

RSVP of Dane County

...where volunteers make a difference

Retired and Senior Volunteer Program & Foster Grandparent Program 2023 Annual Report



Our 51st Year



We Continue to Grow

RSVP...where volunteers make a difference

The theme for the 2023 annual report is *We Continue to Grow!* This past year was also a year of transition. Margie Zutter, the Executive Director, retired in August after 46 years with RSVP. I moved from Assistant Director to Executive Director and Kate Seal, the Group Projects/Homeworkers Program Coordinator, became Assistant Director. As COVID-19 slowed down, more volunteers were able to transition back to helping in-person, such as driving clients to medical appointments and tutoring students in a classroom. I am very excited about my new role at RSVP. I have learned a lot in the last few months and I look forward to working with staff, the Board, and all of our wonderful volunteers and partners as RSVP Continues to Grow!

Highlights from 2023:

- Still short on volunteers from the COVID-19 pandemic and faced with an increasing demand for rides to medical appointments, the Driver Services and VHV staff started working on a large marketing campaign to recruit more drivers. The campaign included television and streaming commercials, written media, radio ads, and tabling events at focal points and health fairs.
- For the first time in four years, all Foster Grandparent volunteers could tutor and mentor in person in classrooms in Dane County.
- In November, RSVP held a Veterans Day event at the new VFW Post 1318 in Madison. Kevin Hampton, WI Veterans Museum curator, gave a presentation about veterans from WI who served in WWI. A total of 49 participants attended this talk either in person or virtually via Zoom.
- “Country Cool” was the theme for RSVP’s 51st Annual Volunteer Appreciation event at Barnwood Events in Madison. Over 200 volunteers, volunteer station representatives, funders, and sponsors attended this fun event. Guest speakers from the Bureau of Aging and Disability Resources at the Wisconsin Department of Health Services were Timothy Wellens, Regional Quality Specialist, and Samantha Margelofsky, Volunteer Program Coordinator, who spoke about the health effects of social isolation and loneliness. They discussed the role volunteering plays in decreasing feelings of loneliness and isolation for both the volunteer and the recipient.
- In remembrance of September 11, 2001, RSVP hosted an annual donation drive-thru event to help struggling neighbors in our community. RSVP staff and volunteers collected food and essentials for the Social Justice Center’s resource pantry.
- RSVP contracted with The People Company to perform a Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Anti-Racism (DEIAR) Assessment. The People Company conducted this assessment through individual interviews, focus group sessions, and a survey of volunteers and staff. Focus Group participants included RSVP volunteers, Senior Center/Outreach Services staff, and community members. Results of this assessment with their suggestions (DEIAR Report 1/31/23) were presented to the Diversity Committee, Board, and Staff in March of 2023. At the April Board meeting, RSVP’s Diversity Committee suggested that the RSVP Board create a new strategic vision which will include new equity recommendations from this report.
- The 21st Triad Conference was held on October 20th at the American Family Insurance Training Center in Madison. This was the first time in four years, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, that we were able to hold the conference in person rather than virtually, and it was a great opportunity to meet, network, and learn. The Wisconsin State Health Plan Coordinator, Margarita Northrup, gave the keynote address, *Health and Wellbeing in Retirement: Understanding Civic Engagement and Health*. Over 115 participants, presenters, and exhibitors from around Wisconsin attended.

Looking back at 2023, volunteers were able to serve more hours (151,632) in 2023 compared to 2022 (143,211). An increased number of volunteers in each of our programs were able to start to serve in person. Volunteers who could not be in person, continued to help their community through virtual opportunities. We appreciate the many ways RSVP and FGP volunteers helped others during the pandemic. We thank all our volunteers who were able to serve safely!

Diana Jost, Executive Director

HISTORY, MISSION, VISION, AND INCLUSION STATEMENT

HISTORY

In 1969, the Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) was created as a national volunteer program under the Administration on Aging as part of the Older Americans Act. In 1971, eleven programs were launched, and they became part of the national volunteer agency ACTION (now the Corporation for National and Community Service-AmeriCorps Seniors programs.)

In 1972, we became the first RSVP program in Wisconsin and then in 2000, added a Foster Grandparent Program (FGP). Today, 170,000 AmeriCorps Seniors volunteers in RSVP, FGP, and Senior Companion programs serve nationwide. With over 1,200 volunteers, RSVP of Dane County is one of the largest AmeriCorps Seniors programs in the United States.

MISSION

To make a positive impact in the community by recruiting volunteers 55 and older to help deliver priority services to people of all ages, providing Dane County with a valuable resource.

RSVP seeks to:

- ◆ utilize the skills, knowledge, and life experiences of people who are retired, helping them to lead healthy, productive lives;
- ◆ respond to increasing requests for volunteers to help meet critical needs;
- ◆ increase the variety of volunteer opportunities;
- ◆ provide opportunities for intergenerational projects and age-integrated activities;
- ◆ plan programming in cooperation with the groups, agencies and institutions with which it is involved, as needed and requested;
- ◆ involve volunteers in planning and decision-making on community programs, boards, and committees;
- ◆ increase public awareness concerning contributions and needs of people age 55 and older, and improve the image of aging.

VISION

RSVP aspires to build and expand a community-wide network of volunteers and organizations that unite compassionate, experienced adults with meaningful and fulfilling service opportunities, which enrich the lives of the volunteers while enhancing support for people in need.

INCLUSION STATEMENT

RSVP is committed to a culture of inclusion and connectedness. RSVP volunteers and staff come from many backgrounds, and this makes us stronger. Individual differences, life experiences, knowledge, innovation, self-expression, and talent that our volunteers contribute, represent the service and compassion we offer our community.

BOARD and COMMITTEE MEMBERS

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Deborah Speckmann, President
Retired, Employee Trust Funds
Employee

Tom Howells, Vice President
Retired, Wisconsin Motor Carriers
Association

Kelly Krein, Secretary
Student Government Advisor, UW-
Madison

Jack Anderson, Treasurer
Retired, University Teaching

Richard R. Hoffman, Immediate
Past President
Retired, Stoughton Bank Executive

Jane Bannerman
Retired, College Library, UW-
Madison

Karen M. Cunningham
Retired, U.S. Department of the
Interior

Carroll Heideman
Retired, MMSD Teacher

Melvin Hinton
Teacher, Performing Artist,
Radio Host

Isabel Hubbard
Retired, Educator

James G. Jenkins
Retired, State of Wisconsin, Project
Employee, Dane County Department of
Human Services

LuAnn Paepke
Retired, State of Wisconsin FGP
Coordinator

Mary Stamstad
Retired, RSVP of Dane County

Muriel Whiteagle-Lee
Volunteer with Ho-Chunk Nation
Tribal Advisory Board

RSVP COMMITTEES

Board Committees:

Assessment
Development
Diversity
Executive
Financial Oversight
and Planning
Grants
Marketing
Nominating
Personnel
Recognition

Support Committees and Subcommittees:

TRIAD Conference Planning
West Madison Triad
Verona Triad
FGP Advisory Council

RSVP COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Courtney Anclam, Jack Anderson,
Michael Austin, Jane Bannerman,
Tiffany Bernhardt-Schultz, Kevin
Brown, Karen Cunningham, Mel
Davis, Mary Dwyer, Patricia
Eldred, Leslie Fox, Lea Gough,
Kevin Gould, Shari Gray-Dorn,
Carroll Heideman, Melvin Hinton,
Dick Hoffman, Tom Howells,
Isabel Hubbard, Jim Jenkins,
Margaret Jensen, Alison Koelsch,
Tom Krauskopf, Kelly Krein,
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Gene Kundert, Neal McCallum,
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Mike Plautz, Lisa Reilly, Harold
Sabot, Amy Scarr, Deborah
Speckmann, Mary Stamstad,
Peggy York, Margie Zutter

WHO WE ARE/VOLUNTEERS IN SERVICE

RSVP seeks to utilize the skills, knowledge, and life experiences of older adults, helping them lead healthy, productive lives while making a positive impact in the community. RSVP volunteers provide direct service, helping a wide variety of public and nonprofit organizations in Dane County. What makes RSVP so unique? Volunteers are personally interviewed and matched with appropriate assignments that meet their time, interest, and lifestyle needs, as well as skills required by community agencies. We also provide regular follow-up to ensure volunteer satisfaction. Survey results indicate that over 94% of RSVP volunteers feel their volunteer work keeps them active, and that they have a more positive outlook because they help their community.

2023 Volunteers in Service

Total volunteer hours: 151,632

This is the equivalent of more than 145 employees working twenty hours per week dedicated to serving thousands of Dane County residents in need! Our volunteer hours are valued at over \$4.8 million using data reported by the Independent Sector (www.independentsector.org).

Total volunteers reporting hours: 1,203

Gender: 30.7% Male, 69.3% Female

Number of Volunteers by Age

Honorary	92	7.7%
Age 55-59	35	2.9%
Age 60-69	279	23.2%
Age 70-79	533	44.3%
Age 80-84	154	12.8%
Age 85+	110	9.1%

Number of Volunteers by Community

Belleville	- 77
Black Earth	- 10
Blue Mounds	- 5
Brooklyn	- 13
Cottage Grove	- 14
Cross Plains	- 20
Dane	- 4
Deerfield	- 9
DeForest	- 55
Lodi	- 5
Madison/Monona/Fitchburg	- 375
McFarland	- 53
Marshall	- 6
Mazomanie	- 7
Middleton	- 104
Mt. Horeb	- 33
New Glarus	- 6
Oregon	- 89
Stoughton	- 50
Sun Prairie	- 49
Verona	- 88
Waunakee	- 102
Windsor	- 8
Other Communities	- 21

Total volunteers recruited
in 2023: 254

COMMUNITY IMPACT



Community Connections volunteers extend agency services in nonprofit and public agencies throughout Dane County. RSVP matches a wide variety of volunteer opportunities with the skills and interests of volunteers.



374 Volunteers

45 Volunteer Stations

36,761 Hours



Bus Buddy volunteers teach other older adults, individually or in groups, how to achieve more independence and mobility by using the Madison Metropolitan Bus System.

3 Bus Buddy Volunteers

1 Volunteer Station

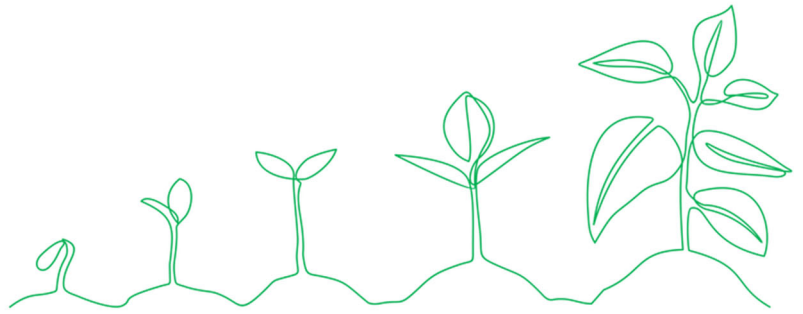
4 Bus Buddy Trips

35 Participants

50 Hours



Group Projects/Homeworkers



RSVP's Group Projects/Homeworkers volunteers share their sewing, knitting, and crocheting talents to create quilts, shawls, afghans, and other items of warmth and comfort. They also make tote bags, walker and wheelchair bags, chemo caps, fidget quilts, and a variety of other useful specialty items. All of these handcrafted goods are then distributed to local nonprofit and public agencies, to be given to those in need.

275 Volunteers

9 Volunteer Stations

20 Group Projects

72,701 Hours

15,032 Items Distributed

8,537 Pounds of Recycled Donated Materials

54 Recipient Agencies



"Volunteering makes me happy when I'm sad. I hardly have down days. I used to make myself get my housework done before knitting or crocheting, but now I allow myself to prioritize handwork." – An RSVP Homeworkers Volunteer

COMMUNITY IMPACT

Foster Grandparent Program



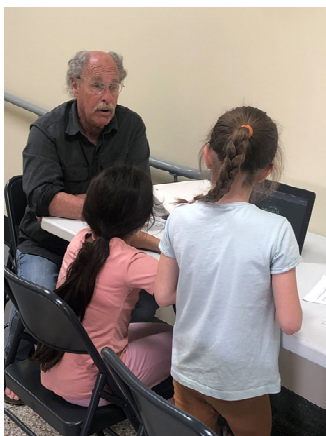
Foster Grandparent Program volunteers serve between 5 and 40 hours per week and providing one-on-one support for students, teachers, and classrooms in Dane County schools and Reach Dane Head Start sites. Foster Grandparents are an integral part in improving academic performance and social skills, resulting in increased student engagement for improved school readiness and success. While much of the Foster Grandparents' time is served in person, remote student academic and skills attainment support is provided to emerging writers through the Postcard Pen Pal program. Foster Grandparents have continued to deepen their knowledge and explore new avenues of student support through quarterly inservice trainings as well engaging one another in topic discussions in Book and Movie Clubs. Income eligible adults age 55+ receive a tax free stipend, meal, and travel reimbursement for their service.



15 Volunteers

6 Volunteer Stations

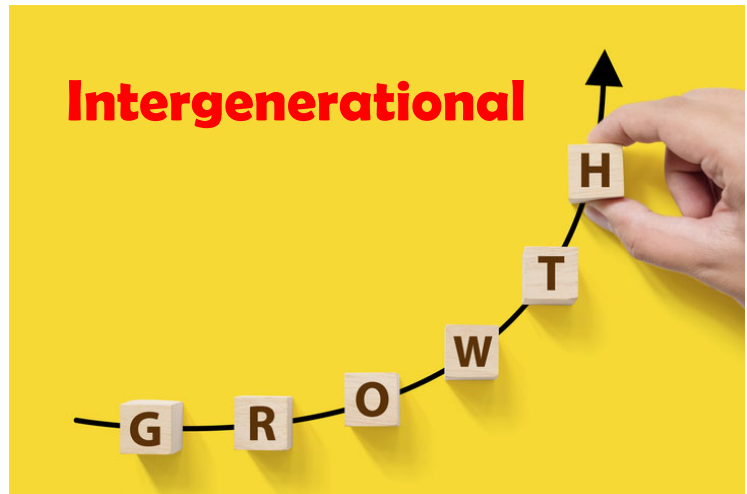
11,082 Hours



"The benefits just keep adding up. Seeing the kids grow in their love of reading and the little boys opening up and being more confident, and happy. I can't describe how great it makes me feel. I believe I've been able to help the little girl focus and pay closer attention to the teachers too." - Foster Grandparent Volunteer

COMMUNITY IMPACT

"This is my second year serving as a computer buddy. My buddy has been a great correspondent and always sounds enthusiastic to read my messages. I love hearing about his experiences at home and in school...The Computer Buddy Program is a wonderful way for us to help 4th graders with their spelling, keyboard, and writing skills! I am so happy to be involved. Thank you for all your support." - Intergenerational Volunteer



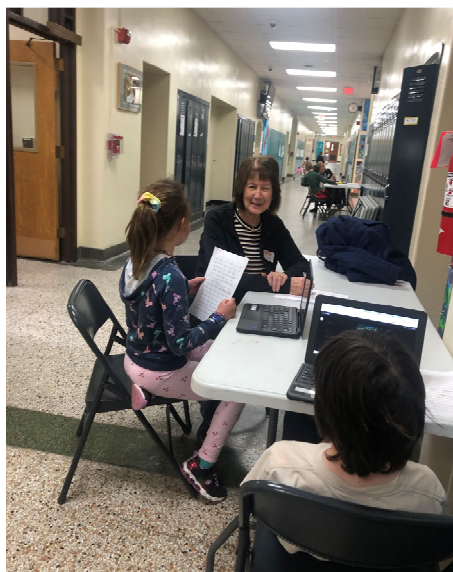
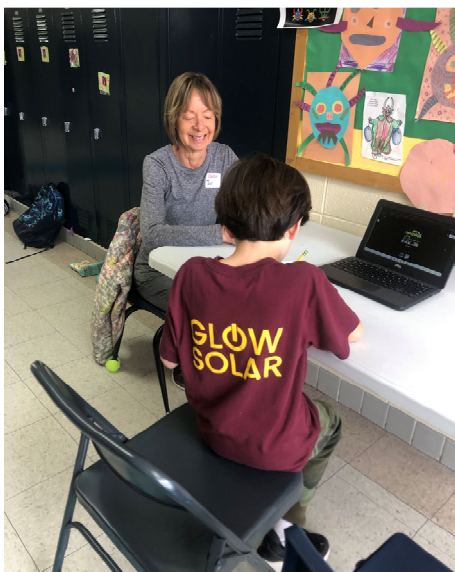
63 Volunteers

9 Volunteer Stations

2,531 Hours

Intergenerational volunteers serve students, teachers, and classrooms throughout Dane County. Volunteers can be found in schools, afterschool programs, community centers, and nonprofit programs, serving in a wide variety of roles. You will find volunteer tutors, mentors, classroom assistants, guest speakers and computer buddies offering student support to increase engagement and improve student success. Intergenerational volunteers provide the presence of an additional adult allowing the added attention needed to increase student confidence in learning.

"The excitement and joy I find in these students is so refreshing. As I walk into the classroom, the first thing I see are all the hands going up in the air. They want to read or write with me. With each one, I have a chance to talk about their assignments, book characters they love and the eclipse was a great sharing experience!! One day, the entire class got a chance to make their own fleece scarf for themselves and then make another for the needy with supplies I brought in. Fun fun." - Intergenerational Volunteer



COMMUNITY IMPACT

Driver Services



Volunteer drivers provide help that promotes independent living for Dane County Seniors, 60 years and older, and Veterans of any age, through four different programs.

Driver Escort

- **4,280 rides for 743 passengers**
- **107,421 meals to homebound seniors**
- **332,039 miles of driving**

571 Volunteers

14 Volunteer Stations

27,852 Hours



Driver Escort

Drivers provide rides to Dane County residents, 60 years and older, to medical and other important appointments.

Home Delivered Meals

Drivers deliver noon hour meals to seniors and veterans in Dane County communities outside Madison/Monona to help them maintain access to healthy, nutritious meals.

Food Bridge

Drivers are paired with a senior living in Madison or Monona who is low-income and homebound, to shop for and deliver groceries from area food pantries to them on a regular basis.



COMMUNITY IMPACT

Vets Helping Vets Drivers



Vets Helping Vets

Veteran Drivers provide rides to veterans and their immediate family members of any age.

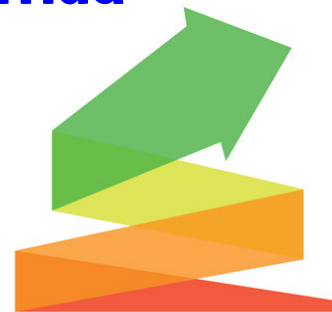
Vets Helping Vets

- **1,585 Vets rides for 283 passengers**



Triad brings together older adults, law enforcement, and the community at-large to promote safety and reduce the fear of crime. Providing information about personal safety and crime prevention is vital to our mission. Volunteers are a key element in our success. Triad's numerous safety programs provided nearly 700 hours of safety education to older adults.

Triad



17 Volunteers

2 Triad Sites

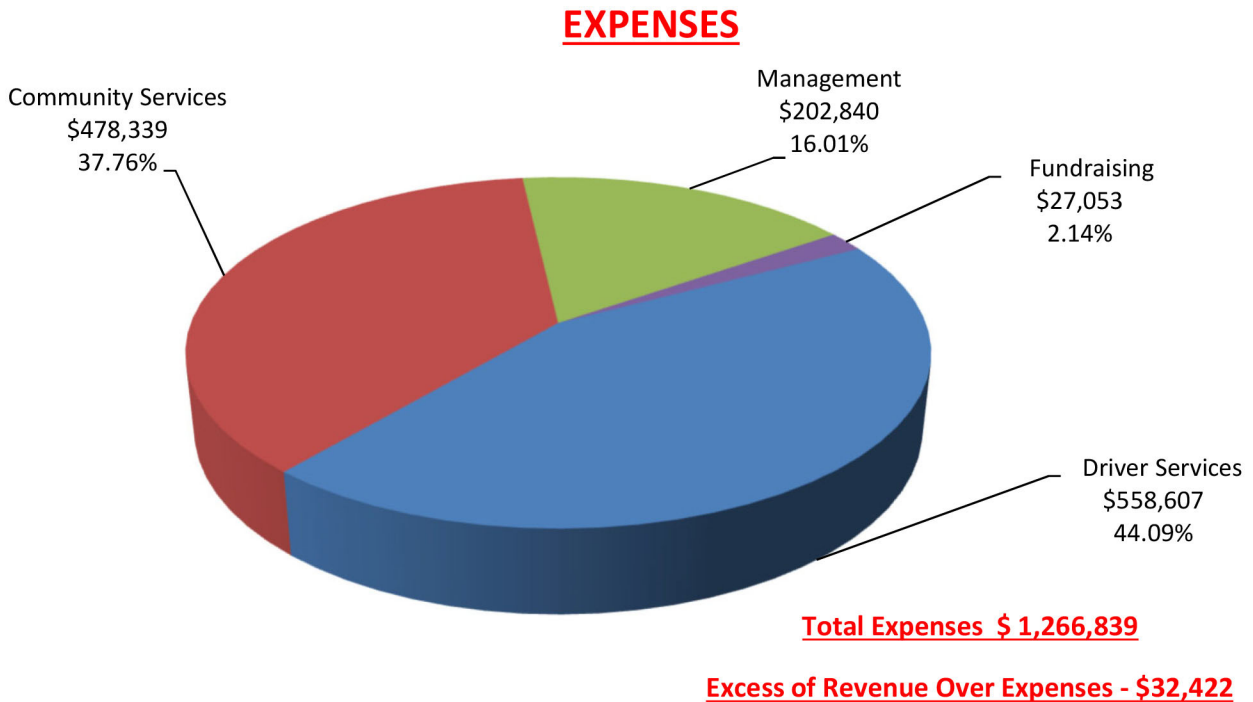
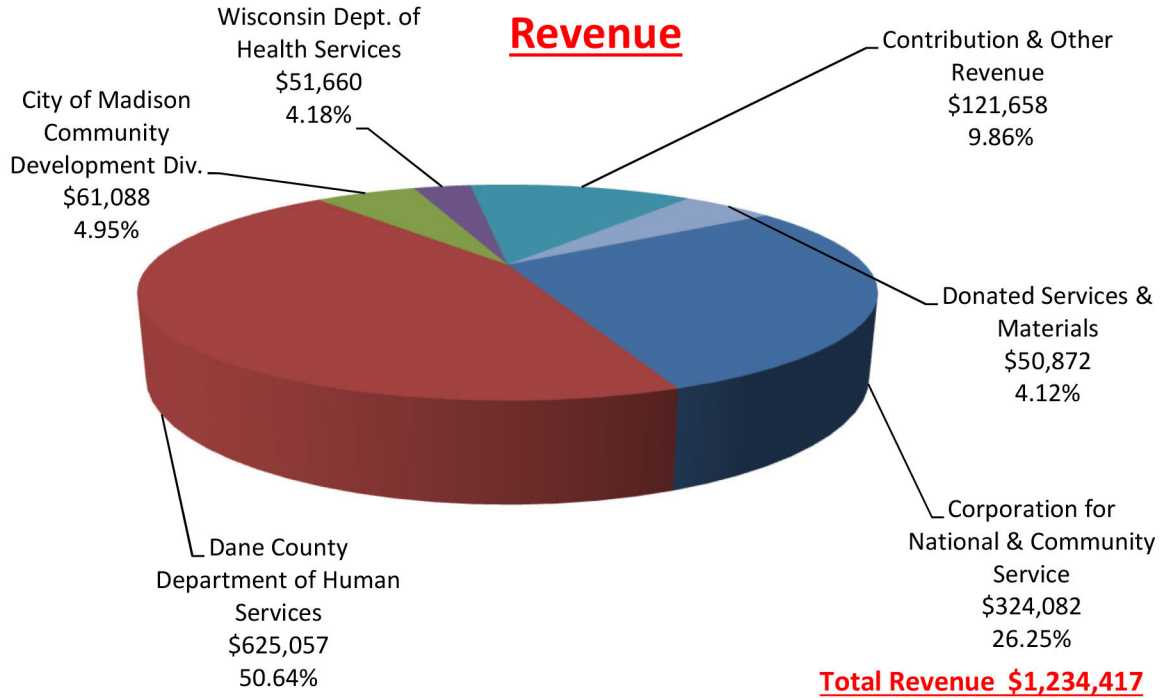
659 Hours

26 Programs

636 Participants

FINANCIALS

RSVP OF DANE COUNTY, INC AUDITED ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT 2023



Legacy Fund: 12/31/2023 Balance	\$1,321,398
MCF Fund	\$35,457
Rent Stabilization Fund	\$494,585

Audited Financial Statement

The Legacy Fund provides 4% of the year-end balance annually to support, personnel, facility and equipment costs, to enhance volunteer programs, to foster new programs, to provide grant matching funds, and to assist with short-term cash flow needs.

GIVING STATEMENT

Thank you to all who support RSVP of Dane County. We are grateful for all the individuals, community groups, corporations, and funders who have helped RSVP volunteers respond to community needs through a 2023 contribution. Due to space constraints, only gifts of \$100 or more are recognized here. We also thank our many in-kind donors who help sustain our programs. All donors are listed in RSVP News Notes.

There are several ways to make a contribution to RSVP:

Annual Fund, Memorials and Tributes: Volunteers, family members, and friends can be recognized through a tribute or memorial listed in *RSVP News Notes*, our quarterly newsletter.

Sweepstakes: An annual fundraising appeal with a chance to win a prize!

Tony Farina Endowment Fund: This permanent endowment fund was created in 1998 to support RSVP volunteer programs. You may make your gift directly to RSVP of Dane County, Inc. or to the Madison Community Foundation by noting your contribution is for the Tony Farina Endowment Fund for RSVP.

Heideman Endowed Fund for Staff Compensation: This fund was created in 2007 to provide program and support staff with a minimal salary increase during difficult economic times. You may make your gift directly to RSVP by noting your contribution is for the Heideman Endowed Fund.

Legacy Fund: By including a planned gift in your estate plan, you help to ensure that RSVP will have the financial support to continue its programs for future generations. You also make a lasting, powerful statement to family and friends about your values and encourage others to share in your vision.

In-Kind Gifts: RSVP welcomes in-kind contributions such as program supplies, volunteer appreciation gifts, and office equipment or supplies.

In the 40th Anniversary year, the **Leadership Circle**, formed in 2008, was restructured to recognize a range of cumulative individual contribution levels. There are now more than 100 people who have made significant financial contributions over time. These contributions have been so important, enabling RSVP to maintain and even expand some services in spite of our challenging economic years. *“Never in my wildest imaginings did I think that my small donations could ever be counted as significant. But small efforts over time really do add up and now I find myself a member of RSVP’s Leadership Circle!”*

In 2015, RSVP received significant planned gifts from the Eileen Erb Trust and the Dave Stucki Individual Retirement Account, establishing a Legacy Fund. Our **Legacy Circle** recognizes our friends and supporters whose generous donations will help us meet the ever-growing demands for our services in the future.

Would you like to provide for RSVP of Dane County as part of your legacy? You might designate RSVP as a beneficiary in a will, trust, insurance policy, or investment. Please talk to your legal or financial advisor. For more information, you may also contact Executive Director Diana Jost at 608.441.1393.

DONORS

2023 MAJOR FUNDERS

AmeriCorps Seniors (Corporation for
National and Community Service)
City of Madison Community Development
Division
Dane County Department of
Human Services
Wisconsin Department of Health Services

LEGACY CIRCLE

Jack and Donna Anderson
Kathryn S. Arndt
Bill Arthur
Holly Brassington
Eileen Erb Trust*
George A. Fait Family Trust*
Rose Mary Feltzkowski
Kevin Gould
Carroll Heideman
Isabel Hubbard
Roland Krogstad*
Harold and Donna Sabot
Dave Stucki*
Dick Sweet*
Margie and Keith Zutter

LEADERSHIP CIRCLE

Diamond Level - \$10,000+ cumulative

Leroy Adler
Jack and Donna Anderson
Michael J. and Barbara Foley
Kevin Gould and Nancy Baillies
Wayne and Barbara Halverson
Carroll Heideman
Margaret Jensen
Thomas and Margie Krauskopf
Kit-Yin Ling
Rita* and Reiny Meihnsner
Michael and Marita Menard
Jack and Patricia Mitchell
Mary Odell
Harold Sabot
Mary Stamstad
Dawn Stucki
Tom and Kathy Thousand
Margie and Keith Zutter

Platinum Level - \$8,000 - \$9,999

Thomas and Ann Duter

Gold Level - \$5,000 - \$7,999 cumulative

Lee and Mary Ihlenfeldt
James and Sue Jenkins
Frederick Kruger

Mick and Lu Maier
Daniel and Robin McCarthy
John and Donna Montgomery
Judy Olson
Barbara and Morris Schoenberg
Doris Schroeder
John and Carmen Skilton
Richard and Marcia Taugher
Dave and Helen Tetzlaff
Bob and Jeanne Topel
William Wiedenbeck
John Woodford
David and Julie Worzala

Silver Level - \$2,000 - \$4,999 cumulative

Judith Amacker
Bill Arthur
John Betthausen
Holly Brassington
Trudy Brule
Charles and Joanne Bunge
Arnold and Donna Chandler
Karen Cunningham
Lou Ceil Dahlen
Jenny Dahm
Peg Davey
Richard T. Dewitt
James and Kathy Esser
Arnold and Diane Evensen
Grant Gelhar
Tom and Muriel Howells
Kim and John Jensen
Carol and Richard Karls
Alison Koelsch
Monna Kolbe
Kelly Krein
Robert Lenz
Virginia Logsdon
Georgiana Luecker
Lucile McFee
Dale Nordeen*
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Thomas and Susan Seal
Ron and Ann Semmann
Deborah Ann Speckmann
Charles and Kay Spelbring
Tim and Lori Stadelman
Robert and Pat Thomasgard
Sandy L. Turk
Judy Zvara

* In Remembrance

ANNUAL FUND - Friends of RSVP

PATRON

(\$500-\$999)

Bernice Hughes
Robert and Gail Korb
Duane and Wendy Reichel
Richard Riesen
Darlene Vervoort
Jim Weber
Katelyn Zutter

SPONSOR

(\$250-\$499)

Brian Alme
Ron and Bev Anderson
Mel Bankes
Ginger Gostomski
Kathleen Heimann
Isabel Hubbard
Gwen Jaeger
Sharifa S. Merchant
John and Pat Perkins
Susan Ridley
Diane Schuck
Rhea Schultz
Robert and Pat Thomasgard
Susan M. Zander

ADVOCATE

(\$100-\$249)

Julie L. Allen
Ken Anderson
Kathryn S. Arndt
John and Carol Arseneau
Mary Ashley
Lisa Aumann
Edward Baker
Janet Baumann
Dorothy Borchardt
Mary Frances Brown
Edward Bunde
Mary Caulfield
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Ann Coyle
Thomas and Sally Coyle
Nancy Crossfield
David Cuff
Ross and Penny DePaola
Loretta Dichraff
Donald Duerst
Jane Eisner

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DONORS

(continued from page 13)

R. Guy and Janet Ferris
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David Gill
Ronald Goral
Linda Green
Gary and Eileen Hartog
Catigan Hedican
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Jeanne R. Hook
Lorrie and John Hylkema
Barbara Johnson
Mary V. H. Jones
Diana Jost
Dolores H. Kahl
Lori and Dick Kalnicky
Chuck Kamp
Carol and Richard Karls
Mikel and Sharon Kezer
Susan Knowles
Mark Kolan
Mary Kolocek
Axel Kotch
John Kuech
Greg and Ann Landry
John Latham
Saul and Patricia Levin
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Mike Wild
Dennis and Pat Wood

RSVP also expresses its sincere appreciation to the Donors who contributed up to \$99 during 2023 but due to space constraints could not be listed. All donors are listed in RSVP News Notes.



RSVP appreciates donors who contributed through the United Way of Dane County State Employees Campaign.

GRANTS

Alliant Energy Foundation
Endres Manufacturing Company Foundation
The Evjue Foundation
Madison Community Foundation - Altrusa International Inc. of Madison
Madison South Rotary Foundation
Middleton VFW Post 8216
Stoughton Area Community Foundation

CORPORATE EVENT AND PROGRAM SPONSORS

Madison Gas & Electric
UW Health
Unity Point Health - Meriter
Custer Burish Financial Services
Mike and Barbara Foley
SSM Health
US Bank
Corporate Business Systems
Group Health Cooperative
Sub-Zero and Wolf Foundation
TDS
Wegner CPAs

BUSINESSES PROVIDING HOME - DELIVERED MEAL DRIVERS

RSVP Driver Services salutes the following businesses for encouraging their employees to serve as Home Delivered Meal Drivers:
Placon
BMO Bank
Lake Ridge Bank
Holcim

TRIAD CONFERENCE SPONSORS

AARP Wisconsin
Old National Bank
Wisconsin Chiefs of Police Association

RSVP OF DANE COUNTY STAFF

RSVP STAFF

Diana Jost
Executive Director

Kate Seal
Assistant Director

Jack Guzman
Office Support Administrator

Krishna Sijapati
Accountant

Dell Barlow
Madison/Monona Ride
Coordinator

Tara Curtis
Group Projects/Homeworkers
Program Coordinator

Lorrie Hylkema
Vets Helping Vets Coordinator

Steve Jaeschke
Driver Services Manager

Jan Karst
Community Connections and
Bus Buddies Coordinator

Camela King
Driver Services Coordinator

Paula Reif
Foster Grandparent Coordinator
and Intergenerational Program
Coordinator

Mike Thomsen
TRIAD Coordinator

Debbie Vogt
Driver Services
Administrative Assistant

Employment ended in 2023/24
Robin Heilprin
Virginia Scholtz
Margie Zutter



RSVP of Dane County
6501 Watts Road, Suite 250
Madison, Wisconsin 53719
Telephone: (608) 238-7787 FAX: (608) 238-7931
Email: info@rsvpdane.org
Website: www.rsvpdane.org

