



RSVP

The Volunteer Voice

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January & February 2013

Retired and Senior Volunteer Program of Washington County, Ohio

NEW YEAR ~ NEW VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES IN 2013

RSVP has been busy building new partnerships, and creating new opportunities for our volunteers to make a difference in Washington County.

Beginning in March, we will host informational meetings to introduce new partner stations and to share new projects where RSVP volunteers can make a difference. If you see an opportunity of interest, call the office and we will make sure you get a personal invitation to the session(s) of your choice. A complete schedule will be included in the next newsletter, and with enough interest, we will offer both daytime and evening presentations for our volunteers who are still employed.

Stream Team Volunteer Monitoring Project

Meet Jesse Daubert, Director of Friends of the Lower Muskingum River and learn about the importance of Stream Team Volunteer Monitors. Long term monitoring of local waterways can help to identify problem areas and document the effects of remediation or reclamation efforts. Most streams and rivers in Ohio are only sampled occasionally by state agencies. Volunteer data can be used to establish baseline conditions for areas that may otherwise go unmonitored, or call attention to pollution problems in local watersheds.

Jesse will talk about how Stream Team volunteers collect, test and report data. Areas where testing is needed include Goose Run, Wolf Creek, Cats Creek and Big Run.

For more information visit: <http://muskingumriver.org/streamteam.html>.

Emergency Operations Center (EOC) Training

Washington County recently received funding for an EOC. During the storms last June, when so many households were without electricity, RSVP volunteers were called on to answer phones and deliver emergency supplies to outlying areas. Emergency Management Agency Director Jeff Lauer wants to get ahead of the next emergency by having teams in place to assist as support staff. By having trained volunteers ready to spring into action, response time with relief supplies can be greatly reduced. Volunteer opportunities are available in the EOC and on the road crews to deliver aide.

Community Emergency Response Team

Jeff Lauer will also discuss CERT training. CERT teaches members to take care of their own neighborhood until emergency relief crews arrive. It is hoped that we can recruit volunteer teams from rural communities to assess the needs in their area and report conditions to the EOC. Jeff said that one of the biggest problems during the last storm was gathering information on the damages across the county. He said faster assessment means faster relief.

MMH / Amedisys Hospice

Taylor Daugherty with Hospice asks volunteer one question. "What do you like to do?" More than likely, the things that you enjoy can be shared with someone in hospice. If you love to sing, Taylor can find someone to listen. If you like to read, scrapbook or work puzzles, there is a match out there for you. Hospice volunteers fill so many roles, and Taylor will help you find a comfortable way to use your talents. Volunteers can be companions for people facing the end of their life, or give family caregivers a much needed respite by covering for them while they go to the grocery store, or take a much needed nap.

Just a few hours a week can make a difference. Even if you have never thought about being a hospice volunteer, consider attending Taylor's presentation. She is warm, funny and has stories that are uplifting and inspiring.

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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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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hello again...

by Lisa Valentine, Director

Well, this is it. The reorganization is complete. This last round of volunteer station closures was the hardest. I held on to the Tuesday Crafters and the Wow Chorus until it was out of my control. The Tuesday Crafters have been with RSVP since the beginning of time, and I love every one of those ladies. A few of the Wow Chorus singers have been with RSVP for many years, and I have grown close to them, too. The encouraging news is that both groups will continue to do their good works and I will get to see them when they come to the O'Neill for crafters meetings or rehearsals. And many of them are still serving in RSVP supported volunteer endeavors.

In 2009, we began drafting the plan to bring our program into compliance by 2013. The first changes were enacted in 2010. At that time, we had 389 volunteers serving at 89 stations. Today, after all the changes, we have 190 active volunteers and 39 stations.

As we sit at this new beginning, I want to go on record as saying that the changes have made RSVP more effective and better able to serve the community. Our new focus on service has made us a lean, mean, volunteering machine capable of overcoming challenges and meeting the needs of Washington County.

The three new programs we implemented – Senior Wheels, Ohio Benefit Bank, and the Commodity Box program – help hundreds of people each month.

RSVP received a \$5,000 grant from Sisters of St. Joseph Charitable Fund for Senior Wheels which means the project is fully funded for the next year.

The new volunteer opportunities in the areas of disaster services and environmental stewardship are very exciting. A few of our men-volunteers are really looking forward to "getting their feet wet" in the Stream Team Monitoring Project. Thank you for sharing your excitement!

I'm looking forward to the next year; it's going to be a real juggling act. With all the new programming, it's going to be a challenge to stay on top of everything. Fortunately for me, Susan is really good at helping me keep all the balls in the air. The volunteer dispatchers – Jayne, Carolyn and Brenda – are managing Senior Wheels with amazing grace and skill, and Joe makes sure the Commodity Box crew has a warm, safe distribution center. It takes a village...

2013 and Beyond

RSVP Program Update

For the past three years, RSVP has been working toward answering our community's toughest problems by aligning our program with the Strategic Plan created by the Corporation for National & Community Service.

The plan outlined six Focus Areas: Education, Healthy Futures, Economic Opportunity, Veterans and Military Families, Environmental Stewardship, and Disaster Services.

We were charged with evaluating where RSVP volunteers had the most impact in Washington County. Once identified, we concentrated our efforts on strengthening that area.

HEALTHY FUTURES

PRIMARY FOCUS AREA

Healthy Futures addresses aging in place, health issues, access to care, and helping families and seniors maintain an adequate food supply. We already had a strong volunteer commitment in this area through our work with local food pantries, Franciscan Meals, food drives, and Arthritis Foundation Tai Chi.

Since the new strategic plan was released, we have sought out partners and funding sources so that RSVP volunteers could fill the gaps left by local social services. Through a partnership with O'Neill Center, two important programs were initiated – Ohio Benefit Bank and Senior Wheels Transportation. Working with Hocking-Athens-Perry Community Action (HAPCAP), we were able to facilitate distribution of Senior Commodity Boxes.

We are mandated to have at least 25% of our volunteer in the Primary Focus area. Our RSVP has 44% serving in this capacity. If you have any doubt about the importance of these

programs, talk to the RSVP volunteers who serve, or to the people receiving service. The stories they tell reinforce that we are moving in the right direction and using our limited resources in the best way possible.

COMMUNITY PRIORITIES

Community Priorities are activities that RSVP volunteers perform that do not fall within one of the six Focus Areas. We are allowed to have no more than 30% of our volunteers serving in this area. Commissioner Tim Irvine named a committee to help decide which volunteer activities would continue to be supported by RSVP. The litmus test was two questions: 1. Without the assistance of RSVP, would this activity/program cease to exist or suffer hardship? 2. Is this activity/program vital to Washington County? The fact that only 30% – 57 unduplicated volunteers – could serve in this area made the decision very difficult. A complete list of Community Priorities volunteer stations follows on the next page.

WHAT IS AN

UNDUPLICATED VOLUNTEER?

Unduplicated volunteers is a confusing concept. We have 190 active volunteers that can only be counted one time. If a volunteer serves at a station that falls under one of the Focus Areas, like the Food Pantry – that is where he is counted. That same volunteer can also serve at a station that falls under Community Priorities, like the Tourist Information Center, but he was already counted, so to count him again would be a duplication. Volunteers who only serve in Community Priorities will be limited to 30% of active volunteers, or

57 people. We were able to keep more stations under Community Priorities because many of our volunteers perform service in more than one category.

OTHER FOCUS AREAS

The remaining percentage (26%) of our volunteers may serve in another focus area other than Healthy Futures which is our Primary Focus Area. These include Education, Economic Opportunity, Veterans and Military Families, Environmental Stewardship, and Disaster Services. This category is RSVP's opportunity to grow and offer experiences that are new. The front page of the newsletter shows some of the exciting new volunteer opportunities that are being developed.

A FINAL MESSAGE

Please keep an open mind as we close one chapter and open a new one. Embrace the change. Give an elderly resident a ride to the grocery store or doctor's office. Help a family cope with the challenges of a loved one nearing the end of life.

Explore volunteer opportunities that will allow you to learn more about the environment or disaster services.

We are entering a time when volunteer service has never been more important. Let's all use our talents and resources to change the world, one person at a time.

**Lead.
Inspire.
Change the world.
Again.**

RSVP Volunteer Stations

as of January 1, 2013

AARP Tax Aide
 American Red Cross Blood Services
 Area Agency on Aging*
 Barlow Mechanical & Ag Assoc.*
 Belpre Historical Society*
 Boys & Girls Club
 Campus Martius Museum*
 Caring Connection
 The Castle*
 Colony Theatre*
 Ely Chapman
 Eve
 Ewing School
 Franciscan Community Meals
 Friends of the Lower
 Muskingum River
 Habitat for Humanity
 Humane Society of the MOV*
 Lowell Area Food Pantry
 Marietta Area
 Chamber of Commerce*
 Marietta Recycling Center
 Marietta City Schools
 Marietta Community Food Pantry
 Marietta/Washington County CVB*
 MMH/Amedisys Hospice
 NALC #154 Food Drive
 O'Neill Center
 Pioneer Ladies Civitan*
 RSVP
 Right Path
 River City Runners*
 St. Mary's Church Daily Bread
 Sweet Corn Festival*
 Tri County Food Pantry
 WASCO
 Washington County Harvest of Hope
 Washington County EMA
 Washington County Ag &
 Mechanical Assoc.*
 Washington County Veterans Office

* *indicates Community Priorities
volunteer station*

Special Thanks to Coats For Kids Volunteers

Coats for Kids volunteers wrapped up another great year. Coat collections totaled 572, and 462 coats were distributed. Special thanks to the volunteers who serve each year to make sure that area children have a warm coat, hat and mittens.

Co- Captains

Mary Emge
 Pearl Guyer

Distribution Volunteers

Sandra Bach	Donna Shul
Sallye Bom	Jaye Warman
Shirley Duckworth	Evelyn Worstell
Jo Ann Ingram	

Hat & Mitten Knitters & Crocheters

Betty Rhodes
 June Rose

Community Priorities Volunteer Stations & Activities

Volunteers currently serving in Community Priority activities: 156

Unduplicated Volunteers: 57

30% of unduplicated volunteers

Area Agency on Aging – *Ombudsman Program*
 Area Agency on Aging – *Newsletter*
 Barlow Fair – *Handicapped Transportation*
 Belpre Farmer's Castle Mueseum – *Docent & Educational Programs*
 Campus Martius & Ohio River Museum – *Docent & Educational Programs*
 Chamber of Commerce – *Newsletter*
 Coats for Kids – *Collection & Distribution*
 The Castle – *Docent & Educational Programs*
 Colony Theatre – *Special Events*
 Humane Society – *Animal Care*
 Marietta Washington Convention & Visitors – *Tourist Information Center*
 Pioneer Ladies Civitan – *Halloween in the Park*
 RSVP – *Advisory Council, Newsletter, Program Assistance*
 River City Runners – *Newsletter*
 Sweet Corn Festival – *Special Events*
 Washington County Fair – *Special Events*

AARP Tax Aide

RSVP Volunteers Trained to Offer Free Tax Preparation

AARP Tax Aide volunteers offer peace of mind for area seniors. Art Jones wears two hats as both an RSVP volunteer and AARP Tax Aide Regional Director. He said that nearly 700 returns were filed last year at three locations.

RSVP volunteers will be training during January to learn the new tax codes and take the test to become certified IRS preparers. AARP Tax Aide clinics begin on February 4 and run through April 15.

AARP TAX AIDE SITES

FEBRUARY 4 ~ APRIL 15

Marietta

Knights of Columbus Hall
312 Franklin St.
Mondays & Thursdays
9:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Beverly & Waterford

Beverly Public Library
300 McIntosh St.
Mondays by Appointment Only
Call: 984-4060

Barlow & Vincent

Barlow Public Library
8370 State Route 339
Wednesdays
9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Reno

Marietta Township Recreation Center
260 Sandhill Road (old Reno School)
Wednesday ~ two days only
February 20 & March 20
12:30 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Campus Martius Spring Training

Campus Martius Museum always tries to make the right match when it comes to volunteer service. This year, on Thursday, February 7 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., join the Museum staff at the “get acquainted” meeting. Potential volunteers will get an overview of the many service opportunities available at Campus Martius and the Ohio River Museum.

Other trainings are optional and available for volunteers interested in helping with school programs, at the Putnam House and the W.P. Snyder, Jr. Please call the RSVP office if you would like to attend one or all of the training sessions.

Get Acquainted:

Learn more about what a volunteer does at Campus Martius and the Ohio River Museum.

Thursday, February 7
10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
Campus Martius Museum

Helping with School Programs

Learn about educational programs.

Friday, February 15
10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
Campus Martius Museum

Putnam House Tours

Special Events & Behind the Scenes

Thursday, February 21
10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
Campus Martius Museum

W.P. Snyder, Jr. Tours

Special Events & Behind the Scenes

Friday, March 1
10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
Ohio River Museum

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: TOURIST INFORMATION CENTER

2013 Season Training Luncheon in April ~ TIC Opens on May 1

New Volunteers: ~ Call the RSVP office for more information ~ 373-3107
Current TIC Volunteers: Watch the mail for your training invitation & 2013 Schedule

The Volunteer Voice
RSVP of Washington County
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Volunteer Opportunities

Senior Wheels Drivers & Dispatchers

Help seniors remain independent and living in their own homes by offering transportation to doctors appointments and the grocery store. Next training: March 2013.

Franciscan Community Meals

Opportunity 1: Schedule drivers and coordinate delivery routes from your own home.

Opportunity 2: Deliver meals to homebound individuals. Approximately 1-1/2 hours on Tuesdays. Most volunteers serve 2 times each month.

O'Neill Adult Day Care

Assist day center clients as they arrive, offer companionship, and help serve snacks and lunch. Thursdays 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Marietta Community Food Pantry

Intake / data entry volunteers needed Tuesdays or Thursdays. On the job training provided.

For more information call 373-3107

Dates to Remember

Senior Corps Week

~ May 6 - 10 ~

Celebrating YOU... Our volunteers!

Submit your ideas for a great week.
How would YOU like to
Celebrate?



Call Lisa at 373-3107
with your suggestions

Visit our Website: rsvpwc.org

Look for the Calendar of events!



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