

News Notes

Summer 2022 Newsletter

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



RSVP of Dane County receives the 2022 Governor's Service Award - AmeriCorps Seniors Program of the Year!

“Founded in 1972, RSVP of Dane County has grown into one of the largest RSVP programs in the nation. RSVP of Dane County AmeriCorps Seniors volunteers have contributed over 8 million service hours to Dane County over the last 50 years. Despite the challenges caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, in 2021 alone, 1,021 AmeriCorps Seniors volunteers served 121,777 hours helping Dane County residents in need. Through service at numerous programs and over 90 sites, AmeriCorps Seniors RSVP volunteers serve people of all ages, help nonprofit and public agencies maintain and extend their services, and help older adults remain independent and in their own homes.”


Also, during the Governor's Service Awards ceremony on May 26th, twenty-six RSVP of Dane County volunteers were recognized for volunteering 20 years. These awards represent the dedicated service of our wonderful volunteers, board, and staff! We are honored to receive this recognition during our 50th Anniversary year!




(l to r) State Representative Lisa Subeck, Deborah Speckmann, and Margie Zutter


Pictured below (l to r): Jeanne Duffy, Executive Director, Serve Wisconsin; Lt. Governor Mandela Barnes; Deborah Speckmann; Margie Zutter; Jack Guzman; Krishna Sijapati; LuAnn Paepke; Frank Borucki, and First Lady Kathy Evers



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Welcome to RSVP of Dane County!

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RSVP Celebrates 20 Years!

RSVP Board Notes

Hello everyone, and welcome to the current issue. As we moved forward recently with our annual meeting we elected a new slate of RSVP Board Officers and Directors. I want to express how thankful the Board and Staff are to the two Directors who have fulfilled their obligation and have left the Board.

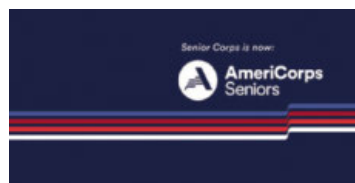


Tom Krauskopf, retired from the State of Wisconsin after 13 years in administration. He served on the RSVP Board from 2006-2012. He served as President from 2008-2010 and has been a member of the Finance Committee since 2005. Tom also served on the Community Services Center, Inc. (CSCI) Board. He has recruited other RSVP Board members including Donna Montgomery and although leaving the RSVP Board, will continue to serve on committees.

Donna Montgomery, retired from CUNA and served on the RSVP Board from 2012-2015 and 2019-2022. She served as the Marketing Committee Chair, utilizing her expertise in marketing and design in developing many RSVP brochures and was instrumental in the design of our first website. She will continue helping finish the development of our NEW website until that work is completed. She also served as a tutor in MMSD schools, at the Second Harvest Food Bank, and the Coalition of Wisconsin Aging Groups.

Their volunteer efforts provided RSVP with invaluable contributions and leadership. MANY THANKS FOR A JOB WELL-DONE Tom and Donna. Please watch for information about our upcoming 50th Anniversary Volunteer celebration event. It will be Grand and Exciting. Enjoy the rest of the summer and be SAFE!

Richard R. Hoffman
Board President



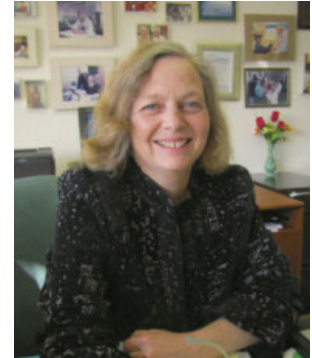
A Note From the Executive Director

From the desk of... *Margie Zutter, Executive Director*

Each year, RSVP holds a Sweepstakes campaign to raise important funding to support our programs. Last year, despite the pandemic, \$13,400 was contributed through this effort. One of the challenging things about creating a sweepstakes appeal is to find enough prizes that would inspire people to donate. This year, our theme is Fifty for Fifty (50 prizes for our 50th Anniversary) so the pressure was on to find 50 prizes and thanks to our volunteers, board members, and staff, we did it! In addition to asking our board, staff, and others who have contributed prizes in the past, we sent an email message to our volunteers asking if they could help.

We received offers of gift cards and wonderful handmade items, including quilts, fleece blankets, an afghan, and a purse. Cash prizes were contributed by board members and staff.

Due to the generosity of local businesses, prizes include a cruise, a limousine ride, an overnight stay at the Hilton Garden Inn, wine, a leather tote, Brewer's tickets, a bike helmet, and gift cards and certificates. Please see page 4 for a detailed list of the Sweepstakes prizes. Also, be sure to look for your sweepstakes brochure to arrive in the mail in early July and consider making a contribution if you are able. The first one hundred



Krishna Sijapati

entrants will receive a Portillo's gift card for a sandwich, valued at \$8.00! (I had asked for 50 gift cards for our 50th and they gave us 100! Their menu includes two of my favorites--excellent hot dogs and delicious chocolate cake!)

continued on page 4

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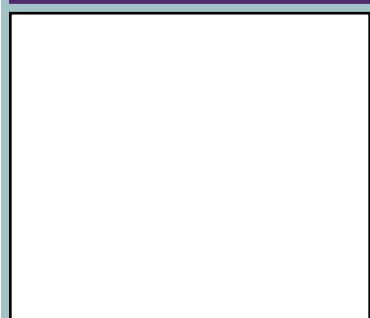
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Thank you to all who contributed or secured prizes, helping to make this year's Fifty for Fifty Sweepstakes one you won't want to miss!

View Our 2022 Fifty for Fifty Sweepstakes Prize List Below

Fifty Prizes for Our 50th Anniversary!



1. Handmade "Baseball" Quilt donated by Muriel Whiteagle-Lee - valued at priceless! and **Two Club Level Seats** donated by the Milwaukee Brewers - valued at \$90 (included in the Early Bird drawing from the first 100 entrants)

2. Handmade Quilt donated by Shirley Coulter - valued at priceless!

3. Three Hour Limousine Ride donated by Zenith Hospitality Group + **Driver's Tip** donated by RSVP Board and Staff - valued at \$700

4. One Night's Stay at Hilton Garden Inn donated by Hilton Garden Inn in Sun Prairie - valued at \$269

5. \$250 Cash Prize donated by RSVP Board and Staff

6. Tory Burch Ella Tote donated by Shopbop - valued at \$248

7. Box of Wine: Two Bottle Set of Duckborn Cabernet and Chardonnay donated by Wegner CPAs - valued at \$125

8. Bike Helmet donated by Christy Jenkins - valued at \$105

9. \$100 Brennan's Market Gift Card donated by Brennan's Market

10. Free Bundlets for a Year Coupon, Happy Everything Bowl + Candle donated by Nothing Bundt Cakes - valued at \$85



11. Two Tickets for the Geneva Bay Tour donated by Lake Geneva Cruise Line - valued at \$76

12. \$75 Gift Card donated by The Electric Needle

13 - 19. \$75 Cash Prizes donated by RSVP Board and Staff - *seven winners*

20. Small Handmade Snap Purse donated by Fran Heisy plus **Two Free Ice Cream Scoop Coupons** donated by The Chocolate Shoppe Ice Cream Company

21 - 22. Handmade Fleece Blanket donated by Georgia Punswick - *two winners*

23. Book Bag with Books and Gift Card donated by Half Price Books

24. Brand New Quilt Kit donated by BlueBar Quilts

25. Handmade Afghan donated by Susan Wolf

26. \$50 Rex's Innkeeper Gift Card donated by Leroy Adler

27. \$50 Gift Card donated by Klein's Floral

28. Livia Wiemann Artwork donated by Jen Roth - valued at \$50

29 - 30. \$50 Target Gift Card donated by Target Hilldale - *two winners*

31. \$50 Kwik Trip Gift Card donated by Leroy Adler

32. \$25 Miller & Sons Gift Card donated by Ginny Sleigh

33. \$25 I'm Board! Games & Family Fun Gift Card - donated by I'm Board! Games & Family Fun

34. \$25 Gift Card donated by Orange Tree Imports

35. \$25 Gift Card donated by Fontana Sports

36. \$25 Gift Card donated by Bonefish Grill plus **\$50 cash** donated by RSVP Board and Staff

37 - 38. \$25 Gift Card donated by North and South Seafood and Smokehouse - *two winners*

39. One Private Music Lesson at the Monroe Street Arts Center donated by the Monroe Street Arts Center - valued at \$34

40 - 43. Two "50 in the Title" movie dvds donated by Jack Guzman plus **Two Free Ice Cream Scoop Coupons** donated by The Chocolate Shoppe Ice Cream Company plus **snacks** donated by RSVP Board and Staff - *four winners*

44 - 45. \$20 Gift Card donated by Eddie's Alehouse & Eatery - *two winners*

46. \$25 Gift Card donated by Avanti Restaurant

47. \$25 Gift Card donated by Culver's

48 - 50. \$25 Rocky Roccoco Gift Card donated by RSVP Staff - *three winners*



If you did not receive our Sweepstakes mailing, you can enter by going to the RSVP website at www.rsvpdane.org/news/2022-rsvp-sweepstakes-information.

Want to get in touch with us?

Simply dial 608.238.7787 (RSVP) or email us at info@rsvpdane.org.

Or, you can reach individual staff members directly at the phone numbers/email addresses listed below. 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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Welcome Camela King

Hello! I come to Driver Services at RSVP with a background of working with seniors and volunteers, most recently at the Middleton Senior Center, and prior to that at Olbrich Botanical Gardens. At Olbrich, I managed the gift shop, which was entirely staffed by senior volunteers who brought so much experience to making it a success. I couldn't have done it without them! At the Middleton Senior Center I served as Volunteer Coordinator, and gained another whole host of friends that continue to advise me even now. It is at the senior center I learned the other end of this Drivers Services business. I have now gone from scheduling rides for people to orienting new drivers here at RSVP.

From my first-hand experience, I recognize the importance of the driver volunteer role and know that its impact on our local community and on people's quality of life, through mobility, and sometimes just that connection with another person, is enormous. I am excited by the opportunity to help promote this program and share RSVP's goal to build it back to pre-pandemic levels.



It's NEVER too late to begin VOLUNTEERING!

by Kate Seal, Group Projects Coordinator and Margie Zutter, Executive Director

Hilda McCreight enrolled as a volunteer with RSVP in January of this year, two weeks before her 102nd birthday! Hilda is part of the Middleton Glen RSVP group which is composed of volunteers who reside at the Middleton Glen Retirement Community. Hilda says this new group, which started during the pandemic, serves a wonderful purpose because the knitting can be done at home.

Hilda moved to Middleton Glen 22 years ago to be closer to her daughter after her husband passed away. Prior to the move, she lived in Washington, PA, near Pittsburgh. In college she majored in home economics and after marrying her husband, Jim, she moved with him to the Washington D.C. area where Jim served at Fort Meade and the Pentagon during WW II. After the war Hilda and Jim moved back to Pennsylvania. She was a busy stay-at-home mom, but she found time to help with a poverty program at Penn State University, and she also volunteered for more than 20 years at Washington Hospital. Coming from a poor, rural area and living through the Great Depression and the war, Hilda knew that her volunteer service was needed. In addition to four children, Hilda has seven grandchildren and eight great grandchildren.



Hilda McCreight

Hilda learned to knit when she was in high school but had not knitted for many years. She was amazed that when she started knitting again it “came right back.” And knitting can be therapeutic. One woman who just started knitting at Middleton Glen says she needs this activity to help her hands; it is better than using an exercise ball! Hilda heard about this knitting group at Middleton Glen through Jo Hershberger (a fellow resident), who started this informal group of neighbors after realizing that there are many people who love to sew, crochet, and knit right in their community! It seemed a great reason to gather and commune.



Middleton Glen Project Group Members (l to r): Miriam Hansen, Karen Lavsa, Heidi Bollinger, and Judy Heady.

CALENDAR

Monday, August 15th, 1:30-3:00 PM. RSVP Board Meeting.

Wednesday, August 31st, 1:00-2:30 PM, Volunteer Zoom Event, Paul Logan's presentation 911, How it Works, When to Call. At the end of this Zoom event we will have the 2022 RSVP Sweepstakes Drawing. Volunteer Zoom Event Program in September, presentation. Date/Time TBA

Thursday October 6th, 11:00 AM-1:00 PM, RSVP 50th Anniversary Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon

VOLUNTEERS IN THE NEWS

Donna Anderson, March 2022, Oakwood Village Outstanding Service Award Winner
Governor's Service Award Winners for 20 years of volunteer service:

Nancy J. Allen
Margaret Bambrough
Frank M. Borucki
Charles Bunge
Joanne Bunge
Shirley Coulter
Gloria R. Davies
Alexandra DeGrandis
Therese Duranso

Sharon Englerth
Peggy C. Hallmark
Katherin Herrin
Isabel Hubbard
Donna Lindauer
Mary Ann Lynch
Irene Morschauser
Larry R. Noyce
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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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RSVP Vets Helping Vets and Great Lakes Dryhootch by Lorrie Hylkema

Great Lakes Dryhootch officially opened its doors on November 26, 2021, but due to the COVID-19 pandemic it was not able to have its grand opening until June. Great Lakes Dryhootch is a meeting space for active military, veterans, and families or supporters that is meant to be free of drugs and alcohol. RSVP Vets Helping Vets (VHV) has had a long-standing partnership with Dryhootch to provide services to veterans.



Pictured from left to right: Jane Leverance, Jim Leverance, Alice Hanson, Sue Schneider, Lorrie Hylkema, Bob Topel, Mel Bankes, Joseph Frey, and David Walenbach. Not pictured are Margie Zutter, Jim Vanevenhoven, Tom Glassel, and Tom Howells.

On April 15th, VHV volunteer drivers participated in a gathering at the new Great Lakes Dryhootch space at 1324 E. Washington Ave. on the first floor of The Valor building. Joseph Frey, Great Lakes Dryhootch's Transportation Manager, graciously greeted RSVP veteran volunteers and staff. Frey also gave us a brief but spectacular tour of his space, which includes a coffee bar, large conference room, and an open space for social gatherings. The walls are full of military related murals for each branch of service, and the entrance way even includes pictures and a history of the founding of Great Lakes Dryhootch by Vietnam combat veteran Bob Curry. Frey explained to us that this space is already holding at least two groups a week for veterans who have PTSD. Thus far, 20 of the 63 units designated for veterans and their families to live in townhouses or standard housing units behind and above the gathering space are occupied. Since opening the doors, Frey has

been working to hire another driver for veterans and family members to take to appointments and necessary stops such as at a grocery, food pantry, and for banking. Frey also hired a veteran barista full time for the coffee bar, David Walenbach. David was able to be present at the open house and graciously made coffee for us that day.

A total of eight RSVP veteran volunteer drivers attended this gathering and were able to meet up, share a meal and drink some uplifting Great Lakes Dryhootch coffee or water. Pictured above are five out of the eight veterans who attended. Bob Topel gave a brief history of the founding of VHV program in 2012. He highlighted the help and support the VFW Post 8216 in Middleton has provided from the beginning of the VHV program.

On May 16th, the first open house for local Quartermasters and Commanders of the American Legion (AL) and Veteran of Foreign Wars (VFW) posts was also held at the Great Lakes Dryhootch in Madison. The purpose of the event was two-fold: first, to talk about and tour the new Great Lakes Dryhootch gathering space. The second purpose was to introduce and talk about the need for more volunteer drivers for the VHV program. Attendees included Stan Hook, Commander of the AL Post 385 in Verona; Denise Rohan, former first female National Commander of the American Legion and current member of AL Post 385; and Ron Loesch, Quartermaster of VFW Post 7591, located on Cottage Grove Road in Madison. In addition, Dave Mahoney, who is a volunteer driver for RSVP's VHV and Home Delivered Meals at the Colonial Club, was also present. Dave is a member of the VFW Post 9362 in Sun Prairie and a First Sergeant of the Wisconsin Chapter of the National Sojourners.

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Foster Grandparents News Updates by Dick Russell

A Happy Update - Bouncing Back continues! Two Foster Grandparents returned to working at two Reach Dane preschool sites as the school year ended. There are two more FGPs planning to begin work with children from newborns to age five this summer! We are hopeful opportunities will continue to open to our great Foster Grandparents.

Student Gifts from Mexico

In response to postcards and gifts of posters, fake cheese, gift bags, and stuffed turtles handmade by RSVP Group Projects volunteers, the fourth and fifth grade students from Arthur Martorell School in Mexico, who are our penpals, sent the FGPs some authentic gifts. (In a side note, the turtles were a HUGE favorite with the students; they quickly named their turtles and “fed” the turtles the pretend cheese!) Our penpals sent our FGPs handwritten notes and personalized pictures. They also included paintings by artists in the area of La Puerta, Mexico. This quote from the school’s principal best explains the paintings as “made by hand by Mexican artisans on a very special type of paper (amate paper) that was used since pre-Hispanic times by the Aztecs, in it they painted and wrote about the exploits of their heroes, they also described their religious and sacred rites.” Each FGP selected a picture to keep, and a couple of these pictures will be displayed in the RSVP office. This has been a fun connection between these students and our Foster Grandparents!



WELCOME NEW VOLUNTEERS

We enrolled 54 new volunteers from March, 2022, through May, 2022, 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!

Amy Anderson
Scott Bauer
Shelley Bauer
Diane Benner
Barbara L. Bristol
Nancy J. Brown-Joyce
Marlene Buechel
John B. Butler
William T. Butters
Lorine J. Carlson
Melody Couch
Donna Cushman
Mary G. Disch
Lawrence H. Foy
Thomas E. Fronek
Michael J. Hammond
Judy Heady
Mike Hirsch

Mary M. Hudson
Joseph Imilkowski
Kathy Johnson
Christina (Chris) Kelton
Mark F. Krueger
Gail Lange
Marcia C. Lavin
Mary Malischke
Linda McIntosh
Suchi Mohan
Jordan Mukite
Jean Murray
Glenn H. Nielsen
Evelyn Palus
Mary Pamperin-Volk
Joyce Pfeiffer
Steven J. Pitterle
Della Pluth

Deborah K. Puchner
Corey R. Randl
Terri R. Reis
Christopher Reynolds
Melissa M. Schiferl-Martin
Diane Schuck
Jane Sheehan
Marie Shores
Lori Stoneking
Daniel J. Strome
Michael J. Szombatfalvy
Margaret Umhoefer
Helena Van Hemert
Jane M. Voss
John W. Voss
Victor S. Wahl
Lila Ward
Peggy York

TRIAD participates in Safety Saturday

by Mike Thomsen

Triad took part in the 2022 Safety Saturday organized by the Madison Fire Department. Safety Saturday is a free safety and injury-prevention event for children and families. Activities, demonstrations and exhibits included interactive displays, a fire sprinkler demonstration, bicycle and pedestrian safety, boating safety, burn safety, bus safety, car booster seat safety, falls prevention, medicine safety, and natural gas and electrical safety. Attendees could meet and greet police officers, sheriff's deputies, paramedics, and firefighters. They were also able to view first responders' specialized equipment, including fire engines, ambulances, police cruisers, and motorcycles.



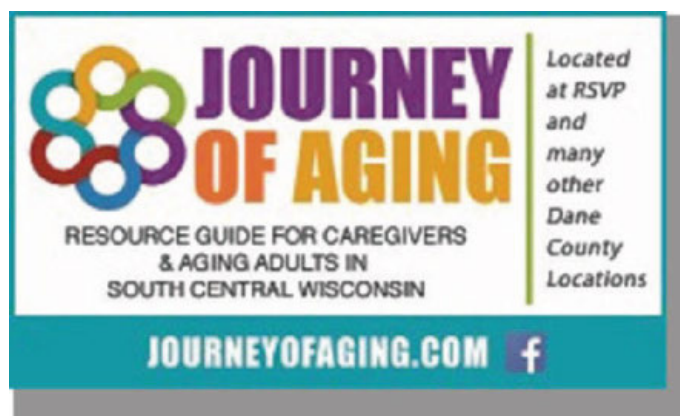
At the RSVP table, we talked with visitors about our Triad program's mission of informing and educating older adults about safety issues both in the house and when out and about in our communities. We also worked to recruit volunteers to help us produce our Triad educational programs and our Triad newsletter. Thank you to everyone who stopped by our table. And thank you to the Madison Fire Department for organizing Safety Saturday.

By the way, our upcoming summer programs are:

July 27: Burglary Prevention, presented by Detective Sergeant Scott Reitmeier, Madison Police Department.

August 24: Fire Prevention in the Home, presented by Bernadette Galvez, Madison Fire Department

We need help developing topics for our educational presentations, finding presenters, interviewing experts, and researching and writing articles for the Triad Newsletter. If you are interested in volunteering to help with any of these, please email Mike Thomsen at mthomsen@rsvpdane.org.



First Bus Buddy Trip of 2022! by Jan Karst



After many years of our flourishing Bus Buddy Trips program, COVID shut us down for two years. This year we are starting to recover the program and have five trips planned between June and October. In June, we ventured out to Olbrich Gardens for a beautiful day touring the gardens and having lunch in the shade! We had three new participants who joined us and, although it was a small group, we had a successful and enjoyable time together! They are all looking forward to our next trip in July when we will tour the State Capitol. We hope more participants will join us learning to ride the buses, getting safely back outside, meeting new friends, and reconnecting with old friends! If you would like to join us on any of the trips, please contact Jan Karst at jkarst@rsvpdane.org or 608 441-7891.

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VHV volunteer drivers provide transportation to veterans of any age and their immediate family members to medical appointments. More drivers are needed to meet the increasing requests for rides for our deserving veterans. If you are interested in more information about volunteering for the VHV program, please contact VHV coordinator Lorrie Hylkema at lhylkema@rsvpdane.org or dsrecruitmentmgr@rsvpdane.org or 608-238-7901.

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Computer Buddies at Deerfield Elementary School

by Jen Roth

“Penpals” is what we called ourselves in olden days when we corresponded with a potential new friend through letters. Remember the thrill of receiving an envelope from some distant place and opening it to find a handwritten letter full of news – just for you? Remember the thrill of responding to that letter with one of your own and mailing it off to Paris, or Miami, or Tokyo, or some other distant, exotic place?

“E-penpals” is what we might call ourselves nowadays when we’re communicating with a special someone far away via email, texting, or blogging. And it’s still a thrill to correspond back and forth; only today it’s much easier: all you need is a computer! Communication is always right at our fingertips.

For many years, RSVP has hosted an “e-penpal” program we call Computer Buddies, pairing older volunteers with elementary students in Deerfield, DeForest, and Cambridge schools (and hopefully more in the future as our program evolves). How does it work? Once a week our volunteer, say “Anne,” blogs to a designated student, say “Izzy,” who reads and responds to Anne’s message. Blogging is safe and secure since it takes place through a platform mediated by RSVP and the classroom teachers as well. The exchange might go something like this:

Student Izzy: “Good news. We got the Hibiscus! I love it so much! It makes it look so tropical even though it’s just Wisconsin. Your neighbors have flowers; mine have pigs, birds, egg chickens, meat chickens, even bees! They are so cute; I love the pigs the most. They raise them from babies. I love them!

Volunteer Anne: “Hibiscus plants and their flowers are gorgeous! I agree about them giving a lovely tropical feeling. Many of my neighbors have flowers out on their balconies now, too, and it is so amazing to see the different colors and shapes of the plants.”

Our Computer Buddies program was especially valuable during the pandemic when schools weren’t open to volunteers. This past semester, 45 RSVP volunteers developed a blogging relationship with 49 students at Deerfield Elementary School, corresponding with them weekly “from computer to computer”. Was it fun? Interesting? Meaningful? Yes, indeed! Here are a few responses from our Buddies:

Says Kate: “Imagine the cross-generational conversations! What fun it is to communicate via a blog with a 4th grader! It is one of the highlights of my week. When before (if ever) have I been asked, ‘what is your favorite childhood candy?’ How often does anyone inquire, ‘Kate, what do you like to do in your free time?’ My buddy and I have developed a great rapport this semester—exchanging thoughts, for example, about children’s books we both have read. I am learning so much from my buddy, Alexis.”

Says Betsy: “I enjoyed the interactions with the students, watching our relationship grow, and their writing skills progress. I’m glad we didn’t meet until later, so they didn’t have any preconceived (stereotypical or negative) ideas about older adults. Then it was fun to meet in person, after months of exchanging messages about each of our respective fun and activity-filled lives.”

continued on page 14



your community energy company

Save Energy This Summer

From Madison Gas and Electric Company (MGE)

Regardless of the season, safe and reliable electricity is an essential part of our daily lives. Utilities like MGE work to provide power to all customers 24-7, including when demand for power is at its highest—for example, on the hottest day of the year when everyone is cooling their households and businesses. Learn more about how you can reduce your energy use and stay comfortable at home this summer.

Top Tips to Save Energy This Summer

- Set your thermostat at 78°F or higher, if health permits, and turn off or set your air conditioner to 85°F when no one is home.
- Use shades and drapes to block out direct sunlight during the day.
- Cook outside or with a microwave oven instead of a stove.
- Use a whole house fan, room fans or ceiling fans instead of air-conditioning.
- Turn off appliances including computers and televisions when not in use.
- Reduce humidity by reducing sources of moisture, such as running exhaust fans after showering and cooking and using an ENERGY STAR®-rated dehumidifier.

Your Energy is Coming From an Increasingly Greener Grid

Practicing energy efficiency every day is something we all can do to help manage the grid and to reduce emissions. Another way MGE is working to reduce emissions is by adding more clean energy to serve all our customers.

Working with our customers to continue to decarbonize our energy supply and to help manage our collective energy use will help MGE achieve carbon reductions of at least 80% by 2030 and net-zero carbon emissions by 2050. We have said since introducing our carbon reduction goals, if we can go further faster by working with our customers, we will.

Visit mge2050.com to learn more about our carbon reduction goals and to get more energy-saving tips.

Computer Buddies at Deerfield Elementary School

continued from page 12

Says Anne: *“Canaan wrote often about playing outside, playing computer games, and doing things with his dad. When I met him, it was fun to see what he looks like, and how energetic he and his friends are ... When I asked if he was looking forward to summer, he said, ‘Not really. I like school ... well, not really math, but the rest of school.’”*

Our semester of blogging culminated on May 18 with a party at Deerfield’s Savannah Park where volunteers and students met one another in person for the first time. They were excited to match faces (and voices) with the typed words they had enjoyed reading back and forth. Under the pavilion, on that cold May day, Buddies young and old grouped up to learn more about each other and then shared with the entire group assembled. It was a magical experience!



Says volunteer Lucy: *“On the day of our “Meet and Greet” at the end of the year, my buddy entered the park shelter calling my name over and over. His classmates helped him locate me and it was a great experience... mile.”*

The program would not have been possible (nor successful) without the leadership and fullhearted support of the three fourth-grade teachers at Deerfield – Kim Hansen, Rory Meyer, and Nate Karraker – who learned the tech aspects of the blogging platform, built the program into their curriculum, set a designated time in class each week for blogging, and monitored the activity.

Says Kim: *“I loved the relationships that my students made with their buddies. Many of them wanted to continue writing each other after the program is over. I also loved that they felt comfortable sharing things with their buddies that I didn’t even know about.”*

“The computer buddy program developed into one of my favorite activities. I began the semester with one buddy who was a great writer and I got to know her pretty well over the course of the semester. Late in the semester I got a second buddy who was more of a reluctant writer but wrote much more about himself as the weeks passed by. I really enjoyed watching his growth.”

-- Computer Buddy Mary

Soon, we will be gearing up for a new school year of Computer Buddies. Are you interested in participating? Please call Jen Roth, RSVP’s Intergenerational Program Coordinator, at 608.661.4271 for more information.

Donna Anderson, 2022 Oakwood Outstanding Service Award Winner

In May, RSVP volunteer Donna Anderson was recognized for outstanding service to Oakwood Village since 2007. Donna has contributed over 3,610 hours of volunteer service during the past 15 years and received joint recognition with this 2022 Outstanding Service Award from Oakwood Village Prairie Ridge and Oakwood Village University Woods. Donna creates and leads monthly programs such as spelling bees, poetry readings, showing documentaries, plays piano, leads sing-a-longs, visits residents, and more! “I would be lost without Donna,” says Jill Leichtfuss, Tabor Oaks Life Enrichment Coordinator. “She truly cares about residents and really takes time to get to know them. Residents know her by name and appreciate seeing a familiar, friendly face helping them with programs. They light up when they see Donna around.” Congratulations on this well-deserved award, Donna!



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RSVP Volunteer Opportunities



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

... where volunteers make a difference

SUMMER VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES!

CATHOLIC MULTICULTURAL CENTER is in need of more meal servers and cooks throughout the month, Free community meal serving is 3:30-5:30 weeknights and 9:30-12:30 weekends. Cooking is any time but the meal must be done by 3:30.

HABITAT RESTORE needs volunteers to help sort and shelve used and new building materials and supplies, assist shoppers, and work at the cash register with purchases. Morning and afternoon shifts are available Tuesday – Saturday.

SSM ST MARYS HOSPITAL needs help with their At Your Service program (escorting patients and families, delivering belongings, etc.), Patient Registration (welcoming patients and escorting them to their destination), and Surgical Waiting Area supporting families while their loved one is in surgery and offering caring presence and support through conversation.

AMERICAN RED CROSS needs volunteers to welcome donors, help them register, provide friendly support, and assist them with refreshments as a Blood Donor Ambassador. As a Red Cross Blood Transport driver, you can make sure blood is available for patients in need in Wisconsin.

AGRACE HOSPICE CARE has Kitchen Volunteer opportunities including: Small Batch Baker, Café Cashier, Nutrition Center Stocking, Soup Brigade, and Kitchen Prep to assist the Kitchen Team with small prep and recipe work! Great place to use your kitchen and cooking skills!

THE RIVER FOOD PANTRY needs volunteer greeters to greet volunteers, donors, and vendors as they arrive. Shifts are Tuesday – Friday, 8:30am – 12:30pm. You need to commit to at least 1 day a week.

Please contact Jan Karst, RSVP Community Connections Coordinator, at jkarst@rsvpdane.org or (608) 441-7891, for more information about these volunteer opportunities.

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For information on driving seniors: Steve Jaeschke, 608-441-7892 or sjaeschke@rsvpdane.org
 For information on driving veterans: Lorrie Hylkema, 238-7901 or lhylkema@rsvpdane.org

"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."

— RSVP passenger

It's NEVER too late to begin VOLUNTEERING!

continued from page 6

In the beginning the knitting group made things for people they knew, such as fellow residents, friends, and family members. Each crafter would knit/crochet a square (or several squares) and then they would crochet the squares together to make a blanket. Every blanket was a heartfelt piece of art that connected each member of the group to the blanket's recipient. The group slowly grew in members, eventually reaching an RSVP volunteer, Lorna Everson, who shared her experiences about RSVP. Before long, the group members were officially RSVP volunteers. They continue piecing squares together to make blankets and shawls, but they now also make whatever they like from the Group Projects Request Form, and their efforts are able to reach more people in the community. Because of this group, Hilda has "gotten to know so many new people and it's a rewarding activity!" The group shares their life stories and have the common thread of both residence and craftsmanship. Hilda says, "Friendships start with ASKING questions, then asking again and again until you really know someone!" She is a skilled scarf-maker but also a skilled friend. We are fortunate to have Hilda and ALL the members of the Middleton Glen group in our RSVP family. Hilda, thanks for proving that you are never too old to start volunteering with RSVP!



Dane County Department of Human Services Area Agency on Aging of Dane County

Dane County Executive – Joe Parisi
Department Director – Shawn Tessmann
Adult Communities Services Division Administrator – Todd Campbell
AAA Manager – Sridevi Mohan

2865 N Sherman Ave, Madison, WI 53704-2092
PHONE: (608) 261-9789 FAX: (608) 283-2995
TTY: Call WI Relay 711

July 12, 2022

RE: Governor's Service Award 2022 – AmeriCorps Senior Program of the Year Award

Dear Serve WI-Governor's Service Award Review Panel:

It is both an honor and a privilege for the Area Agency (AAA) of Dane County to write this letter of support and wholeheartedly endorse the nomination of RSVP of Dane County for the 2022 Governor's Service Award in the category of AmeriCorps Senior Program of the Year.

The first senior volunteer program in Wisconsin, under the Administration on Aging as part of the Older American's Act, RSVP of Dane County was established in 1972 – and celebrates 50 years of service to Wisconsin this year. A milestone reached by few organizations, it is a testament to the agility of the organization to repeatedly invent and sustain meaningful opportunities for older adults to contribute, lead, and thrive through volunteerism in our community.

The AAA and the entire aging network of service providers could not provide the level of services needed to older adults without RSVP volunteers. This has been true since the inception of home delivered meals, congregate meals, driver escorted medical rides, cooperative education regarding elder abuse through TRIAD volunteers, foster grandparents, and intergenerational opportunities with youth in our schools. Their involvement is even more critical today.

As the COVID-19 pandemic continued during 2021, the risk of social isolation among older adults reached all-time highs. Volunteering has been proven to reduce isolation and ease loneliness by connecting older adults to people in need. During 2021, over 900 RSVP volunteers and 16 Foster Grandparents were instrumental in delivering meals and groceries to impacted older adults, private vehicle rides to essential medical appointments, and helping our youngest read by using remote learning platforms. Making facemasks, warm caps, mittens and blankets continued without a beat. Without the involvement of senior volunteers recruited and trained by RSVP, our older adults in need throughout Dane County would have suffered to meet even basic needs.

RSVP has long been a critical partner in making services available to older adults in Dane County. I cannot think of another agency more deserving of recognition. The RSVP Senior Volunteer Program matches those who can with those in need to the benefit of both. Thank you for considering the outstanding and critical work of RSVP Dane County for a 2022 Governor's Service Award.

Respectfully,

Sridevi Mohan

Sridevi Mohan, AAA Manager

Cc: M. Zutter, RSVP

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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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...

Len Rush by Jean Rush

Ojars Ziemelis by Isabel Hubbard

Frederick E. McNaughton by Brad and Valerie Boll, Harold and Linda Colbeck, John and Bonnie Jensen, Rev. Andrew Schultz, Dennis Vogel, Peter and Susan McNaughton, and Barbara McNaughton*

"My name is Barbara McNaughton. On April 4, 2022, my husband, Fredrick E. McNaughton, died. He was a veteran and was in the Navy. He was taken to Brookdale Middleton Stonefield on January 10, 2022, with mixed Alzheimer's/vascular dementia. Fred was able to go to the Madison West VA Clinic for his appointment on Wednesday, January 12 because of Lorrie's (RSVP VHV Coordinator) help in getting him there. We had to go through a lot of hoops to qualify as my phone would not work to get the information to Lorrie. She helped in all ways to make the ride possible. Fred needed to have a VA doctor and Bob Topel (RSVP VHV volunteer driver) was the kind soul that took us to the clinic. I was no longer able to be in a car with him alone. Had it not been for that appointment, he would have been doctorless in the area. Turned out Fred needed a doctor to regulate his medication because of his dementia many times...Thank you so much."

*Barbara designated Fred's memorial contributions to RSVP Vets Helping Vets.

CONTRIBUTIONS WERE MADE TO RSVP IN HONOR OF...

All that RSVP accomplishes by Lori and Dick Kalnicky

Driver Escort Program by Mary V. Schroeder

Jen Roth by Bob and Pat Fessenden

JoAnn Walker by Susan Sorrentino

Margie Zutter by James Johnston

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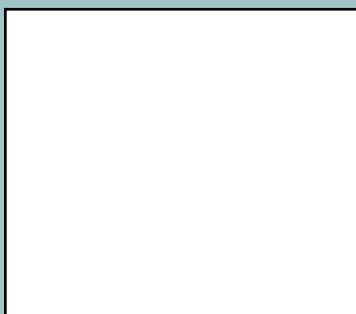
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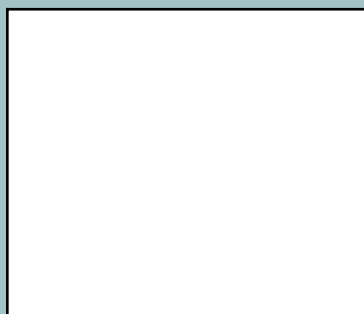
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News Notes (Summer, 2022, edition, Vol. 49, No. 3) is the official publication of RSVP of Dane County, Inc. It is published quarterly and sent to Volunteers and Friends of RSVP. **RSVP seeks to improve the quality of life for all Dane County citizens through significant volunteer service.** Membership is voluntary. We are located at 6501 Watts Road, Suite 250, Madison, WI 53719-1397, Telephone: 608.238.7787, FAX: 608.238.7931, Email: info@rsvpdane.org. Website: www.rsvpdane.org. News Notes Editor - Margie Zutter; Editorial Assistant - Carroll Heideman. Creative design by Jack Guzman. Bulk Mailing permit #2372.

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The flyer features two clusters of colorful balloons (red, green, blue, yellow, pink) on either side of the central text. Each cluster is topped with a small circular logo that says 'Celebrating 50 Years of Service' and 'RSVP'. The number '50' is prominently displayed at the bottom center in a large, gold, stylized font.