



# NEWS NOTES

Spring 2024

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

## Thank You, Drivers!

*by Steve Jaeschke, Driver Services Manager*

**D**river Services, with the help of all of RSVP, had a fantastic early spring giveaway! Blankets and emergency car kits were (and are) available to all of our drivers.

We thank our partners in the field, all of our drivers, and give a shout out to our staff, all of whom helped to pass out blankets and emergency kits wherever we needed to be.

Your dedication and commitment to serving your community and helping to ensure the well-being of seniors deserves our gratitude and ongoing support.



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McFarland



Verona



NW Dane

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volunteer  
opportunities?  
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## RSVP Board Notes

**H**appy Spring or should I say welcome back to winter with the forecast predicting snow!

The Board has been busy attending the various committee meetings. Volunteers are welcome to sit on our various committees whether it be Assessment, Development, Marketing, or any of the other committees. As Volunteers you

have a wealth of knowledge that are interested in hearing about. Feel free to contact Jan Karst and let her know that you are willing to sit on a committee.



You may recall, last year RSVP contracted with The People Company to conduct a Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) Assessment. All in all, RSVP received favorable marks; however, we want to do better. Also, last year the Assessment Committee conducted a Community Connections Assessment. Again, RSVP received favorable marks, but we would like to do better. In light of this, on April 15<sup>th</sup> The People Company will be facilitating a Board Retreat to ascertain - given the assessments' recommendations - how we can better serve our community. We will be sharing the outcomes later this year.

On April 24<sup>th</sup> RSVP will be hosting an Open House from 1:00 – 3:00pm. This will give you, our volunteers, supporters, and community members the opportunity to meet the staff and members of the Board to learn first-hand what we are planning for the year. It will also be an opportunity for you to explore the numerous volunteer opportunities RSVP has to offer. There will be a brief program and light refreshments. Please consider stopping in and getting to know old and new faces.

June 17<sup>th</sup> is the Board's Annual Meeting. You are welcome to attend; just let Jack Guzman know so we will have enough food. At the Annual Meeting we focus on the work of the various RSVP Programs. So, as with the Open House, this is an opportunity to learn more about RSVP.

Deborah Ann Speckmann  
 President, RSVP Board of Directors



# From the Desk of...

*Diana Jost*  
Executive Director

## Behind-the-scenes at RSVP

**H**ave you ever wondered what goes on behind the scenes at RSVP?

How do we choose projects, recruit volunteers, place volunteers, plan events, make a budget, and keep our name known in the community? Among the 1200 plus RSVP volunteers helping throughout our community, there is a

small group of dedicated volunteers who serve on various committees with RSVP staff and Board Members.

And now.... **WE NEED YOU!** RSVP is looking for more volunteers to serve on our committees.

Are you a party planner? The Recognition Committee plans and implements RSVPs Annual Volunteer Appreciation events, and other recognition opportunities throughout

the year.

If you like fundraising, the Development Committee coordinates fundraising activities and, along with the Grants Committee, explores income sources such as foundations, businesses, and private and federal grants.

Do you enjoy working with numbers and budgets? The Financial Oversight and Planning Committee is responsible for long-term financial planning, the budgeting process, financial



statement review, and audit recommendations.

Maybe you have some great ideas on inclusion and diversity. The Diversity Committee

*(continued on page 7)*

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## Why Intergenerational Volunteering Matters

*By Paula Reif, Foster Grandparent and Intergenerational Program Coordinator*

**S**ocial isolation is a primary determinant of health and well-being. The Surgeon General's Report, *Our Epidemic of Loneliness and Isolation, The U.S. Surgeon General's Advisory on The Healing Effects of Social Connection and Community, 2023*, details some of the significant health risks associated with a lack of social connection for older adults. Volunteering through RSVP of Dane County offers a diverse array of opportunities to serve the community in meaningful ways. Whatever your interest, the Dane County area offers a plethora of options for service. Volunteering is a great way to connect with others, stay active, and keep your mind engaged.

Those benefits are enhanced when you volunteer with children. The Surgeon General's Report notes that social isolation also inhibits student progression, reducing academic outcomes. The structure, function, and quality of intergenerational supportive relationships can combat this outcome. Research shows that children as young as three years of age develop negative stereotypes about older adults. Stereotypes can change with regular contact and meaningful interaction with older adults. Building those relationships with children promotes resilience, equipping them to manage adversity and identify solutions.

Read on to hear the testimony of one of RSVP's Intergenerational volunteers who is in their first year at a school. The volunteer so eloquently reflects the benefits of intergenerational connections with the students, revealing the impact their service is having for both the advancement they see in the students and their personal health benefits.

"The benefits just keep adding up. Seeing the kids grow in their love of reading and in 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."

"I've been able to get my step numbers and endurance up. I seldom have to use my walker and cane anymore. With the extra exercise I've been able to build up my leg and ankle strength so my balance is better. So now I walk for pleasure too. I've only had one fall since I started at school. Previous to that I would fall 1-2 times or more a month. I like walking more now that I don't feel like I'm going to fall all the time. It's all like a snowball. I'm planning to leave the mental health program I'm with in the next few weeks because I now have a purpose, happiness, and fulfillment that I have not had in a very long time. Previous to that I thought about suicide all the time. I couldn't get it out of my mind. I no longer do that and instead have happy thoughts from how great life has become. Thank you for all of the many ways you make our later lives fulfilling and happy."

*Contact Paula Reif, Intergenerational Programs Coordinator, [preif@rsvpdane.org](mailto:preif@rsvpdane.org), to learn more about intergenerational volunteer options.*

## RSVP Vets Helping Vets Features Wisconsin Stories About Veterans Day

By Lorrie Hylkema, Vets Helping Vets Coordinator

Vets Helping Vets (VHV) Coordinator Lorrie Hylkema organized a fantastic presentation to recognize Veterans Day this year on behalf of RSVP of Dane County. During a hybrid meeting, on Zoom and in-person at local VFW Post 1318 in Fitchburg, Kevin Hampton, Curator of History at the Wisconsin Veterans Museum, shared “Beyond the Trenches – WWI Stories from Wisconsin”.

Kevin discussed stories about notable Wisconsin World War I veterans and the history behind the origin of Veterans Day, known elsewhere as Armistice Day. Some examples of the stories were:

1. William Temple from Oconto Falls – he kept a vivid diary of being on the front lines in France as a survivor of a poison gas attack. He spoke about not being able to see or talk for about a week and how being burned by gas exposure felt.
2. Rodney Williams of Delafield – was a pilot in the 17<sup>th</sup> Aero Squadron. He was described as reckless, yet he was celebrated by his fellow pilots, even performing a “Williams” (a lean in direction of desired travel and modulating engine output power).
3. Morris Togstad – the last Madisonian to die in WWI on November 10, 1918.
4. Helen Bolvsky – a nurse at Base Hospital 22.
5. John Seng – a Milwaukee native from the 120<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery. He described seeing unimaginable sights – maggots and dead Germans “everywhere” – in his words. There was a lot of gas, but he was well protected by his gas mask.



l to r: Kevin Hampton, Lorrie Hylkema, Steve Jaeschke, Camela King, Diana Jost

In all 122,215 Wisconsinites served in WWI and 3,932 died. Armistice Day, later known as Veterans Day here in the U.S. and Remembrance Day in the British Commonwealth, commemorates the end of WWI on the 11<sup>th</sup> hour of the 11<sup>th</sup> day of the 11<sup>th</sup> month of 1918. The presentation was incredibly informative and engaging. *Thank you, Kevin!*

Following Kevin’s talk, prizes were given out in a drawing including all 49 participants. This was a record number of participants for a RSVP monthly Zoom event. Thank you for attending! We would also like to thank our hosts at VFW Post 1318 who were friendly, helpful, and gracious beyond all expectations. Curators at the Wisconsin Veterans Museum will be holding more talks at local VFWs in the area, so please be on the lookout for these. Both the Wisconsin Veterans Museum and the RSVP staff want to feature, honor, and preserve the memories of the brave Wisconsinites who served our country during military conflicts. These stories are important to remember, tell, and share.

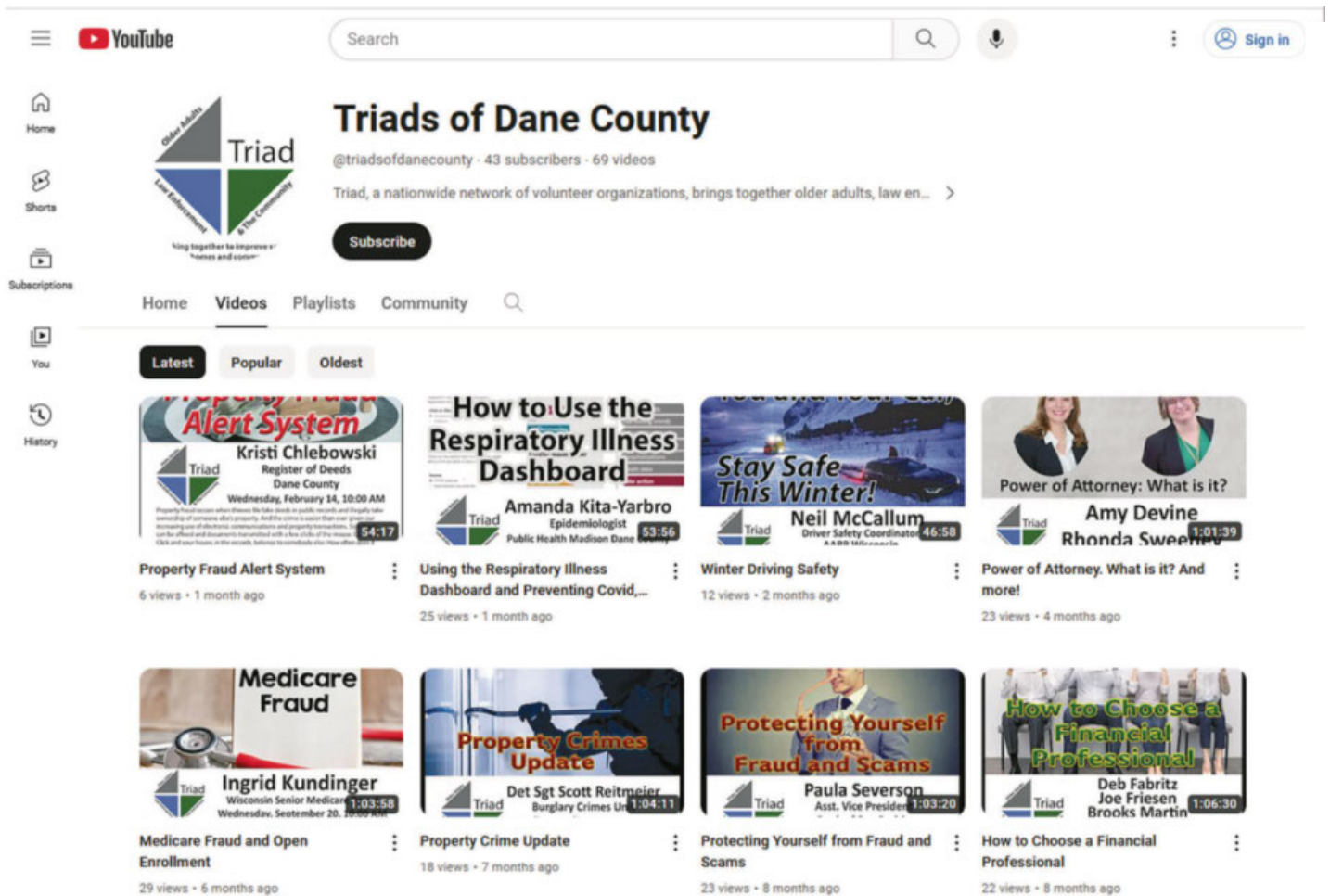
# Triad's YouTube Channel is a Terrific Safety Resource

By Mike Thomsen, Triad Coordinator

Did you know that our Triad program has a YouTube channel where nearly all of the Triad presentations since June 2020 are available to the public? All in all, there are 69 videos covering a wide range of topics including fire safety, thwarting burglaries, safe driving tips, recognizing scams, and more.

A friend told me recently that she was thinking about setting up a power of attorney, but she said it was all a little confusing. It's a little confusing to most people. That's why in the last year Triad had two presentations related to power of attorney, one with an elder law attorney and a daily money manager, and the other with an advance care directives counselor.

Did you catch the presentation two weeks ago about lithium-ion battery safety? Do you have any electronic devices powered by lithium-ion batteries? Most likely you do! These powerful batteries are in nearly everything these days from our cellphones to our computers to the electric bicycles, cars and buses we take to work, AND they are responsible for an increasing number of fires in our homes and vehicles, according to Madison Firefighter Cameron Gasaway. Cameron's presentation on lithium-ion battery fire safety two weeks ago was packed with vital information we all need these days to safely enjoy the benefits offered by devices powered by lithium-ion batteries. If you missed that presentation, it is available on the Triad YouTube Channel <http://youtube.com/@triadsofdanecounty>.



(continued from page 3)

works to increase the diversity of our volunteer pool, identifies opportunities, and coordinates efforts for inclusion.

Is art your passion? If you're interested in art, design, and media, the Marketing Committee increases RSVP of Dane County's visibility and promotes its programs to the community through special events, the RSVP website, brochures, flyers, media, and communication systems.

Do you like figuring out how things work? The Assessment Committee reviews one RSVP program each year on a rotating basis. Committee members use surveys, interviews, and site visits to figure out how each program is working and where changes can be made to address new or changing community needs.

Whatever your passion, whatever you enjoy doing, we have a committee to fit your interests. Have fun! Meet new people! Have a voice, and be an advocate for seniors!

Join one of RSVP's committees and help us keep making a difference in our community.

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## A Day in the Life of An RSVP Liaison

By Tara Curtis, Group Projects/Homeworkers Program Coordinator

*RSVP's Group Projects & Homeworkers Program needs more volunteer liaisons to serve as a link between the program and volunteers working in groups and/or on their own. One of our liaisons, Ann Landry, agreed to sit down with Program Coordinator Tara Curtis to shed light on what this work entails and the rewards that come along with it.*

Laughter and talking fill the large bright room in the basement of the Fitchburg Community Center. In a corner, flanked by large windows pouring in natural light, is the source of most of these happy sounds. A group of around a dozen knitters and crocheters sit working diligently on projects while telling one another stories, swapping project advice, and joking. The group is presided over by group leader Ann White, who only leaves her post to welcome the group's liaison.

When liaison Ann Landry walks in, loaded down with large bags filled with yarn, she heads to a table near the group where White helps her arrange the skeins by color. They visit and laugh and discuss the projects that could be made with the yarn Landry has brought from the RSVP storeroom. Once their work is done, the group members make their way over to the table to do some shopping, many of them finding supplies to make shawls, lap afghans, and other items of warmth and comfort to be donated back to RSVP and shared with the community.

Then, Landry and White work side by side gathering finished donated items into groups and tagging them so recipients know they come from the Fitchburg Knitters RSVP group. Landry then packs the items up and sits down to talk more about what she does as a liaison, and what skills folks need to do the job.

A liaison does not need to be a skilled craftsperson to do the job. "I am primarily a delivery and pick-up service," Landry says with a chuckle. She started as a liaison in 2016 after retiring and realizing she needed some more structure in her life. "It doesn't feel like eight years!"

"I love seeing the creativity that comes out of the groups," Landry says. "Sometimes I recognize the yarn that comes out in the projects, but a lot of times it's done in a way I didn't envision. It's amazing to see what they come up with!"

Landry shares that the time commitment of liaison work is less than some might imagine, but the impact is substantial. She is the liaison for two groups that meet in Fitchburg; one is knitters and crocheters, and the other quilters. Between these two groups, she puts in about four to six hours per month. "It makes you feel helpful," Landry says. "Especially when you see everything going out."

"I'm part of the chain that meets a community need."

*RSVP needs more liaisons to work with groups and homeworkers, and we'd love to talk more with you about this volunteer opportunity! Learn more about becoming an RSVP Volunteer Liaison by contacting Tara Curtis at [tc Curtis@rsvpdane.org](mailto:tc Curtis@rsvpdane.org) or 608.310.7280.*



Fitchburg Knitters group leader Ann White, left, and Liaison Ann Landry



## WELCOME New Volunteers

We enrolled 118 new volunteers from December, 2023, through February, 2024, 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!

- |                     |                     |                        |                      |
|---------------------|---------------------|------------------------|----------------------|
| Reid Aaron          | Kathleen Dreyer     | Suzanne M. Larsen      | James A. Schwanke    |
| Debra Annen         | John Dunn           | James E. Larson        | Doreen Seely         |
| Norman J. Arendt    | Patricia Eggen      | Amy E. Magnus          | Ron (William) Seely  |
| Bonnie Averkamp     | Deborah M. Ehlinger | Diana L. Mahaffey      | Daniel R. Severson   |
| Ann Ayala           | Susan Eifert        | Kathleen McCahey       | Lou Slamar           |
| Kelly R. Babler     | Gregory Falk        | Kathleen McCormick     | Bill Snyder          |
| Elizabeth A. Barlow | Mary Lou Feller     | Linda McDonald         | Donna H. Stewart     |
| Jane G. Barnard     | Earl Fischer        | Joan M. McGowan-Merlin | Joanne Stoffel       |
| Thomas H. Bartell   | Teri Fisher         | John McGuire           | Therese Strome       |
| Hannah L. Bassetti  | Mary E. Franson     | Karen L. McGuire       | Glenn Teschendorf    |
| Blake K. Baxter     | Laurie L. Frey      | Andrew Moisey          | Gary Theobold        |
| Carter Behr         | Christina Gomoll    | Heather R. Mortenson   | Eric J. Tyree        |
| Steve Berry         | Diane Graczyk       | Cheryl Neupert         | Kenneth Vogel        |
| Scott Berryman      | Gay Gross           | Jeni J. Nielsen        | Laura Vogel          |
| Andrew Bodden       | Betty Grotophorst   | Melanie Niesen         | Richard Vogt         |
| Linda Boettcher     | Terry Gunning       | Marlene Null           | Debbie Wagner        |
| Roger W. Boettcher  | David A. Haglund    | Michael O'Shea         | Barb Walker          |
| Barbara Borkovec    | Yvonne C. Handell   | Sarah A. Olson         | Herb Watson          |
| Elsa (Beate) Braun  | Annette Hartung     | Lori Padrutt           | Joan Watson          |
| Gary A. Brogan      | Tammi Henke         | Mike Padrutt           | Mary Watson          |
| Heidi F. Brown      | Todd K. Hetzel      | Elizabeth Paul         | Camilia J. Wepner    |
| Doris Byrnes        | Heather J. Hogan    | Laurance Pierce        | Randall A. Westbrook |
| Craig A. Clayton    | Steven A. Holtzman  | James Powell           | Cheryl Wiersma       |
| Demyla Conner       | Krista Kasten       | Tristan L. Putman      | Patti Witt           |
| Steven C. Crawford  | Sarah I. Kaszubski  | Rebecca L. Race        | Barbara Woods        |
| Susan Crawford      | Suzanne Kibort      | Paula Riesch           | Darlene (Dee) Wylie  |
| Jeremy Crosby       | Stephanie J. Kolden | Rita Riley             | Karen Young          |
| Beverly Cushman     | Janice Krall        | Patty Ringstad         | Kathleen Zupan       |
| Pascale Dhellemme   | Charlene Krembs     | Andrea Roth            |                      |
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## Front Desk Volunteers at the Middleton Senior Center

By *Diana Haverberg*

When Bill Deno was hired recently as the morning receptionist at the Senior Center, he learned that he is assisted by a team of 15 dedicated volunteers who staff the desk every afternoon and provide backup in the mornings during busy times at the Center. The reception desk is the first stop for everyone coming for senior services, lunch, entertainment, exercise classes, programs, card games, or quiet time with puzzles.

Volunteers greet everyone and answer questions, register members for the large variety of classes offered, make appointments for footcare or taxes, and take reservations for trips and special programs. Melodee Vogt, Volunteer Coordinator, trains all the volunteers and keeps them up to date with policy changes. Paperwork was recently streamlined for participants in exercise classes. Credit cards are now accepted for trips and classes.



Helen Gadbois

Helen Gadbois has been helping at the desk for about 2 ½ years, four shifts per month. She started when the Center reopened following the pandemic, and she was eager to be with people again! She says everyone is so nice to talk to, and it is fun getting to know new people. Sometimes guests are stressed, seeking help with serious issues, and they remain polite when they don't know how to discuss a specific need. Helen appreciates that the work is not physically demanding, with phone time and friendly conversation at the desk. She said this is a great job for anyone who has experience just talking to people. Helen and her husband also volunteer at the Henry Vilas Zoo where he runs the Carousel, and she enjoys watching kids at play, in contrast to senior friendships at the Center.

Eileen Collins ventured into the Center while exploring Middleton after moving here in 2021 with her husband. She had just retired from the Oregon School District. Her secretarial experience was a “natural fit” for volunteering at the desk, helping people with whatever they need. She is on duty two shifts per month or more if needed, and she also works substitute dining center shifts and is on the special events team. She was initially surprised at the amount of activity at the Center, and now she is a part of it. With three grown children and grandchildren in the area, and more volunteering at her church, she keeps busy.

The Middleton Senior Center is for anyone over 55, so please stop in like Eileen did. Check out activities and volunteer options, enjoy the atmosphere, discover your niche.

## Want to get in Touch with Us?

Simply dial 608.238.RSVP (7787) or e-mail us at [info@rsvpdane.org](mailto: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.

### ADMINISTRATIVE

Diana Jost, *Executive Director*  
608.441.1393, [djost@rsvpdane.org](mailto:djost@rsvpdane.org)  
Kate Seal, *Assistant Director*  
608.661.4271, [kseal@rsvpdane.org](mailto:kseal@rsvpdane.org)  
Jack Guzman, *Office Support Administrator*  
608.238.7933,  
[jguzman@rsvpdane.org](mailto:jguzman@rsvpdane.org)  
Krishna Sijapati, *Accountant*  
608.441.7899, [ksijapati@rsvpdane.org](mailto:ksijapati@rsvpdane.org)

### PROGRAM COORDINATORS

Jan Karst, *Community Connections Coordinator*  
608.441.7891, [jkarst@rsvpdane.org](mailto:jkarst@rsvpdane.org)  
Paula Reif, *Foster Grandparent and Intergenerational Program Coordinator*  
608.441.7894, [preif@rsvpdane.org](mailto:preif@rsvpdane.org)  
Tara Curtis, *Group Projects/ Homeworkers Program Coordinator*  
608.310.7280, [tcurtis@rsvpdane.org](mailto:tcurtis@rsvpdane.org)

Mike Thomsen, *Triad Coordinator*  
608.441.7897,  
[mthomsen@rsvpdane.org](mailto:mthomsen@rsvpdane.org)  
**DRIVER SERVICES PROGRAM**  
Steve Jaeschke, *Driver Services Manager*  
608.441.7892,  
[sjaeschke@rsvpdane.org](mailto:sjaeschke@rsvpdane.org)  
Camela King, *Driver Services Coordinator*  
608.441.7896, [cking@rsvpdane.org](mailto:cking@rsvpdane.org)  
Dell Barlow, *Madison/Monona Ride Coordinator*  
608.441.7898, [dbarlow@rsvpdane.org](mailto:dbarlow@rsvpdane.org)  
Lorrie Hylkema, *Vets Helping Vets Coordinator*  
608.238.7901,  
[lhylkema@rsvpdane.org](mailto:lhylkema@rsvpdane.org) or  
[vetshelpingvets@rsvpdane.org](mailto:vetshelpingvets@rsvpdane.org)  
Debbie Vogt, *Driver Services Administrative Assistant and Bus Buddy Program Assistant*  
608.310.7281,  
[dvogt@rsvpdane.org](mailto:dvogt@rsvpdane.org)



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## Connect and Create with Oregon RSVP!

By Tara Curtis, Group Projects/Homeworkers Program Coordinator

On the fourth Monday of each month, a group of RSVP volunteers meet at the Oregon Senior Center to show off their finished handmade items, get input on current projects, and find inspiration from one another. This group includes a variety of makers, including crocheters, knitters, quilters, and sewists, and new members are welcome to join!

“People may not know that they don’t have to go buy anything,” said Karen Owen. Owen has been an RSVP volunteer for over five years. “Thread, yarn, fabric ... RSVP can find supplies for volunteers to work with.” Owen joined the group after seeing a meeting at the Oregon Senior Center and realizing she knew a couple of the women there. She likes to sew, mainly working on lap quilts, fidget blankets, and infant taggies. Her daughter often finds items for adding to the fidget quilts and even tests the completed ones. Owen is also innovative when quilting. She is currently working on a lap quilt that includes a pocket that will allow the recipient to fold their hands inside the pocket on their lap.

Jo McDowell was on the receiving end of just this type of handmade lap quilt while recovering from surgery in the hospital. She remembers the warmth and comfort of the handmade quilt, and she finds it meaningful to be able to provide that service to others. “I like the satisfaction of knowing you’re doing something that helps someone else – to give back,” McDowell said. McDowell loves crocheting dishcloths for RSVP, each one a colorful work of art. These are distributed to food pantries and other organizations to help with household cleaning as well as personal hygiene. McDowell also loves to quilt and sew. She joined the group after moving to Oregon five years ago.

Another member who found the group upon moving to the area is Annie Guss, who joined in 2023. Guss enjoys sewing lap quilts and tote bags. “I’ve created a whole system for doing the small totes so I have a little assembly line and can do them fairly quickly,” Guss said. She likes volunteering with RSVP’s Group Projects & Homeworkers program because it’s independent work and you can go at your own pace. RSVP appreciates what volunteers are able to do and doesn’t have productivity demands or expectations. Guss shared that the program is great “for someone who wants to take some time to get it right when sewing.” She likes that she can contribute meaningfully and connect with others while honoring how much she is able to do physically at the time.

Carol Olp, who has volunteered as part of the Oregon group for the last six years, echoed what Annie said, “What you make can be smaller things or bigger as your time and interest allows.” Olp made elephant stuffed animals during the pandemic, and now enjoys making various sized quilts, knitted and crocheted hats and scarves, and fidget quilts. “There’s a variety of things for a variety of interests,” Olp said. Olp said she enjoys her work with RSVP because she knew when she retired, she would be creating things for others, and RSVP makes donating handmade items easy. Olp also shared a sentiment that runs through the experience of all RSVP Group Projects & Homeworkers volunteers, “It’s a chance to connect with people who share the same interests that you have.”

*If you are interested in joining the Oregon group and/or becoming a Group Projects & Homeworkers volunteer, contact Tara Curtis, [tcurtis@rsvpdane.org](mailto:tcurtis@rsvpdane.org) or 608.310.7280.*



Handmade items from the Oregon Group Project.



## **No-Cost Tips for Saving Energy**

*From Madison Gas and Electric (MGE)*

### **Practice Energy Efficiency**

Using energy efficiently is an easy way to reduce your environmental footprint and save energy. By working together with all our customers, we can meet our shared energy goals and achieve net-zero carbon electricity by 2050. Please join us by using these no-cost tips for saving energy at home!

### **Save Energy While Cooking**

Match the pot size to the burner size for energy-efficient cooking. If using a smaller pot, then use the smaller burner. The Department of Energy also recommends using the oven light instead of opening the door to prevent heat loss when checking on a dish's progress.

### **Reduce Heating Costs, Increase Comfort**

Open curtains or shades to let in the sun during the day to reduce heating costs. At night, close shades to improve comfort.

### **Wash With Cold Water**

A washing machine spends an estimated 90% of its energy to heat water. Consider using cold water instead. In addition, try to wash full loads because the machine uses roughly the same amount of energy regardless of the load size.

### **Unplug Electronics**

Unplug your phone chargers, printers, computers and other electronics when you are not using them. These devices can still use energy when not in use and can account for 5% to 10% of your total energy use. Consider using a power strip or smart power strip that further reduces standby energy use without even unplugging!

### **Set Furnace Fan to Automatic**

Set your furnace fan to "auto" instead of "on." This is one of the biggest steps you can take to be energy efficient at home.

Get more energy-saving tips and information on our energy future at [mge2050.com](http://mge2050.com).

# 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

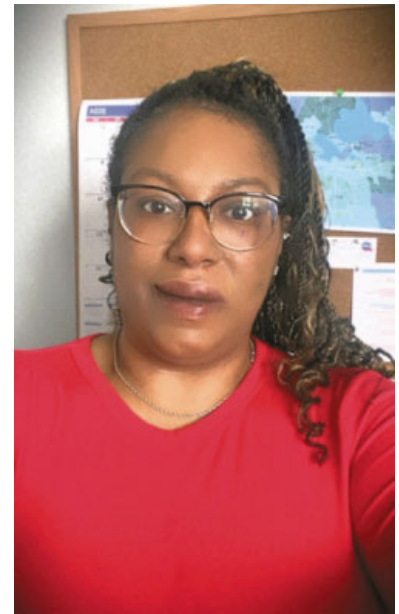
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### CONTRIBUTIONS WERE MADE TO RSVP IN HONOR OF

**Margie Zutter's Retirement and Continued Volunteer Involvement** by Harold and Donna Sabot

## Meet Dell Barlow Madison/Monona Ride Scheduler

I'm thrilled to join the incredible group of volunteer coordinators dedicated to serving the Madison community and veterans. As RSVP's new Madison & Monona Ride Scheduler, I am excited to bring my passion for community service and my background in account management to streamline our transportation coordination and ensure that our community members and veterans receive the support they need. Having grown up in Madison and previously worked at the VA hospital, I feel deeply connected to our mission and am eager to reconnect with the veteran community. I look forward to collaborating with each of you to make a positive impact in the lives of those we serve.



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## RSVP VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

*...where volunteers make a difference*

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

### SPRING OPPORTUNITIES

RSVP Volunteer Bus Buddy Coordinators are needed to help teach others how to navigate the Metro Bus system! Are you a seasoned bus rider who would like to help others open a whole new road to independence? You can help teach older adults, refugees, and people with disabilities to ride the buses to work, school, medical appointments, grocery stores, or places of interest.

**ALDO LEOPOLD NATURE CENTER** needs dedicated volunteers at their reception desk to engage with visitors, assist community members in person and via phone and email, and perform administrative tasks. Weekday and weekend shifts are available!

**SECOND HARVEST FOODBANK** is looking for a Mobile pantry Administrative Support Volunteer who can commit 3 hours a week to help with administrative tasks including inventory and supply management to ensure Mobile Food Pantries have all the necessary supplies and materials for a safe and organized distribution. They also need help sorting, labeling and packing food into family friendly portions for distribution. Volunteer projects are well-organized, safe, and led by wonderful staff members! Shifts are flexible and easy to sign up for!

**RONALD MCDONALD HOUSE** needs Weekend House Volunteers and Weekday Front Desk Volunteers. You can help with light housekeeping, organizing donations, welcoming guest families, answering phones and questions, and checking guests in and out. Volunteers are the first face and interaction with families in their moment of greatest need and being warm and welcoming is very important. Shifts are 3 hours long from 9am to 9pm once a week.

**ST VINCENT’S FOOD PANTRY** needs more volunteers to help sort and shelve produce in the mornings from 8am – 10am. Help make food available for shoppers who need it!

**LITERACY NETWORK** is starting to look ahead to their summer semester which runs from May 30<sup>th</sup> – August 21<sup>st</sup> and needs tutors for all their programs. There will be a training for new tutors the week of May 22<sup>nd</sup>. You can help with tutoring adults in Community English, Workplace English, Citizenship, or Group Classes.

**DAIS** (Domestic Abuse Intervention Services) has many volunteer needs right now! Reception/Front Desk to greet visitors, Shelter Chef to help prepare meals for women and kids once a week, Court Watch to observe court hearings, Help Line Advocates to answer the 24 hour Help and Text Line, Support Group Advocate to help survivors come together to share experiences and support each other, and Children’s Advocates involved in structured activities and free play to help individual children and group activities.

**OAKWOOD VILLAGE UNIVERSITY WOODS** needs Cashiers in the Village Store and Oakleaf Gift Shop. Assisted Living Dining Assistants are also needed to bring residents to and from the dining room and serve beverages.

*(continued on page 17)*



*(continued from page 16)*

**MADISON STREET MEDICINE** needs volunteers with medical backgrounds (Doctors, Nurses, EMTs, CNA's) to help provide medical attention to people in the Porchlight Men's Shelter, the Beacon, and on the streets. They also provide a Foot Care Clinic and volunteers do not need to have a medical background.

**OAKWOOD PREFERRED HOSPICE** is looking for dedicated volunteers to help provide companionship to residents in Hospice Care. Spend an hour visiting with a resident offering love, compassion, and companionship.

**NEWBRIDGE** is in need of Volunteer Guardians and Representative Payees! A Guardian is someone appointed by the State of Wisconsin to make medical, housing, and other decisions for an older adult who can no longer manage their finances. A Representative Payee is someone who works through the Social Security Administration to help manage the social security funds of an older adult, who can no longer manage their funds. All volunteers will go through training and supervision. Time is flexible and will require 2-6 hours a month.

**FRIENDS OF SCHUMACHER FARM PARK** in Waunakee, has volunteer opportunities available for those interested in gardening, prairie restoration, event planning, and educational tours of the historic farmhouse and buildings.

**CATHOLIC MULTICULTURAL CENTER** needs van drivers to deliver school lunches around town! Let's make sure all kids get the food they need!

**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. Most current need is at the Eastside store on Monona Dr.

**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), Surgical Waiting Area supporting families while their loved one is in surgery, offering caring presence and support through touch and conversation.

**AMERICAN RED CROSS** 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.

Please contact Jan Karst, RSVP Volunteer Programs Community Connections Coordinator, for more information about these Volunteer Opportunities at [jkarst@rsvpdane.org](mailto:jkarst@rsvpdane.org) or 608.441.7891

## Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition Program

June 1 – October 31, 2024

Starting in June, the Area Agency on Aging (AAA) of Dane County will distribute farmers' market vouchers to older adults for use in purchasing \$45 of Wisconsin grown fruit, vegetables, or herbs at farmers' markets and roadside farm stands.



The vouchers are distributed on a first come/first serve basis to those **age 60+ or Native Americans age 55+**, who live in Dane County, and have gross incomes under \$27,861 per year (or \$2,321/month) for a one person household and \$37,814 per year (or \$3,151/month) for a two person household. One set of vouchers is available per person.

Individuals who received vouchers last year will automatically receive an application by mail this year. If you wish to apply to the program, or need to update your mailing address, contact AAA Dietitian Shannon Gabriel at 608.261.5678 or [Gabriel.Shannon@countyofdane.com](mailto:Gabriel.Shannon@countyofdane.com). Applications will be mailed out in early May. Once we receive and approve your application, vouchers will be mailed starting on June 1<sup>st</sup>.

*"This program is funded by the United States Department of Agriculture. USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer."*



Retired & Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) of Dane County shines a light on the enduring contributions of volunteers (age 55 and older) during **National Volunteer Week, April 21-27, 2024!**

Come and discover the many volunteer opportunities available at:

**RSVP of Dane County**

**Open House**

**Wednesday, April 24th, 2024, 1 PM - 3 PM**

6501 Watts Road, Suite 250, Madison 53719

(608) 238-7787 / [www.rsvpdane.org](http://www.rsvpdane.org)

Enjoy a light sampling of **international snacks & appetizers** from local restaurants & grocers and talk to our Volunteer Coordinators about how you can **make a difference!**



## 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 \$

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**RSVP Calendar**

**April**

**April 24th**, RSVP Annual Volunteer OPEN HOUSE at RSVP, 1 pm – 3 pm

**May**

**May 16th**, May 16th, RSVP's Vets Helping Vets Program features “Wisconsin Was There in the Civil War.” A presentation by Kevin Hampton, Curator of History at the Wisconsin Veterans Museum, will take place at VFW Post 8216 (6710 Century Ave. Middleton) and on Zoom, 1 pm – 3 pm.

**May 27th**, RSVP office closed in observance of Memorial Day

**June**

**June 26th**, Zoom Event with Sara Alvarado, author of the book ‘Dreaming In Spanish’. Professional speaker on racial disparities, 1 pm – 2 pm

**July**

**July 4th**, RSVP office closed in observance of Independence Day

**September**

**September 19th**, (SAVE THE DATE) Annual Volunteer Appreciation Event at Barnwood Events, 11 am – 1 pm