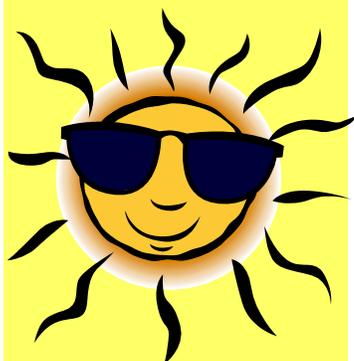


Summer 2011



SCENES FROM THE LUNCHEON

APRIL 26, 2011

Five RSVP volunteers received the **PRESIDENTIAL VOLUNTEER SERVICE AWARD** this year for 4,000 hours or more of volunteer service (over a lifetime): Audine Deeter, Michael Hoover, Jane Myers, Judy Stevenson, and Beryl Stratton.

Three RSVP volunteers received their **25 YEARS OF SERVICE** award: Josephine Blair, Betty Hayes, and Yelma Heckathorne.



RETIRE
D SENIOR
VOLUNTEER
PROGRAM

REACH



Audine Deeter - Utica Senior Center; Welcome Every Child



Yelma Heckathorne - Golden Living Center; American Cancer Society; Sugar Creek Station; various capacities with RSVP and Area Agency on Aging



Jane Myers - Creekside Senior Center; Golden Living Center

Judy Stevenson - American Cancer Society; Senior Environmental Corps; and various other activities with RSVP

Josephine Blair - Scrubgrass Senior Center

Not pictured:
Betty Hayes - DeBence Antique Music World; Toymakers; Salvation Army in Franklin
Michael Hoover - The Caring Place
Beryl Stratton - Area Agency on Aging transportation and various activities for AAA and RSVP

From the RSVP Director...

This past year has been a challenge for all of us. We have to do more with less—and we have. RSVP successfully competed for the first year grant in a three-year cycle. That being said, we were then subjected to what amounts to a 20% budget cut. All RSVP projects nationwide have been cut by this same percentage. The Corporation for National and Community Service has required us to stretch our 12-month grant award over 15 months. To accomplish this, we drastically cut our expenditures, and through the support of the Area Agency on Aging, Karen was able to transfer to a part-time position in that department. In addition, Aging is now the host site for the out-of-county volunteer transportation program, although RSVP volunteers remain as drivers.

RSVP will be more active in fundraising to help support our project. We encourage everyone to buy the quilt raffle tickets as the proceeds after expenses are split 50/50 between RSVP and the Polk Fire Department. And of course, we will always accept donations!

Venango County RSVP is committed to providing rewarding volunteer opportunities to the seniors in our community. We know that good health is preserved by volunteering. We also know that because of your volunteer efforts, you make Venango County a great place to live. Keep up the good work. Call me at 814-432-9723 and let me know how you are doing.

Thanks for all you do.

Monica Kelley



The RSVP Advisory Council Vice Chair Bev Harsen and Chair Barb Cisek-McGarvey display the 2011 RSVP Raffle Quilt. Proceeds benefit the Polk Fire Department and RSVP.

Quilt Fundraiser Planned

Measuring 80 x 90 inches, this full/double size quilt features a Canadian Goose pattern. This year's quilt took first place in the Made by Groups Category at the Country Charms Quilt Guild (Cochranon) annual show. RSVP volunteers will be stationed at the following locations throughout the summer to sell tickets: Galaxy Federal Credit Union, Franklin—June 24 and July 22; Senior Appreciation Day, Bandstand Park, Franklin—June 30; Northwest Savings Bank, Franklin—August 12; and First National Bank, Franklin—September 9.

The drawing will be held October 11, 2011.

RSVP volunteers assist at blood drives



RSVP volunteers Judy Shull and Kathy Johnson share a laugh with county employee donors at the café.



County employee Judith Downs at the café with RSVP volunteer Angela Prather.

Every two seconds, someone in this country needs blood to survive.

On average, only 5% of the population donates blood.

Central Blood Bank provides blood and blood products for UPMC-Northwest in Venango County. In FY10, Central Blood Bank distributed 3,340 units in Venango County and collected 1,489 units. RSVP volunteers assist in the blood donation process by operating the café area where donors rest while enjoying a light refreshment. Volunteers observe the donors for any signs of distress for 15 minutes after which time donors are permitted to leave.

RSVP volunteers Kathy Johnson, Angela Prather, and Judy Shull assisted at the county employee blood drive hosted by the Central Blood Bank/Institute for Transfusion Medicine at the Courthouse Annex on Wednesday, June 8, 2011.

Also on June 8, RSVP volunteers Jo Kissinger, Scott Smail, and Taunee Smith assisted at the blood drive at the Holiday Inn Express in Cranberry. So far this year, RSVP volunteers have assisted in seven different blood drives throughout the county. Other blood drives volunteers include Janet Birchell, Vicky Book, Donna Drake, Sue Pacior, Jan Kestner, Donna Pollard, and Lanny Pollard.

Volunteer shifts are usually two to three hours and may be in the daytime or early evening. Dates and locations vary, so we put you on our contact list and notify you of upcoming drives to see if you are available. If you are interested in being on our contact list, call 814-432-9723 or email mkelley@co.venango.pa.us.

Senior Center News

Strength of a survivor

Ruth Wilson, a Creekside Center member, participated in the Relay for Life walk at the Oil City High School track on June 3, 2011. With her walker, Ruth undertook walking the track. During her walk, a young man Ruth did not know joined her, and the two of them finished the entire length of the track together. Ruth was presented with a dozen yellow roses for being one of the two longest cancer survivors. Ruth has beat cancer for over 36 years!

Scrubgrass Center enjoys a successful open house and annual rummage sale

Scrubgrass Center held their annual rummage, food and baked goods sale on May 27 in combination with their open house. Senior center members obtained donations from various area businesses to be used as door prizes. The event was attended by Susan Walters, Senior Center Services Director and Barbara Hinds, AAA Administrator. The seniors made over \$400 from this event making it just a few dollars short of last year's sales.

Creekside Center arrives!

Creekside Center Steppers began walking the distance from Oil City to the Pacific Ocean in honor and memory of Betty Brannon, a former member who passed away this winter of cancer. The walk began on Betty's birthday, February 18. At the end of every week the Steppers add up the combined number of steps of the group and mark their location on a map calculated by dividing the number of steps taken by 2,000 steps in a mile.

Betty stated that she always wanted to travel across the country and see the ocean, so we set off for the Pacific in her honor. We have walked enough steps to reach the California shore and will be celebrating with a big birthday blowout at Two Mile Run Park in July.

Every year, over \$48 billion is lost to fraud and abuse in Medicare. This affects all of us – fraud and abuse drive health care costs up while bringing the quality of care down. To find out steps you can take to prevent Medicare fraud and abuse, call Karen Cramer in the Aging office at 814-432-9711.

IF YOU CAN WALK IN THE WOODS, YOU CAN HUNT OIL WELLS!

If you are looking for a way to exercise your mind as well as your body, and are interested in spending some quality time outdoors, consider volunteering with the Senior Environmental Corps. You will team up with other senior volunteers to monitor streams and locate orphan wells in Venango County. Volunteers should be able to walk over uneven terrain and be willing to learn monitoring methods. Training is provided.

Volunteers typically spend from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. outdoors once or twice a month during the Spring and Fall testing stream samples or searching for orphan wells.

For further information, call the
RSVP office at 814-432-9723



Grandparents Raising Grandchildren

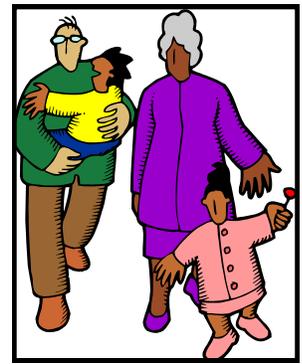
A support group for any adult raising a related child without the involvement of the child's parents.

When: The first Wednesday of every month
5:00—7:00 p.m.

Where: Human Services Complex
1 Dale Avenue, Franklin, PA

A light supper and child-care are provided free of charge during the meeting.

Contact Mary Snow at
432-9711 to participate



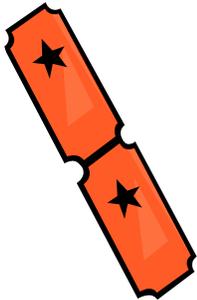
*Sponsored by the Venango
County Area Agency on Aging*

Do you need Extra Help?

If you are currently receiving Medicare and are having a hard time paying for your prescription drugs or your monthly Part B premium, you may qualify for Extra Help. If you are single and your income is less than \$1,361/month or married with an income less than \$1,839/month, contact Karen Cramer with the APPRISE program in the Aging office at 814-432-9711.



Volunteer Opportunities . . . Volunteer Opportunities . . .



RSVP / Polk Quilt Raffle

Help us fundraise for RSVP programs and the Polk Fire Department. Volunteers will sell raffle tickets at local banks on Fridays during the months of July, August, & September.

Venango County Fair August 8 - 13, 2011

Volunteers needed for the first day of the fair to register entries, and for other various jobs throughout the fair days.

Out-of-County Transportation

Do you like to drive? Volunteer drivers needed to transport consumers to out-of-county medical appointments.

Apprise Counselors

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

Barrow Civic Theatre

Help out one of the gems of our community by volunteering at the box office. Shifts are one day a week for 3 1/2 hours. Volunteer should be computer literate (the basics).



DeBence Antique Music World Museum

Do you like music? Do you like to learn new things about old things? Do you like to talk to people? Train to be a volunteer tour guide at the DeBence Antique Music World Museum in Franklin.



Volunteer Opportunities . . . Volunteer Opportunities . . .

Sugar Creek Station

Volunteer opportunities include escorting visitors, helping with activities, visiting residents, and helping with auxiliary fundraisers.

Volunteer Ombudsman

Help nursing home and/or personal care home residents by listening to their concerns, bringing information and helping to find answers. Training provided.

Friendly Visitors

Like to chat? Volunteers needed to provide telephone reassurance to identified clients/consumers. Also needed are those willing to spend a little time with homebound or nursing home residents who don't often receive visitors.



ABC Baby Boutique Gift Shop

Help to sort, tag, and stock donated items in the store. Assist pregnant shoppers and their families with boutique "purchases." Refer clients to services available and take referrals.

Volunteer Adult Education Tutors

Help an adult learner earn a GED through the Lifelong Learning Program. Training provided.



Please contact Monica Kelley at 814-432-9723 to volunteer for any of these opportunities!!!!

Join Us!!

Project Director/REACH Editor: Monica Kelley

Phone: 814-432-9723

Fax: 814-432-9759

RSVP ADVISORY COUNCIL

Jan Beichner, Commissioner Representative; Barbara M. Cisek-McGarvey, Chair; Beverly Harsen, Vice Chair. Richard "Dick" Baker; Donald Cramer; Harry "Skip" Davison; Toni Hannon; Leo Harsen; Josephine Kissinger; Debbie Oaks; Judy Villasenor; and Cheri Wilson.

RSVP SPONSORING AGENCY

Venango County Area Agency on Aging
Barb Hinds, Administrator

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
1 Dale Avenue
Franklin, PA 16323

**PRESORTED
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PAID
Permit No. 120
Franklin, PA 16323**

