

WINTER 2010



MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DAY OF SERVICE

2011 marks the 25th anniversary of the Martin Luther King, Jr. federal holiday. Thousands of organizations throughout the country lead or participate in MLK Day activities.

We invite you, your friends, and your family to participate in the third annual public celebration commemorating the legacy of the Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. to be held at 6:30 p.m. on **Monday, January 17, 2011**, at the **First Baptist Church, 1041 Liberty Street, Franklin, PA**. The event features the story of the Underground Railroad in Northwestern Pennsylvania. Mrs. Pat Young of Reno will display her hand-crafted quilt and with the aid of a multimedia presentation, will describe the use of quilt blocks as signals to convey messages in connection with the Underground Railroad. Clarion University's Professor Greg Goodman will also speak about our area's history of promoting social justice.



In conjunction with this special event, RSVP will be recruiting new volunteers to help achieve Dr. King's objectives to improve lives and bridge social barriers. MLK Day is a great opportunity to bring in new volunteers and partners to support our work throughout the year. To help in this recruiting effort, please contact Monica at 814-432-9723 or Karen at 814-432-9706.

FREE TAX ASSISTANCE



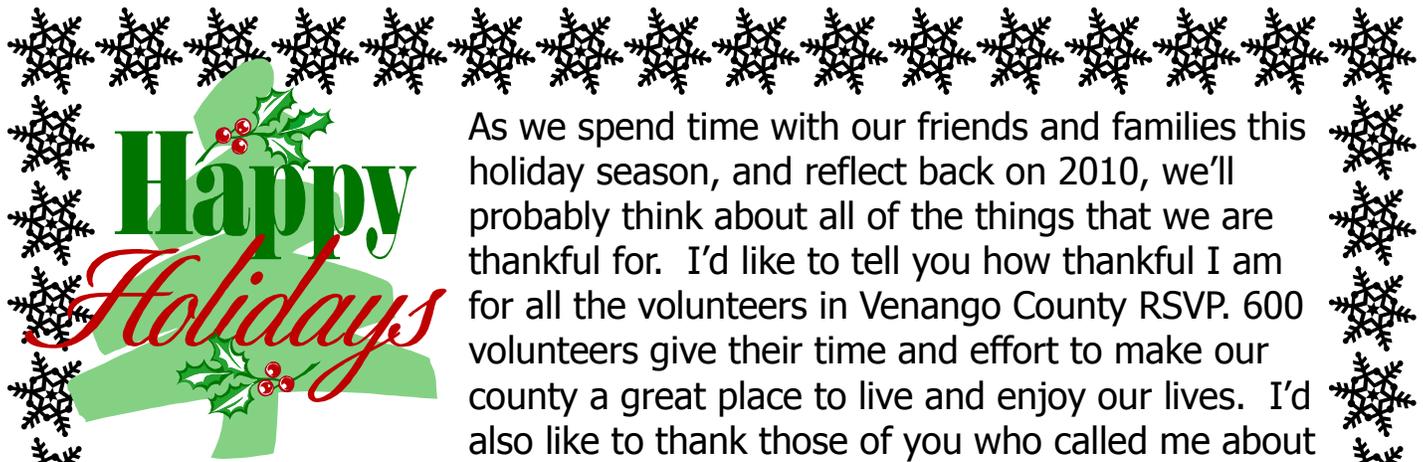
Another tax season is almost here and once again, RSVP, in conjunction with the AARP Tax-Aide program, will be offering free tax assistance. Trained and certified volunteer tax counselors will help individuals prepare basic tax forms and standard schedules as well as Property Tax/Rent Rebate forms.

There is still time to learn to be a volunteer tax preparer with this program. Training will be held during the second week of January 2011. Volunteers are needed for the Oil City and Franklin locations. Please call the RSVP office at 432-9723 for more information.

RETIRED SENIOR VOLUNTEER PROGRAM



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As we spend time with our friends and families this holiday season, and reflect back on 2010, we'll probably think about all of the things that we are thankful for. I'd like to tell you how thankful I am for all the volunteers in Venango County RSVP. 600 volunteers give their time and effort to make our county a great place to live and enjoy our lives. I'd also like to thank those of you who called me about the log sheets. In response to your calls, we are

working to create an easy-to-use form to record your volunteer hours and have incorporated many of your suggestions. This record of your service activity is important for RSVP funding, so I want to make this essential task as painless as possible for the volunteers and volunteer stations. Please submit all of your volunteer hours for 2010 no later than January 5, 2011.

For those of you considering a New Year resolution, I'd like to suggest that you resolve to add 10 more hours of volunteer service this year..or 20! A good place to start would be to volunteer to help us recruit more volunteers at the MLK Day celebration on January 17, 2011. Just call me at 814-432-9723 and I can give you information on how to participate.

Once again, thank you for all you do. Karen and I wish you a happy and healthy holiday season.

Monica Kelley

SOCK IT TO US 2010

RSVP would like to thank everyone who donated socks this year! We collected over 1,200 pair of socks. Thank you for making this project a huge success. RSVP distributed socks of all sizes and colors to the following agencies:



*Grandparents Raising Grandchildren
Family Services
Salvation Army—Franklin
Salvation Army—Oil City*

*Twin Creek Head Start
Youth Alternatives
PPC Violence Free Network*



Help for Heating is Now Available
There are new, higher income guidelines for
LIHEAP

The 2010-2011 Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) is now open. Customers are encouraged to apply immediately for assistance, as funds are limited, and will be distributed on a first-come, first-served basis.

The size of the grant is based upon your income and household size. If you are having difficulty paying your heating bills, LIHEAP may be able to help you. If you are eligible, National Fuel will receive a grant on your behalf to help pay your bill.

If you are applying for a Crisis grant, you will need your shut-off notice or a form from the utility company, stating how much is needed in order to turn on your service. The Crisis grants will be available, beginning January 3, 2011.

To find out if you qualify or to apply for LIHEAP:

- Call or visit your local County Assistance Office. Be sure to apply in the county where you live.
- Apply online at www.compass.state.pa.us.
- Have the following information ready when you apply:
 - ✓ Names, birth dates, social security numbers and income
 - ✓ information of all household members
 - ✓ Proof of identification
 - ✓ A current heating bill

These grants are provided by Pennsylvania through the federally funded LIHEAP and are available to renters and homeowners.



NATIONAL FUEL

Protect Yourself from Carbon Monoxide

Carbon monoxide is a colorless, odorless and potentially dangerous gas that is produced when fuel (heating oil, propane, kerosene, charcoal, wood or natural gas) is burned without enough air for complete combustion. If inhaled in large quantities for a prolonged time period, it can cause unconsciousness, brain damage and death. Symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning include fatigue, headache, dizziness, nausea, coughing, irregular breathing, overall paleness, and cherry-red lips and/or ears. If you, or anyone in your household, ever experience these symptoms, immediately open the windows and doors to ventilate your home, go outside, and call 9-1-1 or the local fire department.

Here are some simple ways you can protect you and your loved ones from carbon monoxide poisoning:

- ◆ Hire a qualified contractor to ensure your chimney, appliances and heating equipment are properly inspected, tested and running efficiently.
- ◆ Clear snow and ice from any vents.
- ◆ Never use a gas oven or stovetop to heat your home.
- ◆ Make sure your gas flames burn blue-not orange.
- ◆ Never use a charcoal or propane grill indoors.
- ◆ Install at least one carbon monoxide detector in your home.
- ◆ Never run a gasoline engine in an enclosed space.

Volunteer Opportunities . . . Volunteer Opportunities . . .

Out of County Transportation

RSVP is always in need of drivers to transport consumers to out-of-county medical appointments.



Tax & Rent Rebate Preparers Needed

Tax season is almost here! Learn to be a volunteer tax preparer...but hurry! Training is held the second week in January 2011. Volunteers are needed in Oil City and Franklin locations.

Friendly Visits

Volunteers are needed to call and provide telephone reassurance to identified clients/consumers. Also needed are those who are willing to spend a little time with nursing home residents who don't receive visitors.

Volunteer Ombudsman

Advocate for residents of nursing and/or personal care homes by listening to concerns, bringing information and helping to find answers. Training provided.



Apprise Counselors

Counsel consumers on Medicare, Medicaid, supplemental insurance, and other public and private insurance options. Training provided.

American Cancer Society

Sell Daffodils at various locations in Venango County.

Bridge Builders Community Foundation



The Bridge Builders Community Foundations are donors who help the community. Their main purpose is to develop, manage, and distribute funding to meet present and future needs of our community. A volunteer is needed a few hours a week to do deposits, copying, and filing. Their office is located at 213 Seneca Street in Oil City, on the third floor (with no elevator).

Please contact Karen Cramer at 814-432-9706 if you are interested in any of these opportunities!!!!



Project Director: Monica Kelley
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RSVP ADVISORY COUNCIL

Jan Beichner, Commissioner Representative; Josephine Kissinger, Chairperson; Barbara McGarvey, Co-Chairman; Bill Jones; Toni Hannon; Beverly & Leo Harsen; Alberta Kiss; Marshall Mansfield; Judy Villasenor; Cheri Wilson; Harry "Skip" Davidson; Lisa Moritz; Debbie Oaks; Donald Cramer; & Tom Last

RSVP SPONSORING AGENCY

Venango County Area Agency on Aging

VENANGO COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Timothy Brooks
Jan Beichner
Vincent Witherup

RSVP Senior Corps of Venango County is funded in part by the Corporation for National & Community Service (CNCS is a network of federally sponsored programs that helps Americans age 55 and older find opportunities to address community needs through service). Additional funding is obtained through the Venango County Area Agency on Aging and community contributions.

RSVP
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Franklin, PA 16323**

