



RSVP

Lead With Experience



Northwest Retired and Senior Volunteer Program

Volume 38 Issue 1

2nd Quarter 2011

From the Desk of Jan Washnieski, RSVP Director

RSVP will be sustaining a 20 percent reduction in funding from the Corporation for National & Community Service (CNCS). This has come as a result of the federal government making cuts in spending to address the federal deficit. While we are not pleased with this decision to cut RSVP funding across the country (\$12.6 million) we need to modify our 2011 budget to reflect this cut. I have been working with staff, the Advisory Council and the CEO of our

sponsoring agency to trim on an already lean budget. Our goal will be to make cuts without reducing programs and/or our dedicated volunteers.

This has become a considerable challenge, but we are working to accomplish this. Unfortunately, 2012 projections do not look much better. There is a movement afoot to eliminate the CNCS which would result in further reductions and more changes. The RSVP Directors across Wisconsin and the country are working hard

to educate our politicians about the enormous contributions that our volunteers make. With the economy slow to recover, the importance of RSVP has probably never been greater. You, as an RSVP volunteer help make such an impact in your community through the various non profits, civic groups, and schools. After nearly 40 years of existence, we here all know that RSVP is a wise investment and the benefits to the communities are inspiring.

Throughout the

newsletter you will see some of the highlighted changes that are coming, as of July 1. Please read them, they are important! If you have additional questions, please do not hesitate to call us.

Please remember, contributions to RSVP are always accepted and all of us should let everyone we deal with know (including our government representatives) of the good work that comes from RSVP (especially relating your experiences).

Policy Change: Mileage Reimbursements

As of July 1, 2011, the rate for reimbursement of mileage has changed. RSVP's policy: Reimbursement of mileage to RSVP volunteers will be at the rate of 14 cents per mile. This rate is consistent with the IRS charitable mileage rate.

Please note: We will not be reimbursing those who need to travel greater distances. Mileage reimbursements are a result of funding reductions into the RSVP office by the 5th of each month or program nationally. it will not be reimbursed. Rather than eliminating mileage reimbursement, we have decided to 1.

We Remember

We want to take a moment to remember the following volunteers

- Hannelore Westphal
- Carol Holman
- Marion E Gary
- Jan Carpenter
- Marion Ahlstrom
- Phyllis Rogers
- Ervin Zimmermann
- June Foris
- Jeanette Mertig

These volunteers are missed by family & friends, by those they served, and by those of us at RSVP who had the pleasure of knowing them.

Northwest Retired and Senior Volunteer Program

Focus Area: Lake Superior Elementary School

They will welcome you with open arms!!! With the continuation of budget cuts at both the Federal and State levels, volunteers in the schools can help students reach the goals that are put before them. There is a wide range of needs that a volunteer could fill. Your work this fall, winter, or spring could "fine tuning" their reading skills, enhance their math skills or help

in other areas. Impact opportunities at the school's include

- ◆ Working with students in centers.
- ◆ Tutoring students in math or reading.

Short term opportunities are also available throughout the year. They include

- ◆ Cutting soup labels.
- ◆ RIF-Reading is Fundamental. This

program runs three times per year with volunteers labeling books at Lake Superior Elementary, Marengo Valley, and Ashland Middle School.

- ◆ Cribbage players are needed for January – March 2012 to help 3rd graders with mental math.
- ◆ Read Aloud is in the spring of 2012. Go

into the classroom and reading for 15 minutes.

- ◆ Come help the new kindergarteners the first full week of school to get around during lunch and after school.

You can make a difference in a child's life. Call RSVP today to sign up for helping in the schools this fall.

Focus Area: Helping Hands for Warm Hearts

Our wings have opened and we have taken flight. Our lead volunteer group has been meeting since February, an open house was held, and we have been receiving donations of materials, supplies, and completed quilts, hats, mittens, gloves, and scarves. We are now planning our next steps and we hope that you will join our flight.

The lead group of volunteers (Faye Hnath, Rosemary Anderson (from Sanborn,) Kathy Follis (owner of Mad Island Weavers in Washburn), Arlene

Salias, Dorthory Dunwiddie, and Dianne Buelow) has put together a list of items we would like to request as donations from the community. These items will be used during our new weekly meetings on Wednesday afternoons from 1 to 3

pm starting May 18, 2011. Come in and help create needed items for those low income or

homeless families and individuals in our area.

- | Requested Items for Donation |
|---|
| Clear Plastic Containers |
| Locking Cabinet |
| White, Black, or Gray Thread |
| Cutting Guides, Cutting Boards and Rotary Cutters |
| Fabric Scissors |
| Yarn |
| Fabric (Cotton) |
| Pins and Needles |
| Sewing Machine Needles |

Any age or ability is welcome to come to the NWCSA office at 623 Second Avenue East. The meeting room is upstairs with our main entrance off of

Seventh Street and the handicapped accessible entrance with a lift off of Second Avenue.

Are you wanting to help but would like to improve your skills or knowledge of what you are doing? Just call us at RSVP at 715-292-6400 ext 2 or stop in on a Wednesday afternoon to connect with someone. Instructional opportunities are available for free in Ashland or at the Mad Island Weavers in Washburn. All items produced will be given to the Helping Hands for Warm Hearts program. The knowledge gained in learning is yours to take.

WELCOME NEW VOLUNTEERS!!!

W e l c o m e n e w someone who might like friend or neighbor and
volunteers. We enrolled to volunteer? RSVP tell them what RSVP
14 new volunteers from volunteers are our best means to you!
December 2010 to May recruiters as they spread
2011, serving in a wide the word about why they
variety of assignments like volunteering and the
throughout Ashland, need for more
Bayfield, and Iron volunteers. Please pass
Counties. Do you know this newsletter on to a

Dorothy Dunwiddie
Dianne Buelow
Kathy Follis
Geraldine Hoiby
Harriet Elliot
Faye Hnath
Kathleen Anich
Kay Poland

Changing Hours for RSVP

Due to budget cuts; the hours will be Monday FRIDAYS. If an message and myself or
Retired & Senior through Wednesday: emergency does arise Beth will get back to you
Volunteer Program 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. you can contact Jan @ on Monday. Jan: 292-
(RSVP) will have new Thursday: 8:30 a.m. to 715-746-2359. 6400x1 or Beth: 292-
hours!!! 4:30 p.m. Otherwise, please do not 6400x2.
Starting in July, office We will NOT be open on hesitate to leave a voice

Changes Coming for the RSVP Recognition Banquet

Changes, Changes, during Senior Corp event, combine the three will have is yet to be
C h a n g e s . The Week. This is the week of counties and have one determined. If anyone
Recognition Banquet September 26th – 30th. event, pot luck, picnic, a has suggestions, please
that we normally hold in There have been several brunch, and/or having let us know.
May or June will now be suggestions brought to hors d'oeuvres). As to
scheduled in September the table (i.e.: a Saturday how large of an event we

Memorials, Tributes and Donations

Memorials, Tributes, and Donations were made to ♦ Dianne Buelow **2nd Annual**
Donations to RSVP are a RSVP by: ♦ Susan Riddell **Snack Stop**
meaningful way to honor ♦ Carl Seeger ♦ Kathy Follis ♦ Kevin Stranberg
someone special and to ♦ Irene Nelson ♦ Dianne Buelow ♦ Robert & Marilyn
extend the services ♦ Marla Nachtsheim Skoraczewski
provided by volunteers. ♦ Granny's Quilters ♦ Shannon Beneke
Every dollar contributed ♦ Our Savior's ♦ R o s e m a r y
allows us to enrich the Lutheran Church Anderson
lives of many. ♦ Faye Hnath **Donations for the** ♦ Patti Jellish

Donations

Donations for Helping Hands for Warm Hearts

- ♦ Arlene Slais
- ♦ Lois Johnson
- ♦ Faye Hnath

Northwest Retired and Senior Volunteer Program

RSVP Matchmakers. You have a chance to make a difference. Volunteer.

- ◆ The Bargain Hut, MMC Thrift Shop, and A.B.C. Thrift Shop need your help. The Bargain Hut needs volunteers for between 9:00 am—4:00 pm. MMC Thrift Shop and A.B.C. Thrift shop are always looking for volunteers.
- ◆ Ashland Historical Society and Museum needs help with a wide variety of projects from recruiting volunteers to maintaining the collection to data entry. Call RSVP today for more information.
- ◆ Nursing Home Activity Directors are looking for help. Reading, writing letters, playing cards, or just talking. Locations to choose from in Bayfield, Ashland, and Iron Counties.
- ◆ Looking to continue serving on a board in some capacity? RSVP Advisory Council has openings for interested individuals from Iron or Bayfield County areas.
- ◆ Drivers are needed to provide transportation for other seniors to medical appointments, shopping, and home delivered meals. Must have own vehicle and current automobile insurance.
- ◆ Partners of MMC are looking for volunteers for the information desk or coffee/gift shop. Morning, afternoon, or emergency subs are wanted.
- ◆ Congregate meal site helpers. Get involved with your local

meal program. It is a great way to meet folks and get involved in your community. Did you know the senior meal sites are in need of set up helpers, clean up support, and helping with registration?

- ◆ Bloodmobile We are looking for a volunteer leader for the local American Red Cross blood drive.



Or help the day of the drive by registering donors or helping in the canteen.

- ◆ Golden Living—Court Manor is looking for a receptionist for their facility. Hours are daily from 5-8 p.m. It would include answering phones, assisting visitors, and other tasks as requested. This position could be filled by one or many volunteers. Contact RSVP for more information.
- ◆ Book Nook at the Vaughn Library is looking for help in the

resale shop at the Vaughn Library in Ashland. Help any day they are open with organizing books and collecting payment.

- ◆ Are you creative and enjoy working with people? Help the RSVP office obtain ads for the Vintage Times. This newspaper is a supplement of the Evergreen Shopper. Assist us in keeping the Vintage Times going.
- ◆ Red Cliff: Return to the Good Life Garden. Gardeners welcomed. Some tasks would included watering and weeding the garden, cleaning produce, assisting with the Farmers Market, etc. Call RSVP or the Red Cliff Elderly Program at 715-779-3720.
- ◆ A large variety of volunteer positions are available through the Red Cliff Elderly Program. They include working at the thrift shop, activity coordination, secretarial duties and educational instruction for improving the health of the elders. To find out more about these various opportunities give RSVP a call or contact the Red Cliff Elderly Program at 715-779-3720.

Become a Leader

Looking to make a change? Something more challenge or you can help to guide? Step up and become a leader within one of the following areas.

- Helping Hands for Warm Hearts. Be a part of the steering committee or one of the instructors for the program. Teach knitting, quilting, or crocheting to those interested in helping out the project.
- Share Program in Ashland and Iron River. The Share Program is looking for a distribution coordinator for both their area sites. Candidates would have computer skills for web email and

Microsoft Office, customer service and social skills to communicate with other volunteers and shoppers, setting up site, helping to unload, inventory, and pick orders with the food, check out, distribution of newsletters and processing orders and payments, and promoting partnerships with community organizations. This could be done by one person or many. Contact RSVP for more information.

- Lake Superior Elementary School's Cribbage Players. Enjoy playing cribbage. Come make it even more fun by teaching the next

generation how to play cribbage while teaching these students how to do mental math. This program runs for 6 to 10 weeks every spring. Come help out this unique program.

- RSVP Advisory Council. Bring your ideas and leadership abilities to the RSVP Advisory Council. Help to guide our organization, assisting in recruiting partners, supporters and hard to reach volunteers, support fundraising and in-kind development, provide feedback at meetings from the information reported to them and to communicate it back out in to the community, provide

programming advise as to the needs of the community, be an ambassador of the program by informing the public of what we are doing; and keep the council updated on potential issues, partners, and programs that would further our mission and vision.

- American Red Cross Bloodmobile Local Organizer / Chairperson. Organize the local blood drive that occurs 4 times per year. Dedicated groups of volunteers are just waiting for your help. Call us to set up that leadership opportunity.

Call RSVP to become a leader at 715-292-6400 ext 1 or 2.

Focus Area: Head Start to Reading



Help out a child to learn to love reading by joining our *Head Start to Reading* program. We are also looking at starting this program at the Head Start in Bayfield

and Hurley. The program increases the vocabulary of the children, promotes the love of reading at an early age, builds a child's self esteem and it provides opportunities for questions and answers. This reading experience also creates a

time when a child and the volunteer can connect through reading. The Ashland Head Start has seen children run across the classroom calling "Grandma, Grandpa" when the volunteer enters the classroom. This child has connected to the adult

and knows that he/she will spend some special time with him/her whether it's enjoying a book together, working on a puzzle or just having someone ask how his/her day is going.

Donate your time to help us reach our goal.

Help Us in Our Uncertain Times.

These are uncertain times. You'd like to donate to RSVP, but food, utilities, and other necessities must come first. You could still contribute with deferred gifts or planned giving. Some examples are:

Life Insurance:

Insurance is a way of making a charitable contribution. The policyholder can name an agency such as RSVP as its beneficiary.

Bequests:

Charitable bequests find a place in the wills of many who wish to lend support beyond their lifetimes. Giving by will can be a flexible way to participate in the future of a charitable organization after your family's needs have been met.

IRA and Retirement Plans:

A charitable organization can be named as a beneficiary of an individual's IRA or Retirement Plan.

A thoughtful way of remembering your loved ones, living, as well as deceased is with a memorial or tribute to RSVP.

A tribute is a form of recognition for former RSVP members or family members who may or may not be deceased.

A memorial is a loving tribute to a spouse, relative, friend, or neighbor who is

deceased. Memorials perpetuate the memory of how this special person touched the lives of others.

Every dollar contributed to RSVP allows us to help enrich the lives of many children and adults in our community.

To learn more about deferred gifts, planned giving, memorials, or tributes, contact the RSVP office at 715-292-6400, ext.1 or 2.

Make Us More Visible in the Community, State that You are a RSVP Volunteer.

Would you believe that there are a lot of people out there who do not know what RSVP is nor do they know what RSVP volunteers do?

RSVP volunteers are special people, they work unselfishly to make others lives better. All RSVP volunteers should have a name badge. Even when you are volunteering in a place that requires its own ID badge, you should wear your RSVP badge as well. You the RSVP volunteer are the best

representative of our organization and we are proud that you wear our name badge.

Name badges are newer! We are no longer giving out an orange pin when you register as an RSVP Volunteer. For volunteers who have been with RSVP before this changeover and would like to get a new name badge, please contact RSVP at 715-292-6400 ext. 2.

We at RSVP need people to be aware of our presence in the

community. Individuals, businesses and service organizations are more likely to support an agency that is familiar.

- You, the volunteer, are the people who make RSVP successful. We are proud of you, please show that you are proud to be one of us.
- Northwest RSVP has organized a SWATT (Seniors with Available Time & Talent) Team. Frequently, nonprofit organizations and

government agencies contact us to see if we have volunteers available for short-term projects or events. Projects include conference registration, special events, mass mailings, etc. If you are willing and available to be contacted on short notice when we receive such a request, we encourage you to join our SWAT Team.

What RSVP Provides to You? Extra Insurance When You Volunteer.



Insurance provided by RSVP is for active volunteers only. This coverage is above and beyond your personal auto liability coverage that must be at least equal to the state required minimum. This insurance protects RSVP volunteers by providing:

Accident Insurance: It covers you for personal injury arising from your volunteer activities while traveling to and from work sites, during our

volunteer services, and while participating in an RSVP activity or recognition.

Personal Liability: This coverage protects you if a personal injury or property damage liability claim arising out of your performance as a volunteer.

Excess Automobile Liability: This protects you if a bodily injury or property damage liability claim arises while using your

own automobile in connection with your program-related work.

Coverage also includes:

A benefit up to \$50.00 for repair or replacement of eyeglass frames and up to \$50.00 for repair or replacement of eyeglass prescription lenses damaged as a result of an accident.

AND

All accidents must be reported to RSVP as soon as possible after the occurrence.

Focus Area: Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Site (VITA)



agency). With the help of our RSVP volunteers, we were able to serve 105 households throughout the Ashland and Bayfield Counties garnering more than \$98,568 in federal refunds. We would like to continue this momentum by finding more interested volunteers to help out at this site. Become a

greeter or tax preparer. Greeters welcome clients, hand out paperwork, and help to make sure our clients have their required information present for our preparers. Training for this position is minimal and requires good people skills and organization. Tax preparers require at least 20 hours of training to become certified by the IRS. This certification is completed on line at your own speed

before the tax season begins. At a minimum, a preparer needs to be certified through the basic level. But volunteers may certify through intermediate and advanced if interested. The level you obtain is up to you. The site will be opening in January 2012. If you are interested in getting on the list to help, please contact RSVP to sign up.

Northwest Retired and Senior Volunteer Program

623 Second Avenue East Suite 1
Ashland, Wisconsin 54806

Phone: 715-292-6400
Fax: 715-292-6403
Email: washrsvp@northwest-csa.org
or bethrsvp@northwest-csa.org
www.northwest-csa.org

PRESORT STANDARD
US POSTAGE PAID
ASHLAND, WI 54806
PERMIT #250

Change Service Requested

Yes! I Want to Help the Northwest RSVP!

RSVP provides volunteers and valuable services in the areas of thrift shops, museums, transportation drivers, Partners of MMC, nursing homes, congregate meal sites, school tutors, and many more.

DONOR INFORMATION

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone Number: _____

Email: _____

Please detach and mail to:
Northwest RSVP
623 Second Avenue East Suite 1
Ashland, Wisconsin 54806

Or go online to www.northwest-csa.org
to donate to RSVP

Please accept my tax deductible donation of \$ _____

I am making this gift in memory of :

I am making this gift in honor of:

If you want the person you are honoring to receive an announcement of your gift, complete the following:
Address: _____
City/State/Zip: _____

I am interested in volunteering. Please call me at

Thank you for any amount you could spare to assist RSVP and remember your contribution is 100% tax deductible.

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