



NEWS NOTES

Fall 2020

*Retired and Senior Volunteer Program and Foster Grandparent Program
...where volunteers make a difference*

Thanks, Driver Services Partners

By Mary Schmelzer

RSVP faced 2020 with the mixed blessing of the 45th Anniversary of Driver Services and the challenge that the isolation required to combat Covid-19 brought! This is where our partners were key, with each hosting a drive-through event to honor the drivers who deliver meals and groceries and drive passengers.

Because of the senior centers and NewBridge, we were able to schedule 16 different drive-through events! Partners' staff members joined RSVP staff and volunteers to applaud drivers and present them with gifts of appreciation for their service to their community – all at a social distance and with masks and gloves.

We are deeply grateful to have partners who so graciously took on these events with us – we literally could not have done this without them. Our continued program partnerships – Driver Escort, Home Delivered Meals, and Food Bridge – are key to service delivery for seniors across Dane County. We are truly blessed by these partnerships!

Thank you:

- Colonial Club
- DeForest Area Community and Senior Center
- Deerfield Community Center
- Fitchburg Senior Center
- McFarland Senior Outreach Services
- Middleton Senior Center
- NewBridge
- Northwest Dane Senior Services
- Oregon Area Senior Center
- Southwest Dane Senior Center
- Stoughton Area Senior Center
- Sugar River Senior Center
- Waunakee Senior Center
- Verona Area Senior Center



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volunteer
opportunities?
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RSVP Board Notes

As we continue to deal with all the problems being dealt our way, it is very comforting to know that RSVP is still functioning and serving the needs of people within Dane County.



Our Driver Appreciation events in October were a wonderful way to honor all these great drivers. I

attended the Stoughton Drive Through and what a great thing it was seeing all the drivers and being able to thank them for their service. Many emailed me their appreciation and thanks, with comments such as “Nice to see the RSVP staff”; “This is really something nice for RSVP to do even during a pandemic”; “Thanks for everything”; “Can't wait to get back driving again”; “Way to go RSVP”.

I want to thank all the staff members who worked on this and went above and beyond to make this happen. Also, thanks to all the Senior Centers who provided assistance and time.

TRIAD is a vital part of RSVP's efforts to increase understanding by older adults about safety, crime, and other threatening events seniors are confronted with. In part due to social isolation brought on by the pandemic, elders have become the focus of telephone and email scams at an alarming rate. TRIAD attempts to keep everyone informed of such events to prevent any harm from coming to them. Our October conference was virtual due to the pandemic and was well-attended. Thanks to our RSVP staff and Triad Conference planning committee members for their efforts to make the 2020 conference possible.

Let's continue to stay safe, wear our masks, and social distance when appropriate.

Richard Hoffman
President, RSVP Board of Directors

From the Desk of...

Margie Zutter
Executive Director

"We're in this together" has been stated many times since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic. I admit this is hard to keep in mind when we are regularly reminded to stay apart and maintain social distancing because our health and lives depend on it. My husband and I are not able to see our son and daughter-in-law who live in California. I have friends who have not been able to see their grandchildren since this started. And, no one knows when this will end.

"Loneliness has the same impact on mortality as smoking 15 cigarettes a day, making it even more dangerous than obesity," stated Douglas Nemecek, MD, chief medical officer

for behavioral health, Cigna in a March 2018 report. Two years after this report was released we are in the middle of a pandemic and older adults and individuals of all ages are even more at risk. So, when the RSVP staff was able to find a way to safely celebrate the 45th Anniversary of Driver Services through sixteen Drive Through events in October, I was excited that we would be able to see some of our volunteers again!

We started planning these events in August and worked with the senior center staff to make this happen. Then in early October, with a rise in COVID-19 cases in Dane County, I



Krishna Sijapati

wondered how many of our volunteer drivers would come. I am happy to report that almost 250 RSVP volunteer drivers joined us! I was able to attend four of these events and came away feeling

Continued on page 16

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#GivingTuesday is a global day of giving that harnesses the collective power of individuals, communities, and organizations to encourage philanthropy and to celebrate generosity worldwide. It inspires people to help improve our world by collaborating and giving back through the charities and causes they believe in. This year's **#GivingTuesday** will kick off the giving season on December 1st. Please take this unique opportunity to enhance RSVP's ability to help improve the Dane County community during this critical time for our volunteers and the people they serve.

According to a recent study, over forty percent of seniors regularly feel lonely. This has been shown to shorten life and is associated with increased cases of dementia. At RSVP of Dane County we ease lonely feelings by connecting people — volunteers over 55 with people in need in our community — and we do it every day. Even during the pandemic. COVID-19 may have changed some priorities, but it hasn't slowed us down.

We currently have senior volunteers delivering meals to the home-bound, tutoring kids online, and making warm caps, mittens and blankets for people in need. In October we held our first ever virtual Triad State Conference on health and safety for seniors.

Human connection is vital for our seniors and the Dane County community, like never before. **Your donations to RSVP of Dane County help us connect people every day!** Contributions, which will be matched, dollar for dollar up to \$5,500, are crucial to keep this effort alive in 2020 and beyond.

Please choose to give generously to RSVP of Dane County this #GivingTuesday!

To make a #GivingTuesday donation:

By check: Please make your check out to RSVP of Dane County, Inc. and note **#GivingTuesday** in the memo line.

By Website: Please follow link to website: www.rsvpdane.org/donate and follow the instructions. Be sure to type **#GivingTuesday Contribution** in the special instruction box.

You can help us spread the word about this great fundraising opportunity for RSVP of Dane County when you **"Like and Share"** our **Facebook page**.

The more we share this message, the more successful our fundraiser will be!



Virtual Triad Conference a Success!

By Mike Thomsen

Since my last report, a lot has been accomplished by Triad volunteers and staff. You may recall that Triad switched to holding virtual programs in June due to the Covid-19 epidemic. At the time we were also busy planning to hold the annual Triad Crime Prevention and Safety Conference sponsored by RSVP of Dane County and Triad of Wisconsin as a virtual event. We had no idea if anybody in Wisconsin, or even Dane County, would be interested in participating in a virtual conference. But, after discussing it a bit and recalling Wilbur Crowsky's famous warning, "You snooze, you lose!" we grabbed onto the opportunity that the coronavirus had presented to us and plunged ahead.



Jim Jenkins, RSVP and Triad board member moderates a session of the 2020 Virtual Triad Conference

To our delight, 222 people from all over Wisconsin attended the conference soaking up knowledge on topics ranging from "Elders and Substance Use" to "Understanding Police Response to Individuals in a Mental Health Crisis" (the best attended session) to "Exterior Camera Surveillance." One important aspect of the Triad Conference is that due to the quality of the presentations RSVP can offer "continuing education hours" to professionals whose licenses have continuing education (CEH) requirements. This year 118 individuals applied for CEH hours. They bring the knowledge they gain at the Triad Conference to their institutions, clients, and patients where its benefits are passed on every day to hundreds of people. In addition, the videos of the conference presentations will be available to the public on the Triads of Dane County YouTube channel <https://bit.ly/TriadsYoutube>.

We could not have hosted the Triad Conference without the generous contributions of the speakers, the planning committee, our partners, and our sponsors. We especially would like to recognize and thank conference planning committee members Neil McCallum (AARP), Tiffany Schultz (Better Business Bureau), Mike Austin (Wisc. Department of Justice), and Kelly Krein (RSVP Board of Directors) for their leadership, expertise, and the many hours they gave to making this conference a success. We are also grateful to the Wisconsin Department of Justice for providing the video platform and technical assistance to produce the programs. And we greatly appreciate the assistance Creative Community Living Services, the County of Dane, the Madison Police Department, the Monona Police Department, the Dane County Sheriff's Department, ADRC of Dane County, Public Health Madison Dane County, the University of Wisconsin School of Social Work, AgeBetter Inc, RMR Wealth Advisors, and RSVP of Dane County. A giant "Thank You" also goes to our financial sponsors, AARP, Medicare Patrol-GWAAR, Old National Bank, and the Wisconsin Chiefs of Police Association.

2020 Triad Conference participant comments:

"I have been attending the Triad over the years and the collaboration and information offered has always been of great quality and use."

"Very informative and a great way to connect with people."

"Wonderful conference! Congratulations on putting together such a successful virtual conference!"

RSVP Annual Sweepstakes *by Jan Karst*

The 2020 RSVP Sweepstakes went on as usual this year in spite of the challenge of the pandemic! But the prizes were distributed in an unusual fashion this year.

To help alleviate this, winners were notified and arrangements were made for no-contact, masked deliveries to most winners at their homes!

In the midst of so much distancing these days, it was a pleasure to meet the winners, Face to Face, and chat for a few minutes. It was a good reminder that RSVP is still all about our wonderful volunteers who serve the community in so many ways. Even though we are distanced for now, we are still connected and will be able to meet again in person when our community is safer.

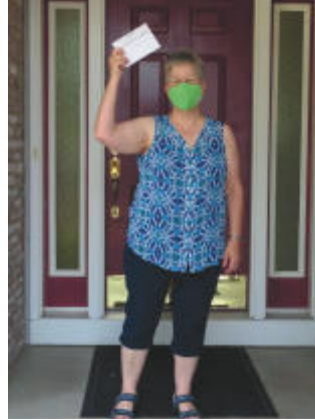
Thank you to all who supported RSVP through Sweepstakes donations, and congratulations to all the lucky winners: David L. Nichols, Belleville; Charlotte Haug, Waunakee; Tim Fox, Fitchburg; Joel Wish, Middleton; Sue Morgan, Fitchburg; Judith Vivion, Fitchburg; Eileen Callahan, Stoughton; Beth F. Johnson, Waunakee; Mary Hanson, Stoughton; Tim and Mary Kay Duket, Madison; Pete Ponti, Marshall; Charles Spelbring, Sun Prairie and Jan and Ken Bilgrien, Stoughton.



Charles Spelbring



Eileen Callahan



Mary Hanson



Jan and Ken Bilgrien

"Thank you for delivering my sweepstake prize gift card for North and South Seafood & Smokehouse today.

I use RSVP for rides to medical appointments and appreciate the volunteers." ...Beth Johnson



Beth Johnson

"Did get the Jerry Apps book in the mail. I enjoyed hearing him speak, and I will enjoy the book and pass it along." ...Tim A. Duket



RSVP Calendar

Staff off for Thanksgiving Holiday, Thursday and Friday-November 26th, 27th.

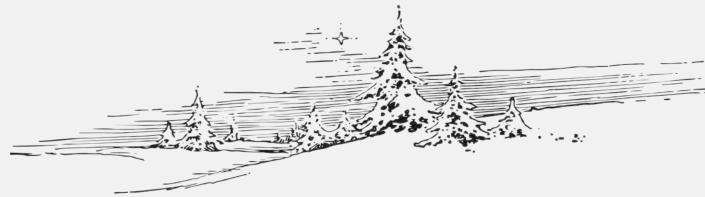
RSVP Board Meeting (Virtual), Monday-December 14th.

Volunteer Zoom Event, Celebrating the Holidays Thursday-December 17th

Staff off for Christmas Holiday, Thursday and Friday-December 24th, 25th.

Staff off for New Year Holiday, Thursday and Friday-December 31, January 1st.

Volunteer Zoom Event, Winter in Wisconsin Thursday, January 21st





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This project was supported, in part by grant number 90MPPG0041-01-00, from the U.S. Administration for Community Living, Department of Health and Human Services, Washington, D.C. 20201.



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2020 Stand Down

By Lorrie Hylkema

The annual Wayne D. Horner Stand Down was held on October 17, 2020 to aid homeless veterans in the community. Typically, RSVP veteran driver volunteers assist with transporting veterans to a specific location for the Stand Down. As has been the case because of the pandemic, some RSVP volunteers helped in other ways.

This year, precautions were followed such as social distancing, wearing masks, good hand hygiene, and obtaining temperature and symptom checks from volunteers. Over 40 volunteers from private locations and agencies met at the Salvation Army storage locker on the East Side of Madison to distribute and transport 120 city packs and lunches to 120 veterans in various locations around Madison and the surrounding areas.

RSVP staff and volunteers contributed by preparing homemade blankets and masks, assisting with packing the city bags, and distributing the packs on the day of the Stand Down. The initial locations for distributing the city packs were the Salvation Army on Darbo Drive, the Vet Center on Sherman Avenue, the VA hospital on Overlook Terrace, and the WPS parking lot on Broadway. Due to a lack of response from homeless veterans for the Stand Down, cold weather, and the pandemic, the city packs and lunches were distributed to 20 locations, including a temporary housing motel in Fort Atkinson.

RSVP staff and volunteers appreciate and support homeless veterans and will continue to provide needed assistance in the coming days and months to come within the confines of a safer and coronavirus-contained environment.



Want to get in Touch with Us?

Simply dial 238-RSVP (7787) or e-mail us at info@rsvpdane.org—or you can reach individual staff members directly at the phone numbers/e-mail addresses listed at right. In the event we're not available at the time you call, our 24-hour voice mail will ensure you receive a prompt response.

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Meet Lorrie Hylkema

Hi! I am Lorrie Hylkema, RSVP's new Vets Helping Vets Ride Coordinator. I am so grateful to be part of an organization that supports veterans and supports volunteers. I hope to meet and talk with each of you virtually if not in-person in the coming weeks.

My background is in nursing for a total of 38 years. Twenty-five of those years were spent working with outpatient veterans for the Madison VA Community Support Program or CSP. As you can see, I have a special place in my heart for veterans. A number of veterans I worked with were also volunteers for other veterans, even if not formally recognized as such. I also appreciate and identify with volunteering as a volunteer myself. I currently volunteer for NewBridge as a volunteer guardian, MACH One Health as a nurse, caring for people who are homeless in the community, and for my church, Blessed Sacrament, in various roles. I find that, as a volunteer, I tend to get back more than I give the majority of the time.

As far as me personally, I enjoy biking, walking with my dogs, reading, watching and talking about sports, spending time with my two grandsons, and spending time outdoors (camping or kayaking or working in the yard). I have been known to enjoy and appreciate all types of music, including opera, good ole rock-n'-roll, jazz, classical, and blues.

I look forward to the reopening of RSVP Vets Helping Vets Driver Services in the future. Although these are uncertain times, I know we can work together to get back on track with patience and a positive outlook. Stay well and stay strong until then!



Homelessness and Tiny House Village

By Larry Orr, Foster Grandparent Volunteer

I was lucky. When my income dropped due to the pandemic, just as my aging knees were getting just too persnickety on the stairs, I looked around for a different room to rent, and found that the pickings were slim: decent rooms in Madison are expensive. Occupy Madison, Inc. came to the rescue! I now live in a comfy tiny house, set in greenery along a courtyard in their Tiny House Village, with four very interesting new friends, each with their own tiny home. It's a fine situation for me, but that's not really what I want to write about.

Homelessness is on my mind, the big, very evident problem of homelessness in Madison. Winter is coming. There is misery ahead. Some folks are sleeping on the streets now, on cardboard. Others are in hand-me-down tents in encampments under a freeway or in a park. There are many homeless folks in Madison now, and it is likely that there will be many more as the economy contracts.



To help alleviate this, Occupy Madison, Inc. will offer comfortable housing, "Conestoga Huts," to some 30 people, starting now. It's part of the answer to the problem, but of course not the total answer. We offer a model, and a beam of hope. I hope that other good responses to the problem will come along quickly. Occupy Madison has purchased a vacant property, the former Wiggy's Bar, near Wisconsin's Job Service offices on Aberg Avenue and Madison Metro's North Transfer Point. We are building very tiny houses, called "Conestoga Huts," about half the size of my tiny house. There is room for a bed, a chair, and a bit of space. There is an infrared heater, an electrical outlet, and Wi-Fi. The huts are well insulated. We can build them for around \$2000. Please check our Website, Occupymadisoninc.com, for details about the huts, our villages, ways that you could volunteer to help us build homes, and ways to contribute.

In brief, homeless folks apply to join us, and then help to build their own homes. We have an assembly line that produces the Conestogas very quickly. With a renovated and remodeled Winny's as the center of the new village, formerly homeless folks can get through the winter in fine shape. In the spring, some of these folks will know that they really like this style of living, and then start building tiny houses like mine to live in.



And as for me, well, I hope to be doing good service with Foster Grandparents as the schools try to find a healthy way into the future. I'll be helping with Occupy Madison's new village project. And I'll be adjusting to life after the election, working with my buddies in Veterans For Peace to promote peaceful and sane approaches to our future. I wish that I could invite you to our Villages, but pandemic restrictions should be followed. I hope that very soon, though, you will be able to visit, have a nice chat over a cup of tea, and see what a roof and warmth does for a person. Onwards!

WELCOME New Volunteers

We enrolled 21 new volunteers from August, 2020, through September, 2020, serving in a wide variety of assignments throughout Dane County. Do you know someone who might like to volunteer? RSVP volunteers are our best recruiters as they spread the word about why they like volunteering and the need for more volunteers. Please pass this newsletter on to a friend or neighbor and tell them what RSVP means to you!

Marjorie Aiello
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Michael P. Carlino

Diane Christoph
Megan E. Diller
Claire Draeger
Tricia K. Ferguson
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Kelly M. Monroe
Deborah Mueller

Leanne R. Neild
Robert Nelsen
Susan Nelsen
Jane Schneeberger
Jerry B. Schultz
Marian K. Viney

Volunteers in the News

Larry Orr, Wisconsin State Journal, Tiny House village looks to expand October 14, 2020

Tom Thousand, Points of Light Award Nominee, August 2020

Charlotte Rankin, Award Winner Alzheimer Volunteer

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New Grants and Additional Funding

RSVP was recently awarded \$1,500 for our Stoughton Vets Helping Vets program from the **Stoughton Area Community Foundation!** We are especially grateful that we were selected and appreciate their continued support. Thank you Stoughton Area Community Foundation!



Thank you to our Staycation Sweepstakes Prize Donors! This year's sweepstakes was a big success and the winners enjoyed the prizes donated by the following individuals and businesses

Jack Anderson
Jerry Apps
Shirley Coulter
Robin and Wil Guernsey
Tom Howells
Isabel Hubbard
Jim Jenkins
Diana Jost

Kelly Krein
Mary Odell
Orange Tree Imports
Joan Schneeberger
Deborah Speckmann
Mary Stamstad
Target Hildale
Margie Zutter



Thank you to our 2020 Sponsors! We appreciate their ongoing support of our programs as they help us recognize the efforts of our volunteers.

Diamond Sponsors: MGE and UW Health/UnityPoint Health Meriter/Quartz

Silver Sponsors: Custer Financial Services, Mike and Barbara Foley, and US Bank

Bronze Sponsors: Group Health Cooperative, Herb Kohl Charities, TDS, and Wegner CPA's



Steve Kleiss, Wegner CPA's; Annie Bockhop UW Health/Unity Point Health Meriter/Quartz; and RSVP Executive Director Margie Zutter (taking picture) greet Oregon drivers on October 21st at the Drive Through Event to celebrate the 45th Anniversary of RSVP Driver Services.



Tech Tips for Holiday Energy Savings

From Madison Gas and Electric Company (MGE)

Whether you're shopping for gifts, decorating your home, or celebrating with family at home—energy efficiency can be part of your holiday season!

Smart Electronics

There are multiple smart devices that connect to a home's Wi-Fi network, allowing the user to control them from an app on a mobile phone or from a smart speaker. Smart lightbulbs, switches and outlets allow you to turn lights or appliances on or off even when you're away from home. As an added bonus, many smart plugs have apps that allow you to set a timer for your lamps and lights.

Smart Thermostats

Upgrading to a smart thermostat can make saving energy almost effortless. These thermostats automatically adjust your household's heating and cooling systems; for example, lowering the temperature when you're away in the winter or raising it in the summer. Like other smart devices, smart thermostats can be controlled remotely. Wisconsin's FOCUS ON ENERGY® program is offering an incentive on smart thermostats for eligible MGE customers. To learn more, visit focusonenergy.com/smart.

LED Lighting Options

A festive holiday season often includes lighting. Look for ENERGY STAR®-certified LED string lights or lightbulbs. LEDs use about 75% less energy than standard incandescent bulbs and last at least 15 times longer. And if hanging outdoor lights, make use of a timer to power displays on and off at specific times to save energy.

Solar-Powered Lights

Solar-powered outdoor lights are a great option for adding curb appeal to your home without the need for extension cords or batteries. They are available in a variety of sizes, lengths and colors. Visit mge2050.com for more energy-saving tips.

Have further questions about your energy usage? Call our Home Energy Line at (608) 252-7117 or 1-800-245-1125 Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. Central Time. Or email us at AskExperts@mge.com. We're here to help!

RSVP DONOR HONOR ROLL

We gratefully acknowledge donations received from the following individuals and organizations since our last newsletter, and extend our thanks to each for their generous support.

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Kevin Gould and Nancy Baillies
Mary Odell

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Debi Pesch
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Judy Sokolow

Thank you to the following RSVP drivers who have donated mileage since the beginning of the year:

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Judy Acheson
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Continued on page 15

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RSVP VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

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Life is never so busy that there is no time to serve. - author unknown

RSVP Volunteering from Home!

Social isolation is a big concern for older adults, especially now. The COVID-19 pandemic is making it difficult to see family, friends, and neighbors this winter but RSVP of Dane County offers some volunteer opportunities to help you stay engaged at home!

Do you enjoy sewing, knitting, or crocheting? As an RSVP Group Projects/Homeworker volunteer you can receive supplies and optional patterns to make hats, mittens, scarves, shawls, fidget blankets, cotton face masks, and other items that help children, families, and adults in need! Volunteers are unable to meet in groups during the pandemic but can make these items at home. Supplies can be dropped off and finished items picked up. For information, contact Kate Seal, at 608 310-7280, or kseal@rsvpdane.org.

Do you enjoy making new friends and staying in contact by telephone? RSVP is starting a Telephone Pals program. Volunteers will be calling other volunteers on a weekly basis. You can choose to make a phone call, receive a phone call, or both! Volunteers will receive instructions and a list of sample topics to make your phone visit fun and interesting! For information, contact Jan Karst, at 608 441-7891 or jkarst@rsvpdane.org.

Do you enjoy researching and writing short articles, or creating cartoons or graphics? Our Triad program helps older adults avoid scams and frauds through programs and information. Volunteers are needed to help with the Triad newsletter. For information, contact Mike Thomsen, at 608 441-7897, or mthomsen@rsvpdane.org

Volunteers are the lifeblood of our communities in good times and times of challenge. Thank you all for your caring, your compassion, and your willingness to serve others.



From the Desk of ...

continued from page 3

inspired and more connected! There wasn't much time to chat but many drivers shared how long they have been driving and that they are able to continue delivering meals during this time. Those who aren't driving said how much they missed their

volunteer service. I was reminded at every event that we are in this together and that RSVP continues to play an important role in helping volunteers and those they serve avoid social isolation. One driver emailed staff afterwards and said, "You all provided some of the precious human contact we've lost in recent months. As one with multiple comorbidities, just

getting out and seeing others is a balm for the soul. And, being the object of RSVP's thoughtfulness was especially sweet."

Our Giving Tuesday theme this year is RSVP—Reaching Out to Ease Loneliness. There are new ways to serve during this difficult time and an increasing need for volunteers to help. Please call me at (608) 663-7536 to find out more!

Food Bridge Volunteers Deliver Needed Food and Friendship

By Mary Schmelzer

The saying “You can be anything in this world, choose to be kind” speaks to the volunteer spirit that Daniel and Robin McCarthy embraced in their volunteer work with NewBridge’s Food Bridge program. The couple sought a volunteer job they could do together, and the Food Bridge program was just the ticket. There they were paired with an elderly couple and were tasked with shopping for and delivering groceries from a local food pantry to them once a month.

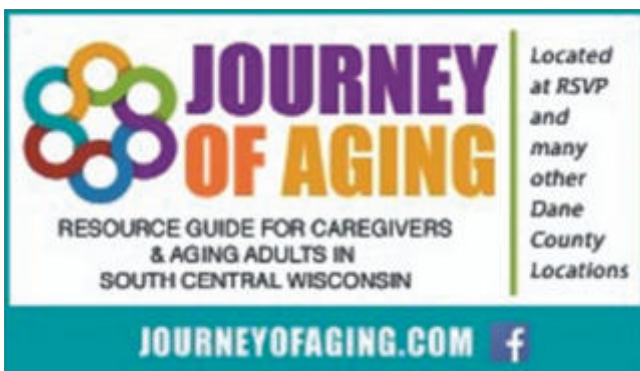
“They are a very social couple,” Robin said. “Normally we would spend time visiting with them, but now we just drop the groceries at the door. We’re looking forward to when we can interact with them again face-to-face.”



“Volunteering has been a part of who we are and who we want to be,” Daniel added “We’ve volunteered in different ways as a family through the years but Robin has a soft spot for the elderly so this was a great way for the two of us to volunteer together now.”

Robin has just recently retired from work in the senior companion care field and Daniel still works full time for the State of WI. And with three sons and their families to visit, horses and dogs to tend, and other volunteer gigs at church, and Meals on Wheels, rest assured no moss grows under their rolling stones. Even though they live full lives, they both feel this has been such a low impact volunteer job to take on that everyone should do it!

Senior Centers across Dane County use home-delivered meal drivers to help ensure area seniors receive the nutrition that they need to maintain their independence. This is a no-contact volunteer position where meals are dropped off at the recipient’s door. Hours are flexible and mileage reimbursement is available. If you are interested in learning more, please contact Mary Schmelzer, Driver Services Co-Manager, Retired and Senior Volunteer Program, 608-441-7896 or mschmelzer@rsvpdane.org



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For information on driving seniors: Mary Schmelzer, 441-7896 or mschmelzer@rsvpdane.org.

For information on driving veterans: 238-7901 or vetshelpingvets@rsvpdane.org.

— RSVP passenger



Dave Mahoney...Giving Back to the Community

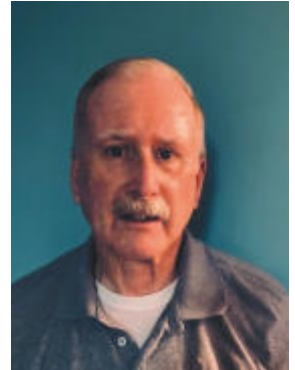
By Kari Riley

For almost 40 years, Dave Mahoney has been giving back to his community in a variety of volunteer roles! Longevity is his trademark with 12 years at the Veterans Administration and 16 years as an Emergency Medical Technician for Sun Prairie Emergency Medical Service. He has also spread his volunteer wings assisting veterans with their benefits at the Department of Military Affairs Retiree Activity Office, helping with his 7th Honor Flight as a member of the Telephone Pioneers (an organization of retired telephone workers), and in publishing the Sun Prairie VFW newsletter for the third consecutive year.

Dave heard that the Sun Prairie Home Delivered Meals program needed drivers from a friend and former co-worker who delivers meals there. He has enjoyed his experience so far and plans to continue as long as he can. "I love putting a smile on peoples' faces and letting them know that someone cares," Dave said. As a boy he watched his father help others and feels this value was instilled in him from early on. Dave often goes above and beyond and never wants anything in return; just helping others makes him feel good and that he is making a difference.

Dave grew up in Eau Claire and went on to serve our country in the military for 40 years including service in

Vietnam and the Navy reserves for a combined total of 40 years. After returning from Vietnam, he attended technical school and worked as a directory assistance operator where he met his wife of 44 years, Shirley. Dave worked as a repair technician for 35 years and retired 12 years ago. He and his wife have three grown daughters and four grandchildren who live close by and with whom he enjoys weekly family dinners where Dave enjoys doing the cooking. In his "spare" time, Dave and his wife enjoy camping and traveling.



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MEMORIALS AND TRIBUTES



Memorial and tribute gifts to RSVP are a meaningful way to honor someone special and to extend the services provided by volunteers. Every dollar contributed allows us to enrich the lives of many children, families, and older persons.

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Coming Soon! Online Social Events!

As Winter and Holidays are approaching, we are not going to let the Pandemic keep us from celebrating and keeping in touch with one another!



Beginning in December, you are invited to join us for monthly social Zoom events including games, readings, virtual tours, and much more!

Zoom social events will include a **Sing-Along** and **Trivia** game on **Thursday December 17th**.

Winter in Wisconsin, Storytelling Time, is the theme for January's event. In February we will celebrate Black History Month. Dates and times are to be determined.

Look for a Constant Contact email to keep you up to date as plans unfold!

Please join us for one or all of these events! We miss you and would love to see you!