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 inperson, 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.
- 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, AND VISION 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.

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

RSVP COMMITTEES

Board Committees: Assessment Development 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

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 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, Sandy Kreul, Bernie Kowalchyk, Gene Kundert, Neal McCallum, Heidi Meyer, Jayne Mullins, Mary Odell, Pat Osborn, LuAnn Paepke, 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%

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

Number of Volunteers by Community

4



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

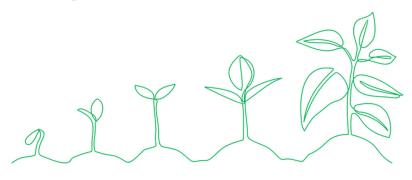
Bus Buddy volunteers teach other older adults, individually or in groups, how to achieve more independence and mobility by using the Madison Metropolitan Bus System.

3 Bus Buddy
Volunteers
1 Volunteer
Station
4 Bus Buddy
Trips
35 Participants
50 Hours



275 Volunteers 9 Volunteer Stations 20 Group **Projects** 72,701 Hours 15,032 ltems **Distributed** 8,537 Pounds of **Recycled Donated Materials 54 Recipient Agencies**

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.



"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



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.

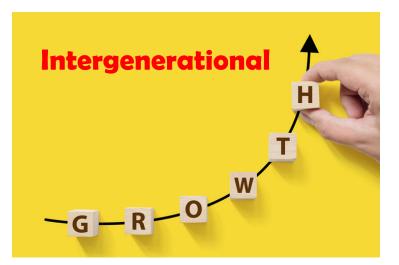




15 Volunteers6 VolunteerStations11,082 Hours

"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

"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



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



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.

571 Volunteers 14 Volunteer Stations 27,852 Hours





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

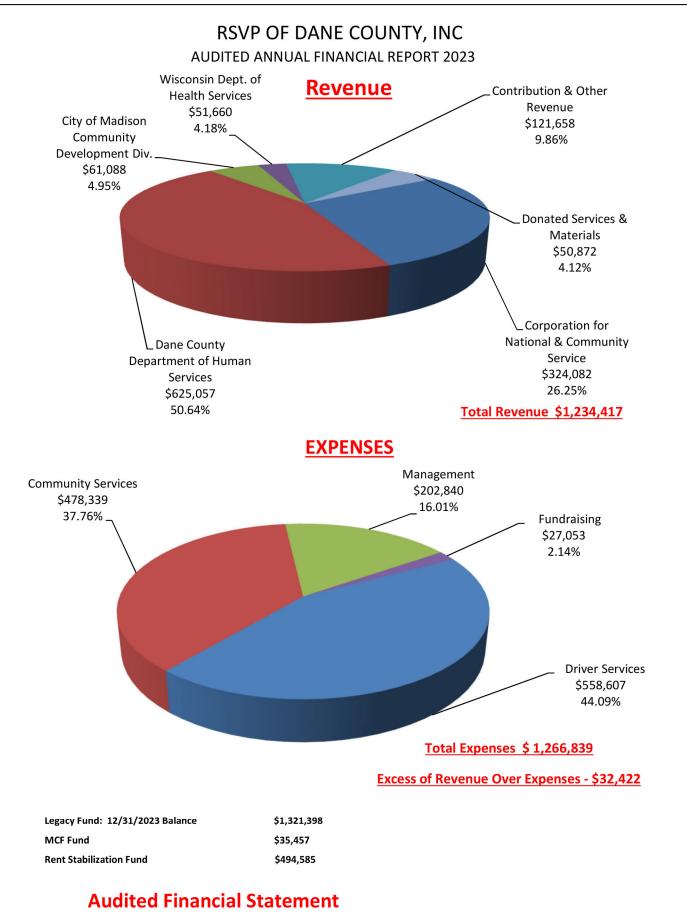


Triad brings together older adults, law enforcement, and the community at-large to promote safety and reduce the fear of crime. Providing information about personal safety and crime prevention is vital to our mission. Volunteers are a key element in our success. Triad's numerous safety programs provided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



- **17 Volunteers**
- **2 Triad Sites**
- 659 Hours
- 26 Programs
- 636 Participants

FINANCIALS



The Legacy Fund provides 4% of he 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.

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 Meihsner 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

DONORS

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 Betthauser 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* Kim and Mark Pilgrim Ron and Cathy Rotter Jean Rush 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 Kay Cipperly Ann Coyle Thomas and Sally Coyle Nancy Crossfield David Cuff Ross and Penny DePaola Loretta Dichraff Donald Duerst Jane Eisner

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(continued from page 13) R. Guy and Janet Ferris Ann Fisher Daniel Gebauer David Gill Ronald Goral Linda Green Gary and Eileen Hartog Catigan Hedican Robert W. Hoffman 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 Pete Manderfield Karen Mandt Barbara J. Marten Bonnie McKenzie Vernon Meier Jack Meyer Mike and Sue Mohoney Steven C. and Linda L. Muller Virginia Nachreiner David and Ann Nelson Sharon Olle Margaret Olson Warren and Nancy Onken Claire Perez Judy Peterson Tom and Sandra Poppe Larry Price

DONORS

Georgia Punswick Roger and Sue Richards Steven and Janet Riehbrandt Sharon Rook Sally Ross Jane M. Sandberg Barbara Ann Schlinkert Lynda Schultz Ronald Schutz Jan Seal Smith Paula Seeber Nancy Shaffer Natalie Simon Lise Skofronick Julie Speth Judy Stadler Merle and Patricia Sweet Mary and Earl Updike Margaret Urban Lois Vadney Elizabeth M. VanKampen Ellen T. Wallen Debbie Wayne Carol Weidel Henry Wertheimer Ann M. White 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









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