



NEWS NOTES

Spring 2021

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

Scams Can Happen to Anybody!

By Mike Thomsen, Triad Coordinator

The other day I ran into an old friend, “Joe.” He had some awful news. Last month a team of slick talkers had scammed him out of a large sum of money. I was totally shocked. Joe? Impossible! Most people assume that frauds and scams only happen to the naive and the inexperienced, but that is wrong. Anybody can be scammed! Just read on to see how it happens.

How willing are you to help a beloved family member solve an urgent problem?

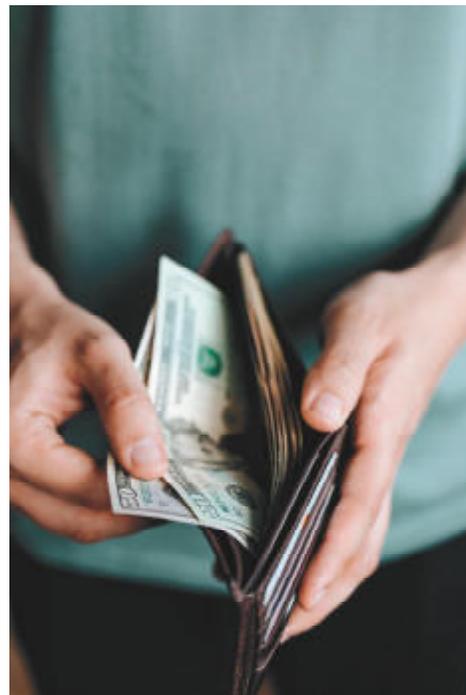
For Joe, it all began with a phone call from his favorite cousin. “Cuz” told him that BigBizCo (not the real name), a well-known, well-respected Fortune 500 company (that is true!), had offered him a refund for a defective purchase he had made. Unfortunately, the BigBizCo customer service agent had told him there was a problem refunding the money due to some problem with his debit card. The agent had asked Cuz if there was somebody else, maybe a trusted relative, who could receive the refund for him. Joe said “Sure, have him call me.”

Is there anyone in your circle – a “Cuz” – you trust implicitly?

Unfortunately for Cuz – and for Joe – things were not as they seemed. The man claiming to be a BigBizCo customer service agent was a scammer posing as a customer service agent. And Cuz had just referred the scammer to Joe who trusted that he would be speaking with a legitimate BigBizCo agent.

How many times each week do you give a total stranger control of something important?

Ten minutes later Joe received a call from the BigBizCo



“agent” who thanked him for helping with the refund. He said he just needed Joe’s bank routing number and account number to take care of it. Joe gave those to him and waited. A few minutes later the “agent” returned and said there was a problem transferring the money. He told Joe not to worry because he had another way if Joe still wanted to help his cousin. First, though, he told Joe he would need to verify his identity – “you don’t want any fraud and neither do we,” the “agent” said – and asked him to install a “customer service tool” on his phone to do the verification. Joe told me the request sounded a little odd but that he had used remote tech support before to solve computer problems. And he was working with BigBizCo, *he thought*.

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RSVP Board Notes

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Spring is officially here. Hoping it brightens each and every coming day for everyone. As I thought about what to write for this issue, I was reminded that at times RSVP gathers information very useful to the staff and Board. I also determined that some of it would interest others also, so I decided to share some information I thought might give our readers a better understanding about some facts relative to RSVP and volunteering:



DID YOU KNOW?

According to the Corporation for National and Community Service survey in 2017 (the last figures available)—for every \$1 of federal funds invested in national service programs, the federal government alone receives \$3.50 in return from tax revenue gains and savings.

The federal fiscal benefits from the programs amounts to almost \$4 billion. While the budgeted federal cost is just over \$1 billion to tax payers, the return on investment to the federal government is 3.5%.

For every \$1.00 in federal taxes spent on supporting AmeriCorps and AmeriCorps Seniors programs, the return to society, program members, and the government is \$17.30.

America's non-profits are the third largest workforce as of 2017. Only retail trade and accommodation and food services outnumber non-profits. Non-profits nationwide employ over 12.5 million workers and countless unpaid volunteers.

AmeriCorps serves 40,000 communities -- 1.6 billion volunteer hours served and 270,000 members and volunteers during 2020.

I hope some of this information was helpful and gives everyone a sense of the value of volunteering and of RSVP.

Richard

Richard Hoffmann
 President, RSVP Board of Directors

From the Desk of...

*Margie Zutter
Executive Director*

This winter it was impossible to gather in person due to COVID-19, but I have been able to attend interesting and thought-provoking Zoom presentations. Recently, I attended two Well Connected sessions on Underground Railroad Quilts and asked whether their presenter, Gayle Wanamaker, could be part of our monthly Zoom event. Gayle agreed to make a presentation on May 21st. Look for an email invitation.

I also attended Madison Civics Club virtual programs and the LaFollette High School Band was featured in March. We will be showing their music video honoring Bill Withers,

American singer, musician, and songwriter of several hits including “Lean On Me” who passed away in 2020. Bill was a Navy veteran and this video of “Lean on Me” will be part of our Veterans Day celebration on November 10th. “Sometimes in our lives we all have pain, we all have sorrow. But if we are wise, we know that there’s always tomorrow. Lean on me when you’re not strong and I’ll be your friend, I’ll help you carry on for it won’t be long ‘til I’m gonna need somebody to lean on.”

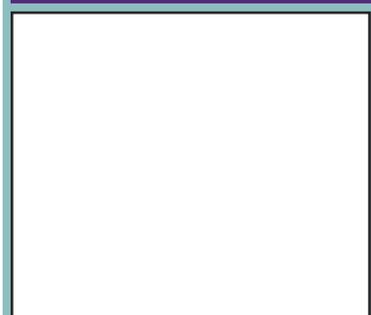
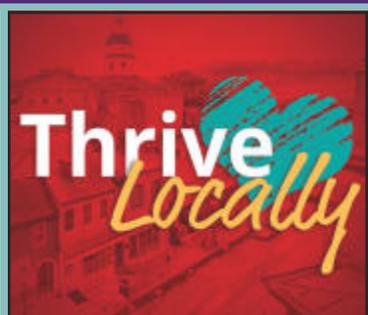
These words from “Lean on Me” ring so true as we have struggled through this pandemic. We do need people to lean on and RSVP



Krishna Sijapati

volunteers have been true friends to those in need. I know of three volunteers who have gone the extra, extra mile to help someone they know who is struggling.

(continued on page 8)

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Essential Items Drive for Allied Wellness Center

By Diana Jost

What do RSVP volunteers do to recognize National Volunteer Week in April? Over thirty RSVP volunteers participated in a drive to provide personal essential items for the Allied Wellness Center located at 2225 Allied Drive in Madison. “The Wellness Center is a neighborhood center with the purpose of promoting health and wellness of the mind, body, and spirit of people living in the Allied, Belmar, and Dunn’s Marsh neighborhoods.” Volunteer Rhea Schultz, President of Allied Partners, helped RSVP staff to advertise and coordinate this collection effort. RSVP volunteer Mary Odell helped accept donations on April 13th and April 15th, despite the cold weather. After the collection ended, we packed four vehicles to bring all the donations of diapers, paper towels, toilet paper, soap, shampoo, tooth brushes, tooth paste, gift cards, etc. to the Wellness Center office. Mary commented that it was fun to shop for the items she purchased to donate. It was also nice to see so many RSVP volunteers dropping off donations! We met Gloria Manadier-Farr, Community Health Liaison, who along with two of her granddaughters, helped unload everything we brought. We learned that they had run out of items like shampoo and soap so these items donated by RSVP volunteers were going to be distributed the next day! Gloria explained that she has a volunteer crew but is always looking for more helpers. If you are interested, please contact Jan Karst, jkarst@rsvpdane.org or call (608) 441-7891.

What a nice way to recognize National Volunteer Week (April 18-24) and the wonderful efforts of RSVP volunteers! Thank you to all that helped and donated items!



Donating Stimulus Money

By Jim Jenkins

Stimulus checks are arriving. RSVP volunteer and past-president of the RSVP board, Jim Jenkins, shares his thoughts on putting them to good use.

“Many people I’ve talked to are interested in giving a portion of their Federal stimulus checks to charity. Please consider making a donation to RSVP of Dane County. I recently mentioned this to a friend and was gratified when he responded by sending a generous check.

RSVP places volunteers over 55 in nearly 100 Dane County non-profits. We tutor kids, help out in classrooms, make warm scarves, caps, blankets and quilts for people in need, work in food pantries, hospitals and literacy projects. We drive seniors to medical appointments and take hot meals to the home bound. Our Vets Helping Vets program gives a helping hand to veterans in need, from volunteers who walk the walk, being vets themselves.

Donating to RSVP ensures that your help will be felt locally. Our programs benefit your neighbors right here in Dane County. Our volunteers and staff are Dane County residents like you and your family.

Please consider RSVP of Dane County if you are able to donate a portion of your stimulus check. We will put it to good use as we emerge from the pandemic. Thanks!”



Thank You, Sponsors!

Each year we try to recruit sponsors to support RSVP programming. We are very grateful for the continued support of our sponsors during the COVID-19 pandemic:

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RSVP is seeking additional sponsors. If you can help us with this, please contact Margie Zutter, 608-663-7536. Thank you!



New Grants and Additional Funding

In January, RSVP received \$215 from the Otis Sampson Legion Auxiliary Unit 59, Stoughton as a result of their Auxiliary Poppy distribution. ***“We are pleased to again support the wonderful work you do for our local veterans.”***...Lisa Olson, Treasurer

In February, RSVP received \$2,500 from First Lutheran Church, Stoughton. RSVP was one of 20 recipients to receive this gift. ***“We recognize that life during the COVID pandemic has presented many challenges for all of us to face. Our prayer is that these gifts will provide some additional resources to keep hope alive for those who truly need it.”***...Pastor Lehman

We appreciate these generous gifts!

(continued from page 1)

Do you know the rules for your ATM/debit card at your bank for different types of transactions?

Before moving ahead Joe said he signed into his bank account and transferred all but \$50 out of the account connected to his debit card. He believed he could limit his loss to \$50 if anything did go wrong. Then he installed the “customer service tool” as requested and entered the connection code the “agent” had given him. The “agent” said they could use Google Pay to do the refund. All he needed to do was install the app on his phone, which he did. Unfortunately, Joe was poorly informed about how ATM cards, debit cards and electronic payments are processed by his bank. Leaving just \$50 in his account would not protect him from the scammers.

How often are you baffled by the apps and technology on your mobile phone?

The BigBizCo “agent” told him he needed to send some codes to verify his identity and account. The “agent” asked Joe to be patient. He then entered “499” and “Network Nerd-Works.” Five minutes went by and the “agent” came back and said he needed to enter another “code.” “500” this time. Joe said this continued for about 10 minutes. The “agent” apologized for the delay and asked him to remain patient saying that once his identity was verified the refund would be put through.

How often have you experienced baffling tech talk on a customer service call?

Joe said he was beginning to feel uneasy, so he went to his computer and signed into his bank account. He was shocked to see it was substantially overdrawn. His bank had approved multiple, large payment requests even though the account was deeply overdrawn. Joe, still believing he was working with the reputable BigBizCo, asked the “agent” why his account was suddenly overdrawn. The “agent” had an explanation; *they always do*. He explained to Joe that it was not really overdrawn but that what he was seeing was just “digital money” that would be reversed after the refund was put through. The “agent” asked him for patience and entered another “verification code.”

When was the last time you stuck with a customer service call because the agent told you he was almost finished?

Joe said that before too long he saw the overdraft increase again. He again asked the “agent” when the “digital money” would be reversed. The “agent” apologized for the delay and asked Joe if he had a second debit card explaining that it might be faster. He also made what Joe said was a very strange request. The “agent” wanted Joe to hold his phone still so that he could have a look at his contacts. And at that point Joe said he realized something very wrong was going on. He had finally lost trust that it was a real BigBizCo agent he was talking with and realized that the “digital money” would never be reversed. He hung up the phone, locked his debit card and called the bank to report the fraud.

Analysis of the Scam

Over the course of an hour, the BigBizCo “agent” made 20 attempts to pay various parties using Joe’s debit card and Google Pay, emptying Joe’s checking account and two savings accounts. Scams take advantage of three things: 1) the love and care we have for others, 2) the trust we place in our friends, relatives, and institutions, and 3) our lack of knowledge of, and weaknesses in, banking and payment systems. Cuz was Joe’s favorite cousin and he cared very much for him and wanted to help. The scammer knew that and used it to start the scam and keep it going. Joe also trusted that Cuz was connecting him with a legitimate BigBizCo agent. Joe said Cuz later admitted that he could not find a customer service number on the BigBizCo website, so he searched the internet, found one and called it. It ended up connecting him with the scammers who, pretending to be BigBizCo agents promising refunds, harvested the trusted networks of refund seekers. Finally, Joe’s trust in his bank and his incomplete knowledge of his bank’s ATM/debit card procedures and rules contributed to the extent of the scam. Joe said he was stunned that his bank would approve multiple \$500 payments from an account that had only \$50 in it. The bank explained to him that he had signed up for “overdraft protection” when he set up his account many years ago. This linked his checking account to his savings accounts. They said that as long as there was money in the savings accounts, they could approve the payments. If “overdraft protection” is not set up properly it can become a pipeline by which scammers can drain your accounts. For tips on how to avoid scams, visit the Better Business Bureau at <https://www.bbb.org/scamtips/>

The Triad Newsletter

Last fall, our Triad group began talking about starting an electronic newsletter focused on safety and crime prevention topics written by and for older adults. Since then a small team of volunteers has come together to research, write and edit the first issue which we published in February. If you are interested in signing up for the Triad electronic newsletter and/or joining us to help build the Triad Newsletter, please email Mike Thomsen at mthomsen@rsvpdane.org.




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Veteran Volunteer Ralph Warner Aims to Make a Difference

By *Lorrie Hylkema, RSVP of Dane County VHV Coordinator*

From his Army Infantry days in Vietnam, where he braved fire from North Vietnamese soldiers, to earning a Purple Heart and Silver star for gallantry in action, to working on the railroad in the middle of the night in the middle of winter, to serving as Wisconsin's Energy Procurement Officer for 20 years, and then on to volunteering as a driver for RSVP's Driver Escort and Vets Helping Vets programs for nine years, Ralph Warner has wanted to make a difference and he has succeeded.

Ralph lives with his wife of 51 years in Verona and is a member of the Middleton's William (Sony) Simon VFW Post 8216. In 2012, Warner's VFW Post was instrumental in the funding and organization of RSVP's Vets Helping Vets program. Currently, he is volunteering at the VFW as a handyman, fixing doors and digging trenches. When he is not volunteering, he likes to hunt, cook, and travel. Warner also enjoys time with his grandson, helping him master how to sear steak perfectly, and how to hunt safely by taking hunting classes. For travel, Warner had designs to venture with his family to Alaska from Vancouver to Fairbanks by land and sea, before the pandemic hit.

What Warner appreciates the most about volunteering, just as he does with cooking, hunting, and travel, is the camaraderie with other people. Through his volunteering experiences, he has learned that sometimes families are too busy to be there for seniors as much as they would like, which makes volunteers who serve seniors all the more valuable. "Being there to provide service" is what Ralph has been longing for since RSVP's Driver Escort and VHV's passenger services closed in March 2020 due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Being safe and being able to make a difference in others' lives are definitely attributes Ralph aspires to as a volunteer. RSVP is very fortunate to have volunteers like Warner, who definitely make a difference in veterans' and older adults lives with every single day and every single hour of service they provide.



Continued from page 3

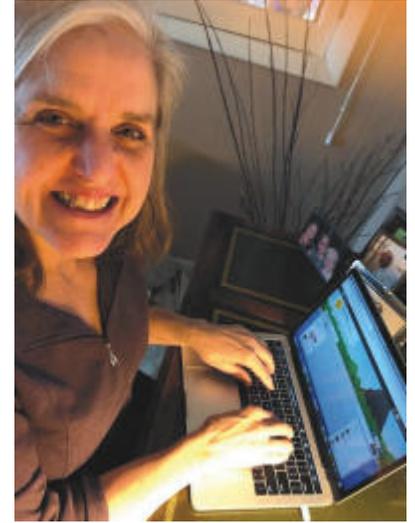
Two of our volunteers welcomed someone who was homeless (one was a family friend but the other was a stranger) into their homes, providing them shelter for many years.

Another RSVP volunteer who has provided support to her renter and family for many years was recently told that this single mother would not have been able to raise her family without her help. Most of us are not in the position to do something extraordinary like these three volunteers but RSVP volunteers have found other ways to help those in need such as delivering meals and groceries to older adults and making face masks and handmade items to provide warmth and comfort. You can lean on RSVP volunteers!

Computer Buddies, Cambridge

By Kate McGinnity, Dane County Supervisor, District 37

Loneliness and isolation is a growing issue amongst older adults, and it has only been exacerbated by the pandemic. I heard about it firsthand from older adults in our communities when I was campaigning for County Board. We need to get creative to combat this important issue, and that's why I was so enthused when I heard about the Computer Buddies Program from Diana Jost's presentation to our AAA board meeting. Connecting our older adults with school-aged youngsters seemed appealing to me, both as a lifelong educator and as your Dane County Board Supervisor. Computer Buddies utilizes the tried and true Dane County RSVP program for easy implementation. Our RSVP staff put in the work to make this program teacher-friendly and volunteering easy and respectful. I'm proud that it took us just 6 weeks to launch the Computer Buddies program in the Cambridge School District, which serves 3 of the Dane County municipalities I represent. I connected RSVP with our local group for older adults, as well as with the Cambridge Elementary School. Diana and RSVP took it from there, scheduling and pulling together all the necessary training, registration, forms, background checks, Q & A's, and everything else necessary for our successful launch. To learn more about the program, I signed up myself as one of the older adult volunteers. As it turns out, hearing from my Computer Buddy has become a highlight of my week! I look forward to that reminder email from RSVP notifying me that my buddy has entered a blog. I'm hopeful we can expand this creative program across the Cambridge Schools, to other school districts in District #37, and all throughout Dane County.



Kate McGinnity



New Name and Logo for AmeriCorps Seniors

RSVP of Dane County's federal funding source is the Corporation for AmeriCorps, officially known as the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS). This agency, established in 1993, is the only federal agency focused on community service and volunteerism. Its goal is to connect the community's needs with local volunteers to meet the unique challenges of individual locations. It funds and operates both AmeriCorps and Senior Corp programming.

Last fall, in an effort to increase name recognition, CNCS decided to use AmeriCorps (its largest program) as the agency name because the AmeriCorps name is more widely known. Accordingly, they also are introducing a new logo!

AmeriCorps Seniors (formerly known as Senior Corps) is comprised of several programs: RSVP, Foster Grandparent, and Senior Companion. Nationwide, there are over 400 AmeriCorps Seniors programs



operating independently under AmeriCorps Seniors federal guidelines.

Unlike most RSVP's in the nation, RSVP of Dane County is an independent private nonprofit corporation and doesn't have a sponsoring agency. We will not be changing the name of our organization but will use the AmeriCorps Seniors logo in addition to the RSVP of Dane County logo for both our RSVP and Foster Grandparent programs.

Volunteer Couple Tag Teams to Make a Difference

By Kari Riley

For almost six years, Mark Allen and his wife Judy Fisher have helped to reduce food insecurity in Dane County by volunteering with The River Food Pantry, most recently working with The River Delivers program. The couple delivers foods to residents twice per week as ‘River Runners’ and they also help in the pantry sorting donations and preparing boxes for delivery and curbside pickup. Conveniently living within walking distance of the pantry, the couple began volunteering when they both retired because they wanted to give back to the community. “We like feeling useful and we enjoy volunteering together,” Allen said. Fisher added that they believe making home deliveries is extremely important, especially during the current pandemic.

The couple loves that their volunteer role is flexible, allowing them time to pursue their many other passions. They are avid readers and enjoy gardening, hiking and camping together. In their free time, they enjoy traveling, especially going to their family house on Washington Island. They are also active in several professional organizations including the North American Victorian Studies Association, the New Chaucer Society, and the Medieval Academy of America.

Judy grew up in New Jersey and attended the University of Illinois where she received her PhD in English Language and Literature with an emphasis in nineteenth-century Victorian Studies. Mark grew up in Green Bay and also attended the University of Illinois where he received his PhD in English Language and Literature with an emphasis in Medieval Studies. The couple met



Mark Allen and Judy Fisher

while in graduate school and both worked as professors in San Antonio, Texas for 32 years before moving to Madison when they retired in 2014. What drew them to Madison was that many of Mark’s 11 siblings lived in the area, and they liked the Wisconsin climate and being close to the University.

River Delivers is a free grocery delivery program serving seniors and people with disabilities who do not have transportation and who do not qualify for other delivery services. If you would like to give back and help reduce food insecurity in Dane County, The River Food Pantry is in need of volunteers. This is a no-contact volunteer job where volunteers receive mileage reimbursement at .56 cents per mile as well as additional liability insurance. 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.



Volunteers in the News

River Delivers and NewBridge Food Bridge RSVP volunteer drivers ...Wisconsin State Journal

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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RSVP's Monthly Volunteer Zoom Events, a Great New Way to Socialize!

By Diana Jost

We all are aware of the changes to each of our lives due to the Covid-19 Pandemic. One of the biggest challenges is not being able to be with other people. The lack of in person socialization has caused many of us to feel isolated and lonely. In order to help ease those feelings, RSVP has planned a series of monthly Zoom Volunteer Events. These events started in November, 2020, and will continue through 2021.

Our past events included a Fall Harvest Virtual Feast and BINGO, Holiday Sing-a long, winter in Wisconsin video by local author Jerry Apps. In February, RSVP celebrated Black History Month. Board member and former Foster Grandparent volunteer, Melvin Hinton, read excerpts from James Baldwin novels. In March, RSVP volunteer Doris Koster and RSVP Board member Carroll Heideman led a discussion on Reminiscence writing. In April, volunteer Karen DuCharme, conducted a class on chair yoga and mindful relaxation and meditation. As you can see, there is something for everyone!

We have many more fun events throughout 2021. With each event there is plenty of time to socialize with other volunteers, and RSVP staff. Most of our events include a prize giveaway!

Look for a Constant Contact email each month describing the upcoming event and how to register and get the Zoom link for the event.

If you do not receive the Constant Contact email, please contact Jack Guzman: jguzman@rsvpdane.org for information and registration link.

"I've attended each of the RSVP volunteer recognition events, via Zoom. The topics have been varied, from readings to games to heritage projects. Each one has been fun and interesting and I've really enjoyed them. I highly recommend them!"

...Jim Jenkins, RSVP Board member and volunteer





Need Help Paying Your MGE Bill?

Madison Gas and Electric (MGE) would like to share some updates that may impact families who have fallen behind on their MGE bills.

As you may know, on March 18, the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin lifted the disconnection moratorium, which means utilities can start disconnecting customers due to nonpayment.

- MGE is not disconnecting residential customers at this time.
- We recognize the hardship many of our customers continue to experience, and we are offering customers who contact us personalized payment plans that will help them avoid late payment charges and disconnection.
- Without a payment plan in place, customers with past-due balances will be subject to late payment charges starting April 1 and could face disconnection in the future.

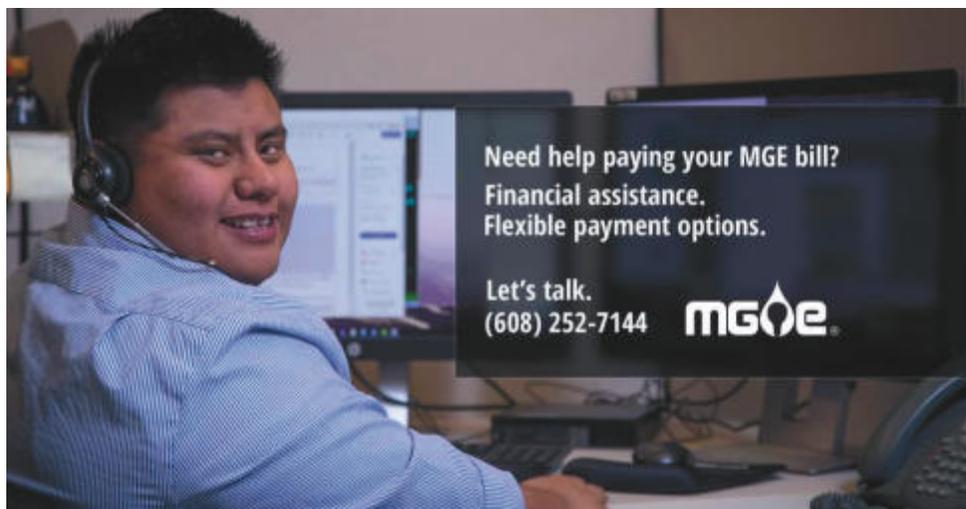
For more information regarding personalized payment for outstanding balances, visit MGE online. <https://www.mge.com/.../options/payment-arrangement...>

Information is available in three languages: English, Spanish and Hmong.

Residential customers can call us weekdays at (608) 252-7144 (English), (608) 252-7120 (Spanish) or (608) 252-7033 (Hmong) between 7 a.m. and 7 p.m. to set up their personalized payment arrangement.

Residential customers may be eligible for additional financial support from our partner, Energy Services, Inc. (ESI). Customers can visit <http://esiwi.com/> to verify their eligibility, schedule an appointment to speak with an ESI representative and apply for funds online. <https://energybenefit.wi.gov/OnlineApps/OnlineApp/Default#!>

They also can call ESI at (800) 506-5596.



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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In-Kind

Edna Babcock
Kimi Connors
Barbara Corsi
Colleen Cox
Nancy Daly and the Hat Ladies

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Thank you to the following RSVP drivers who have donated mileage from September, 2020 to March, 2021:

Judy Acheson
Darlene M. Acker
Leilani Amundson
Brenda Anderson
Amy L. Austin
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Kathy Wilson
Amy W. Winters
Karen D. Wolf
Shirley Ziegler
Ann M. Zimmerman
Robin L. Zimmerman

WELCOME New Volunteers

We enrolled 74 new volunteers from January, 2021, through March, 2021, 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!

Alison Anderson
 Carol A. Anderson
 Leigh T. Barczy
 Catherine L. Barman
 Barbara Baumgartner
 Jessica R. Beiter
 Mary Ann Berkholtz
 Joni K. Bernau
 Robert A. Bezzi
 Elizabeth E. Bittner
 Carlyle "Scott" Bush
 Huan-Hua Chye
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RSVP VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

...where volunteer make a difference

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

RSV**P Home Delivered Meal volunteers** help older adults remain in their homes by delivering hot, nutritious meals. This job is designed to be no-contact because of Covid-19: Drivers pick up pre-packaged meals at the senior center and deliver them to meal recipients' doorsteps. Drivers receive mileage reimbursement and extra insurance. Drivers are needed in communities outside of Madison, for more information contact Mary Schmelzer at 608-441-7896

The River Food Pantry needs volunteer drivers to deliver groceries through its River Delivers program. River Delivers works with volunteers to schedule weekly deliveries of groceries and meals to Dane County residents who do not qualify for other delivery services and who lack transportation to the pantry for curbside distribution. RSVP volunteers will serve seniors and people with disabilities. This position is no-contact and offers both mileage reimbursement at .56 cents/mile and liability insurance. If you are interested, please contact Mary Schmelzer, Driver Services Co-Manager, mschmelzer@rsvpdane.org or 608-441-7896.

NewBridge Madison needs volunteer drivers to deliver groceries through their Food Bridge program, which serves low-income, homebound seniors who are at risk of food insecurity. NewBridge pairs volunteers with a specific senior for regular food delivery from one of three participating food pantries. This position is no-contact and offers both mileage reimbursement at .56 cents/mile and liability insurance. If you are interested, please contact Mary Schmelzer, Driver Services Co-Manager, mschmelzer@rsvpdane.org or 608-441-7896.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, volunteers in the **Group Projects & Homeworkers Program** have stepped up to help their communities by sewing hundreds of masks! They also create quilts, tote bags, hats, scarves, mittens, shawls, baby items (and more!) that are intended to help keep our community warm, safe and comforted. Materials are furnished and items are donated to nonprofit/public organizations throughout the county, like hospitals, schools, shelters, etc. We'd love for you to join our efforts! Please contact Kate Seal, Group Projects & Homeworkers Coordinator at 608-310-7280.

RSVP's Foster Grandparent Program is seeking volunteers to support children in Madison Head Start Centers and elementary schools. This program requires Foster Grandparents to offer 1:1 tutoring and attention to students who need extra support in literacy and social/emotional development a minimum of 5 hours per week. Eligible volunteers receive a stipend and transportation reimbursement. Contact Diana Jost at (608) 441-1393.

As a **Computer Buddy**, you will be matched with an elementary student and correspond in a pen pal fashion weekly or biweekly via computer. The correspondence provides the opportunity for students to practice their writing and computer skills while fostering a positive relationship between the generations. At the end of the school year, the students and volunteers meet at the school computer buddy party. The program does not involve a large time commitment-- usually 30 minutes a week. Contact Diana Jost at (608) 441-1393.

Volunteers are needed at several area food pantries to help guests with registration and food selection. Volunteers also help to repackage donated bulk food into family-size containers at **Second Harvest Foodbank of Southern Wisconsin**. Your donation of time can help to put food on the table in local homes. Age restriction may apply for some positions. For more information, call Jan at (608) 441-7891.

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Help our community “recycle” unsold food and get it to people who are hungry. The **Community Action Coalition Gleaners** is looking for volunteers to do a weekly route picking up excess food at one location (stores, bakeries, etc.) and delivering it to another (food pantries and nutrition sites.). Waste not. Want not. For more information, call Jan at (608) 441-7891.

Habitat ReStore needs help sorting and labeling donations, either at their stores or in your home. If you prefer a no contact environment, you can pick items up at the store and take them home to sort and label, then drop them off at the store. For more information, contact Jan Karst at 608-441-7891.

The **Henry Vilas Zoo** will be needing volunteers beginning in February! Be the face of the zoo and greet visitors as they enter and exit the gates. Gardeners are needed to begin getting ready to grow and plant. Wildlife Champions are needed to help visitors learn about the animals and answer questions. Each role has a minimum time commitment of about four-to-five hours a month. Masks and social distancing will be required. For more information, call Jan at (608) 441-7891.

Many of us are isolated at home during this pandemic and in need of a bit of cheer. **Volunteer phone callers** are needed who would enjoy having someone to talk with on a regular basis. RSVP is partnering with **NewBridge** to pair up callers with those who want to be called. If you are interested in being a caller, please contact Jan at: (608) 441-7891.

RSVP needs more volunteers to serve on the following Committees: Assessment, Development, Financial Oversight and Planning, Grant and Funds, Marketing, Nomination and Board Development, Personnel, Recognition, Triad, and Foster Grandparent Advisory Committee. At the present time, all meetings are held remotely using Zoom. We welcome your participation! Please contact Margie Zutter, at 608 663-7536 for more information.



Volunteer Drivers needed for Seniors & Veterans	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Drive to medical & other important appts. * Receive reimbursement at 56 cents/mile * Set your own schedule, weekdays only * Receive extra liability insurance 	<p><i>"I could not afford taxi service to Madison, where my primary doctor & specialists have their offices. If not for RSVP, I would have to move to a facility in Madison."</i></p> <p>— RSVP passenger</p>
<p>Pay it Forward Now</p> <p>So it's there for you tomorrow!</p>	
<p>For information on driving seniors: Mary Schmelzer, 441-7896 or mschmelzer@rsvpdane.org</p> <p>For information on driving veterans: Lorrie Hylkema, 238-7901 or lhylkema@rsvpdane.org</p>	
	



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.

CONTRIBUTIONS WERE MADE TO RSVP IN MEMORY OF

Roger A. Pierce by Marcia Himes

CONTRIBUTIONS WERE MADE TO RSVP IN HONOR OF

The Vets Helping Vets Program by AMVETS Post 151



(continued from page 14)

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Pat Hasenzahl
Isabel Hubbard
Camie Johnson

Jennifer Lowenberg
Julie Meyer
Mary Ruppert
Diane Schuck

Liza Thomas
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Memorials and Tributes

Please use this form to make a contribution to RSVP in memory or honor of someone special

Enclosed is my gift of _____

In honor of _____ In memory of _____

Personal tribute _____

Check payable to RSVP of Dane County Credit Card: MasterCard Visa PayPal
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If you would like, we will send an acknowledgement of your tribute or memorial to the person(s) listed below.

Name _____

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RSVP OF DANE COUNTY, 6501 Watts Road, Suite 250, Madison, WI 53719

Attend Aging Advocacy Online Events!

Are you interested in issues affecting older adults? Join members of the Wisconsin Aging Advocacy Network (WAAN) and others to help educate state legislators about priority issues impacting Wisconsin's aging population via this year's virtual events!

No experience is necessary. You'll get the training and support you need to hold effective meetings with state lawmakers in a two-hour statewide online training Monday, May 10. Then put your training to use as a local host leads you and other local constituents in short virtual meetings with your state legislators on Wednesday, May 12. Your group will present WAAN's 2021 priorities and share related personal stories. Your experiences are important and help policymakers understand how specific policy issues and proposals impact older constituents.

Wisconsin Aging Advocacy Online (WIAAO) Schedule

Monday, May 10th, 1:00 p.m. — 3:00 p.m. Advocacy training

Wednesday, May 12th, 1:00 p.m. — 2:00 p.m. Meet with legislators

Your voice can make a difference!

Registration Open March 30-April 26, 2021

Register by the April 26 deadline to ensure sufficient time for us to schedule your legislative visits and for you to receive the training packets in the mail. For more information visit <https://gwaar.org/aging-advocacy-online-2021>. Questions may be directed to: Janet Zander, Advocacy & Public Policy Coordinator, Greater WI Agency on Aging Resources, Inc.; (715) 677-6723 or janet.zander@gwaar.org.



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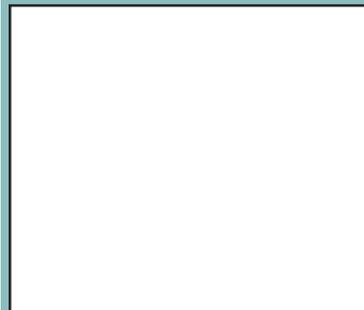


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RSVP Calendar

April

Volunteer Zoom Event, April 23rd, 1-2:30 pm, Chair Yoga and Mindful Relaxation and Meditation

May

Volunteer Zoom Event, May 21st, 1-2:30 pm, Celebrating Older Americans Month with a special presentation on Underground Railroad Quilts

June

RSVP Annual Meeting, (Virtual) June 21st, 9:00 AM- Noon
Volunteer Zoom Event, date TBA, National Safety Month featuring Triad Program Volunteers

