Executive Director Sam Anderson says the volunteer will never be given more than they can handle. Volunteers will listen to kids read, help with homework and lend moral support. The teacher is always on hand if there is a question. A background check is required, paid for by the Boys & Girls Club.

Belpre City Schools

When a child learns to read, a whole new world opens up to them. You can be part of this great awakening by listening to a child read. Volunteers and students work one-on-one; the child reads and the volunteer is there to help out with new words.

Belpre teacher Amber Place said that many of the children don't have the opportunity to read aloud at home, so volunteers can have a tremendous impact by simply listening.

Volunteers are needed from 8:45 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday or Friday. Volunteers have the option of serving one or two days each week.

Potential volunteers will complete an application with Belpre City Schools which will be approved at a regular board meeting before service begins.

Ewing School

Ewing School is an amazing learning center that offers specialized therapies to help children reach their full potential.

The curriculum includes exercise in a heated pool. Volunteers are needed to lend a helping hand to children as they change into their swimsuit, to escort children to the pool area and to help them get in and out of the water. Dressing builds motor skills, so volunteers are just there to help when an arm doesn't go in quite right, or to make sure the pants are turned right-side-out.

Volunteers can choose between Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday during the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 11:30 p.m.

Director Katie Keating said that a background check is required after a few supervised service experiences that gives the volunteer the opportunity to see if the position is a good fit.

Focus Area: Environmental Stewardship

Marietta Area Recycling Center

Did you know: That the average person generates 4 pounds of trash each day? That recycling 100 aluminum cans could light your bedroom for two weeks? That Americans throw away 25,000,000 plastic bottles every HOUR? How about that if every American recycled just 1/10 of their newspapers, we could save 25 million trees? (*Facts courtesy of www.dosomething.org*)

When people choose to recycle, what happens to all the stuff that gets collected? Many residents have curb side recycling through their local garbage contractor... they set it out and it gets picked up and recycled.

For other county residents, curb side recycling is not an option. They drop recyclables off at the Marietta Recycling Center on Gilman Avenue. This 100% volunteer-run endeavor takes care of sorting, storing and shipping the items that once were sent to the landfill.

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An entire issue dedicated to the amazing, awesome and exciting volunteer opportunities that await YOU!

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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Send submissions to the attention of Susan:

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hello again...

by Lisa Valentine, Director

Okay. I admit it. The snow is really pretty...but enough already! I am so ready for spring!

The Commodity Box volunteers win the award for "Hardest Volunteers in Washington County." The February distribution was horrific. Monday, we cancelled because of the huge amount of snow, and then the volunteers dealt with the aftermath for the next three days. First it was shoveling out the driveway to clear the snow, then the sun melted the snow during the day and froze at night leaving a layer of ice about two inches thick. There was nothing to do but spread sand and salt. An extra day was added and most seniors were able to pick up their box of food.

The Franciscan Meals volunteers have been fighting an uphill battle, too. Director Judy Grize said that they actually had to cancel deliveries a few times because of the weather. Franciscan Meals volunteers brave the elements every day to make sure that shut-ins have a hot lunch. The cancellation speaks to just how bad the snow has been this year. They slog across unshoveled driveways and sidewalks to make their daily deliveries. The dedication of this group of volunteers is amazing.

The snow and low temperatures caused delays, missed work days and rescheduled trainings and meetings. But now it is time to look toward spring.

Senior Corps Week is May 19-23 and we are working on some really great activities to celebrate senior service. The Valley Gem Boat Ride is always the high point of the week, and the date should be set soon. AmeriCorps VISTA member Caitlin Harville will make a presentation on the status of her Homeless Project and discuss new volunteer opportunities that support the project.

The Annual Recognition Dinner has been set for Monday, June 23 at the Lafayette Hotel. We usually have our dinner on Thursday evening, but due to scheduling conflicts at the hotel, we have moved to Monday evening. Please mark your calendars!

By the time this newsletter reaches you, we will know whether March came in like a lion or a lamb. Either way, spring is right around the corner... right?



Spring Ahead ~ Fall Back

Daylight Saving Time

Sunday, March 9

Don't forget to set your
clock ahead!

continued from page 1, Recycling Center

There are several ways you can help save the planet. One is simply start recycling. The other is to volunteer at the Marietta Area Recycling Center. Where else can you go in the morning without a shower, enjoy a little exercise, get a little dirty, and be home before noon?

Once you learn the ropes, you set your own days and times. Call the RSVP office for more information.

Stream Team

While we are on the subject of saving the planet, don't forget about Stream Team!

With all the new gas well drilling in Washington County, it has never been more important to monitor the health of streams and creeks that will eventually flow into the Muskingum River.

This spring, Jessie Dauber, Director of Friends of the Lower Muskingum will be on hand to give an orientation, explain the use of the various testing instruments and assign collection sites. Through grants, Jessie has been able to purchase additional testing equipment allowing RSVP volunteers to keep the tools overnight and check them out for the weekend.

This is a great volunteer adventure for friends or married couples to take together. Each location needs be tested monthly, and teams can elect to monitor more than one site. Let the office know if you would like to be notified of the training.

Focus Area: Economic Opportunity

Consumer Credit Counseling Services

Our AmeriCorps VISTA member Caitlin Harville is charged with identifying factors that contribute to homelessness. She decided to take the assignment one step further... how can we prevent homelessness before it happens?

Caitlin reached out to Consumer Credit Counseling Services. CCCS staff and volunteers teach a 2-hour budgeting class once a month in Parkersburg. The evidence based program was developed to give low income individuals and families the techniques needed to budget their limited resources.

Caitlin would like to bring those valuable classes to the Ohio side of the river. Volunteers are invited to attend the March budgeting class in Parkersburg to get a feel for whether the opportunity is a good fit for them. After training, volunteers will teach alongside CCCS staff members until comfortable enough to fly solo.

This is an amazing opportunity to make a difference in the lives of not only the people in the class, but in the lives of their families. Please consider volunteering in this new area RSVP is being called to serve.

Habitat for Humanity

Habitat works to build or rehab decent affordable housing for people in need. The partner family invests hundreds of hours of "sweat equity" alongside volunteers. The homes are sold to the partner family at no profit, with no interest. The mortgage payments go into a revolving "Fund for Humanity" that is used to build more houses.

Volunteer work days are Thursday and Saturday. Habitat Director Dennis Thomas said that they usually get started around 8:00 a.m. and work until 2:00 p.m. As soon as the spring thaw sets in, Habitat will begin working on a home on Braun Road near the intersection of Veto Road in Belpre.

No construction skills are needed... habitat provides lots of on-the-job training. Dennis said most of the volunteers are retired and encourages RSVP volunteers to serve. What could be more fulfilling than working beside a deserving family for the better part of year and seeing them finally realize their dream of home ownership? Let RSVP make the introduction to Habitat for you.

Focus Area: Disaster Services

Washington County Health Department & Washington County Emergency Operations Center

Due to the crazy weather, the Contagion movie has been rescheduled to Friday, March 7 from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the Emergency Operations Center (EOC).

Jeff Lauer, EMA Director will be on hand to give a short tour of the facility and will explain the volunteer opportunities that will be available at the EOC during a disaster.

Washington County Emergency Planner Angela Lowry will facilitate the Contagion training and treat volunteers to pizza for lunch.

The training consists of watching the movie, and breaking at designated intervals to discuss the role volunteers might play in an actual pandemic flu situation.

It's not too late to be included in this scary, pandemic flu disaster response training... Just to let you know... in the event of a pandemic event, volunteers (YOU) will get preventative medication before the general population – at the same time as first responders. Now there is a reason to volunteer!

Volunteer Reception Center Training

It's hard to believe, but it has been nearly a year since we held a Volunteer Reception Center drill. Those of you who participated last year, or are already serving in the Disaster Services Focus area will be contacted personally. If you always thought you might like to see what Disaster Services is all about, this is a good place to start.

The Volunteer Reception Center (VRC) is a hub of activity during a disaster. Spontaneous volunteers report to the VRC and are screened, interviewed and dispatched to sites around the county that have requested help. The VRC is perfect for RSVP volunteers who are no longer able to help with manual labor, but have communication and organization life skills.

VRC volunteers answer phones, take requests for volunteers and pass those needs on to other volunteers who match the skills needed with those of the volunteer reporting to help. The drill gives RSVP volunteers an opportunity to train in several different areas of interest.

The training is set for Friday, April 18. The time and training location will be announced shortly. If you are interested in serving during a disaster, please let Susan know so she can call you when the plans are complete.

As always, pizza will be provided!

Focus Area: Healthy Futures

Senior Wheels

Senior Wheels is struggling to keep up with the demand for transportation in the Belpre area. If you live in Belpre, please consider volunteering with Senior Wheels.

Volunteers use their own car to provide transportation to seniors no longer able to drive. Clients are allowed to take one personal trip each month to the grocery store and are provided unlimited medical trips. Volunteers are reimbursed for mileage at the IRS rate of \$.555 per mile. Call Lisa at the RSVP office for more information.

O'Neill Center

Sometimes all you need is a little help. The O'Neill Center is starting a new program to help the elderly remain in their own homes –The Lawn Rangers Program (kind of catchy, huh?). Volunteers are needed to provide general lawn care for elderly residents with an identified need for the service. All the lawns are small, city lots. Services can include mowing, weed eating, and leaf and debris removal. Volunteers will not be asked to pull weeds in flower gardens. Let us know if you are able to help meet this need in the community.

Focus Area: Community Priorities

Campus Martius Museum

It's almost time for the school programs to begin at Campus Martius and the River Museum. Director LeAnn Hendershot said that docents are needed for upcoming educational programs. If you enjoy working with children, the museum staff will teach you to lead tours and workshops. Call the RSVP office and we will let you know when the spring training begins.

To learn more about any of these volunteer opportunities, please call the RSVP office.

We can answer questions and get you connected with the right people.

Call 373-3107 Today!

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
Monday ~ 9:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Barlow Public Library
Wednesdays ~ 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Marietta Township Senior Center - (Reno School)
March 19 ~ 12:30 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

**Your Service
Matters**



**Your Service
Makes a Difference**



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The Volunteer Voice
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Mark Your Calendar...

Senior Corps Week

May 19 - 23

Activities throughout the week to celebrate
the contributions of senior volunteers... YOU!



Annual RSVP Volunteer Recognition Dinner

Monday, June 23
Lafayette Hotel ~ Marietta

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.