

WINTER 2012-13



RETIRED SENIOR VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

REACH

PINEGROVE HOMEMAKERS MARK THE END OF AN ERA

The Pinegrove Homemakers, a group of local RSVP volunteers who have met monthly for many years, officially met for the last time on Thursday, October 18, 2012.



The remaining members who were able to attend – Alice Schwab, Helen Murray, Marian Fox, and Pauline Flockerzi – reminisced about the many projects they have completed over the years that benefited the clients of local organizations. Each month the homemakers “adopted” an organization and crafted items for distribution to those in need. Over the years, the homemakers have made gifts for nursing home residents, babies, and new mothers.

Although the group has officially disbanded, they do plan to meet for lunch now and again when the weather is good.

We will miss them. We were honored to have their dedicated service to the community through the RSVP Senior Corps volunteer program. We appreciate all they have done.

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

From January 1, 2012 through November 30, 2012, 27 volunteers have assisted at 15 blood drives in Venango County contributing 193 hours. An average of 124 units of blood and blood products per month are collected in our county.

RSVP MISSION STATEMENT

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

From the RSVP Director...



Another year is coming to a close...where does the time go? Of course, we know where the time goes for RSVP volunteers. They are out in the community helping others, or staying at home and crafting items for those who are less fortunate. For example, every year an RSVP volunteer makes blankets and donates them for distribution to elderly clients who have no family and will spend the holidays alone.

Such acts of kindness help to brighten the spirits of the lonely and let them know that someone cares.

Every year I like to remind you 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. Our volunteers who make phone calls to homebound seniors often say they don't record the time because they are "just making a phone call." But that phone call is often the only call the senior receives that day and is very important to them. So please remember that all your volunteer service is significant and worthwhile.

And once again, 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.

As 2012 comes to a close, I'd like to remind all volunteers that if you have 30 or more RSVP volunteer hours for the year, you will be invited to attend the recognition luncheon to be held on Tuesday, May 7, 2013, at no cost to you. If you have not been volunteering much, you have until December 31st 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 Vanderhoof

SOCK IT TO US 2012



RSVP volunteer Anna Grieff sorted the socks for distribution.

RSVP would like to thank everyone who donated socks this year! We collected 483 pair of socks. A **BIG THANK YOU** to all the RSVP volunteers who helped assemble and distribute boxes; and collect, count, and sort socks:

Anna Grieff Marshall Mansfield Dorothy Meals
Lisa Moritz Mary Tharp

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

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

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

Cranberry: Northwest Savings Bank

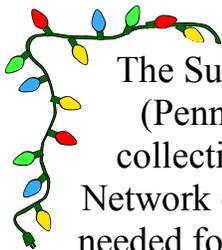
Seneca: CS Technologies

Clintonville: United Presbyterian Church, Mercer State Bank

Pleasantville: Corky's Pizza and Ice Cream

Rocky Grove: Grace United Methodist Church

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



GIVE A HUG FOR THE HOLIDAYS

The Sugarcreek Station and Golden Living Center PEERS (Pennsylvania's Empowered Expert Residents) will be collecting new **H**ats, **U**nderwear, and **G**loves for the PPC Network (Violence Free Network & Shelter). Donations are needed for men, women, and children of all sizes. Donations can be dropped off at either facility listed above or the Area Agency on Aging office at 1 Dale Avenue in Franklin.



Help for Heating is Now Available

The Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) is now open. A family of four with a gross annual income of \$34,575 qualifies for a grant.

Who qualifies for LIHEAP? The 2012-13 income guidelines are listed below.

Household Size	Annual Maximum Income Limit
1	\$16,755
2	\$22,695
3	\$28,635
4	\$34,575
5	\$40,515

For income limits for larger households, visit
www.LIHEAPhelps.com.

How to apply? It's easier than ever! Depending on your circumstances, you may apply:

- **Online** – www.LIHEAPhelps.com.
- **By mail** – Download an application at www.compass.state.pa.us.
- **In person** – Applications are taken at all local County Assistance Offices.
- **For more information**, call the LIHEAP hotline at **1-866-857-7095**.
- **By telephone** - Contact the local County Assistance Office.

What will you need to apply?

- Names of people in your household.
- Dates of birth for all household members.
- Social Security Numbers for all household members.
- Proof of income for members of your household.
- A recent heating bill.

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. Dinner and childcare provided. Contact Julie Beichner at 432-9711 for more information.

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.

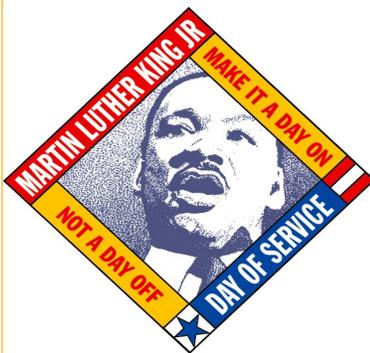


NEW THIS YEAR. Everyone must show Photo ID. If anyone needs a photo ID, it can be obtained from the driver's license site in Seneca.

A team of volunteers will prepare taxes on Thursdays and Fridays at the First Baptist Church in Franklin between the hours of 8 a.m. – 3 p.m. from February 7 through April 12, 2013, except for Good Friday, March 29th.

Volunteers will prepare taxes at the Oil City Library on Tuesdays and Wednesdays, from 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. February 5 through April 10, 2013.

MAKE IT A DAY ON... NOT A DAY OFF



Every year RSVP celebrates MLK Day as a day of service—a day on, not a day off. This year on Monday, January 21, 2013, the RSVP Advisory Council members and volunteers will be distributing door hangers to selected sites throughout the county with information about the free volunteer tax preparation program.



2012 QUILT

This year's quilt winner is Ben Andrews from Polk. Each year the Polk Quilters partner with RSVP to raise money for the Polk Volunteer Fire Department and the senior volunteer program.

Volunteer Opportunities . . . Volunteer Opportunities . . .



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.

BOX OFFICE

Help out one of the gems of our community by volunteering at the box office at the Barrow. 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.

MUSEUM TOUR GUIDES

Train to be a tour guide in some of the county's finest museums! Opportunities available at the Drake Well Museum and DeBence Antique Music World Museum. Training provided.



FRIENDLY VISITORS

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

Volunteer Opportunities . . . Volunteer Opportunities . . .

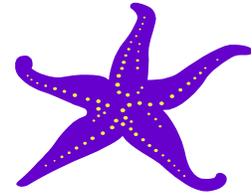


OUT-OF-COUNTY TRANSPORTATION DRIVERS

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.

ACTIVITY ASSISTANTS

A nursing home in Oil City needs volunteers to call BINGO and help with activities.

SEAMSTRESS

Current need is for seamstresses to sew the cloth toys at the toy shop. Toymakers meet every Tuesday at 10 am. at the FICDA building.

COMMUNITY GROUP CONFERENCING (CGC) MENTOR

Volunteer mentors serve as liaison between the CGC coordinator, a juvenile and his/her parent(s). Training provided.

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

Join Us!!

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

RSVP ADVISORY COUNCIL

Bonnie S. Summers, Commissioner Representative; Barbara M. Cisek McGarvey, Chair; Beverly Harsen, Vice Chair. Richard "Dick" Baker; Donald Cramer; Toni Hannon; Leo Harsen; Janet Henze, Josephine Kissinger; Marshall Mansfield, Lisa Moritz, Debbie Oaks; Ivan Pettit, and Cheri Wilson.

RSVP SPONSORING AGENCY

Venango County Area Agency on Aging
Barb Hinds, Administrator

VENANGO COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Timothy S. Brooks
Bonnie S. Summers
Vincent L. 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.

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Franklin, PA 16323

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