

WINTER 2011



RETIRED SENIOR VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

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FORMING FRIENDSHIPS THROUGH VOLUNTEERING

As the morning mist rises off of the Allegheny River, you can see four friends walking and talking. Barb, Judy, Linda, and Jessie meet two times a week for a morning walk. You would think that they have known each other for a long time as they chat about a spouse's health, a new grandchild, or a recent vacation. But the reality is that they met while volunteering this past Spring as new recruits for RSVP Senior Corps of Venango County.

When they individually responded to an article in the paper for a need for RSVP tax preparation volunteers, they had no idea that they would be forming new friendships. But volunteering in the intense atmosphere which required learning specialized knowledge, the newbies encouraged each other as they learned how to be the best that they could be. Although all four have a flair for figures, preparing individual taxes was new for them, and the camaraderie helped to allay any fears or insecurities they had about completing forms for others.



After the tax season ended, the four began meeting twice a week for a morning walk, and the tradition began. In addition to walking, the four periodically get together for shopping trips, meet for lunch or dinner, and even went golfing several times this summer. The four retirees know the importance of maintaining social contacts and volunteering lead them to rewarding friendships.

As we age, we often don't meet new people as we go about our daily routines. But as this story shows, volunteering can lead to new friendships while providing a valuable service to our community. RSVP Senior Corps of Venango County has over 50 different volunteer opportunities for senior citizens to use their lifetime of knowledge and abilities to help our community...and to make a few new friends along the way.

From the RSVP Director...



The holidays make most of us think about ways to help others...but RSVP volunteers think about ways to help others all year long, and our community benefits from your dedication to service.

It is important for you to remember that everything you do as an RSVP volunteer is valuable...don't sell yourself short or think that your contribution is too small to notice. I recently heard a story about a volunteer who was late in making her daily call to an elderly senior living alone. The volunteer received a call from the senior who said, "You didn't call this morning." The volunteer replied, "I was about to call." To this the senior replied, "Then I will hang up and let you call back because if you don't call the PHONE WON'T RING TODAY." So please remember that all your volunteer service is significant and worthwhile.

Thanks to all the volunteers who are wearing their RSVP name badges while volunteering. It is good to let others know that you are part of the RSVP team serving our community. I'd also like to encourage each station where RSVP volunteers serve to post the small RSVP sign to let clients and customers know that RSVP volunteers are serving there. If your station does not have a poster, please let me know and I will get one to you.

As 2011 comes to a close, I'd like to remind all volunteers that if you have 30 or more volunteer hours for the year, you will be invited to attend the 2012 recognition luncheon at no cost to you. If you have not been volunteering much, you still have time to reach your 30 hour minimum. If you have not been turning in your hours, please get them to the RSVP office ASAP so that we can get them entered into our database.

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

Monica Kelley



SOCK IT TO US 2011



County Commissioner Jan Beichner along with RSVP Advisory Council Vice Chair Bev Harsen and Chair Barb Cisek-McGarvey display some of the new socks donated in one of the sock collection boxes.

RSVP would like to thank everyone who donated socks this year! We collected 971 pair of socks. Thank you for making this project a huge success. And a BIG THANK YOU to all the RSVP volunteers who helped assemble and distribute boxes; and collect, count, and sort socks:

Rachelle Gregory	Anna Grieff
Marshall Mansfield	Nancy McClintock
Dorothy Meals	Lisa Moritz
Linda Spielman	Mary Tharp

A BIG THANK YOU to the following businesses and organizations who allowed us to put out sock boxes:

Franklin: Franklin Public Library, Franklin VFW, Northwest Savings Bank, Franklin Towers

Oil City: Oil City Library, Grace UM Church, YWCA, Northwest Savings Bank, Creekside Senior Center

Cranberry: Northwest Savings Bank

Seneca: CS Technologies

Clintonville: United Presbyterian Church, Mercer State Bank

Pleasantville: Corky's Pizza and Ice Cream, Pleasantville Senior Center

Rocky Grove: Grace United Methodist Church

Emlenton: Scrubgrass Senior Center

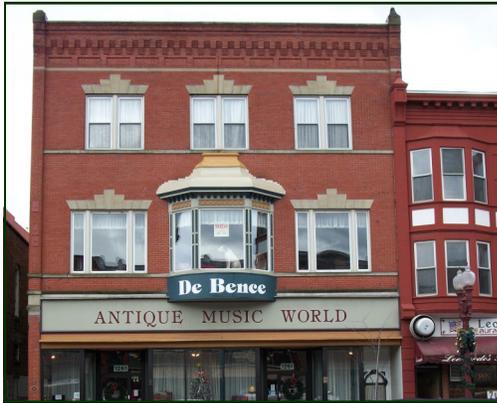
Socks of all sizes and colors were distributed to: Grandparents Raising Grandchildren; Family Services; Salvation Army—Franklin; Salvation Army—Oil City; Twin Creeks Head Start; United Military Support Group; Youth Alternatives



RSVP volunteers Anna Grieff and Nancy McClintock sort the socks for distribution.

Station Happenings

The DE BENCE ANTIQUE MUSIC WORLD Series of (FREE!) Mini-Events
Sunday, December 18 at 1:30 p.m. CLARION DULCIMER CLUB presents a program of Christmas music



Sunday, January 15 at 1:30 p.m. THE BAND SINGS. During the swing era sometimes the whole band sang part of the vocal chorus. Listen to computer enhanced original recordings and see their photos.

Sunday, February 19 at 1:30 p.m. DICK ESHELMAN (piccolo and flute) and ED FRYE (clarinet and saxophone) present a musical program.

Sunday, March 18 at 2:00 p.m. GREENVILLE HIGH SCHOOL STEEL DRUM BAND will perform. Don't miss this chance to hear a 20-piece steel drum band in concert.

Plan to attend these fun events and they are free!

The DE BENCE is looking for volunteers for the 2012 season for the front desk or as tour guides. Shifts are either 11:00 a.m.-1:30 p.m. or 1:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m., Tuesday—Saturday; or 12:30 p.m.-4:00 p.m. on Sundays. INDIVIDUALS CAN VOLUNTEER FOR AS FEW OR AS MANY HOURS AS THEY CHOOSE PER MONTH! Training is provided.

GIVE A HUG FOR THE HOLIDAYS

The Sugarcreek Station and Golden Living Center PEERS (Pennsylvania's Empowered Expert Residents) will be collecting new **Hats, Underwear, and Gloves** for the PPC Network (Violence Free Network & Shelter). We will be accepting donations for men, women, and children of all sizes. Donations can be dropped off at either facility or the Area Agency on Aging office at 1 Dale Avenue in Franklin.

RSVP OF VENANGO COUNTY CURRENT STATISTICS

Number of volunteers 537
Number of volunteers serving hours since January 1, 2011 474
Number of hours served January 1 - October 31, 2011 43,531

RSVP volunteers prepare for upcoming tax season

Yes, another tax season is almost here. RSVP, in conjunction with the AARP Tax-Aide program, will be offering free tax counseling and preparation services to low- and middle-income taxpayers, with special attention to those age 60 and older. IRS trained and certified tax counselors help individuals prepare basic tax forms and standard schedules as well as property tax/rent rebate forms from two locations in Venango County: the First Baptist Church in Franklin and the Oil City Public Library.



Jackie Cokain, an RSVP volunteer since 1998, manages the Franklin tax site. She arranges for volunteer training, secures the laptops and software, schedules volunteers, keeps track of volunteer hours, and serves as the go-to person when difficult questions arise.

A team of volunteers will prepare taxes on Thursdays and Fridays in Franklin between the hours of 8 a.m. – 3 p.m. from February 2 through April 13, 2012. Jackie invites others who like to work with numbers to train as a tax-aide volunteer for the upcoming season. **The Franklin site needs at least one more volunteer for the upcoming season. Training is held during the second week of January, so please call the RSVP office at 432-9723 right away so that you will be sure to get registered for the training class.**

If you like people and like being busy, the Franklin site also needs a volunteer receptionist on Fridays, and also needs a backup volunteer receptionist for either or both days.

Don Smith, an RSVP volunteer since 2001, manages the Oil City tax site. This location is open from 8:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. February 1 through April 11, 2012.

Grandparents Raising Grandchildren

A support group for any adult raising a related child without the involvement of the child's parents. Meets the first Wednesday of every month from 5-7 p.m. at the Human Services Complex, 1 Dale Avenue, Franklin, PA. Contact Mary Snow at 432-9711 for more information.

RSVP MISSION STATEMENT

Improve lives, strengthen communities,
and foster civic engagement through service and volunteering.

Volunteer Opportunities . . . Volunteer Opportunities . . .



TAX PREPARERS

Yes...tax season is just around the corner. Volunteer tax preparers will train in January 2012 and are asked to volunteer at least six hours a week during tax season. Oil City and Franklin locations.

TAX RECEPTIONIST

Volunteer receptionist needed for the Franklin location on Fridays from 8 a.m.—3 p.m. Backup receptionist also needed for Thursday.

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 comfortable using a computer. Training provided.



GIFT SHOP HELP

Sugar Creek Station is looking for gift shop volunteers. You can choose to volunteer for a few or as many hours as you want per month. You can choose mornings or afternoons, weekdays or weekend days.

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 and share your knowledge with others.



FRIENDLY VISITORS

Do you like to chat? Help relieve the loneliness of homebound seniors by providing telephone reassurance and occasional in-person visits.

See the latest in RSVP of Venango County Volunteer Opportunities by visiting www.seniorcorpsofpa.org and www.volunteermatch.org

Volunteer Opportunities . . . Volunteer Opportunities . . .

SALVATION ARMY—FRANKLIN

Be part of a team one morning a week in Sally's Café to help prepare and serve food and clean up kitchen when finished.

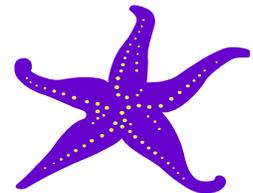


OUT-OF-COUNTY TRANSPORTATION DRIVERS

Transport senior consumers who have no other means of transportation to their out-of-county medical appointments. Vehicle provided.

OMBUDSMAN

Visit individual residents in nursing and personal care homes. As an Ombudsman volunteer, you decide how much time to devote and set up your own schedule for visiting. Training provided.



ABC PREGNANCY CENTER

Assist expecting parents with shopping in the baby boutique, and make referrals to services that are available for expecting and new parents.

BLOOD DRIVE ASSISTANTS

A volunteer-when-you-can position assisting in the donor café to observe and chat with donors after they give blood, and offer them juice/water/snacks. Blood drives are held in Franklin, Oil City, and Cranberry/Seneca. Shifts are usually 2 1/2 hours.

TOYMAKERS

Craft or paint wooden toys, and sew fabric toys year round. Toymakers meet every Tuesday at 10 am. at the FICDA building.

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

www.co.venango.pa.us/RSVP/Index.htm

RSVP ADVISORY COUNCIL

Jan Beichner, Commissioner Representative; Barbara M. Cisek McGarvey, Chair; Beverly Harsen, Vice Chair. Richard "Dick" Baker; Donald Cramer; Toni Hannon; Leo Harsen; Josephine Kissinger; Marshall Mansfield, Debbie Oaks; Ivan Pettit; 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

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Permit No. 120
Franklin, PA 16323**

