

Make A Difference



RSVP of Etowah & Cherokee County

October – December, 2017 Volume 18, Issue 4



The Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) is a federal program charged with leading efforts to expand the use of service and volunteering as key solutions that respond to our nation’s most pressing challenges. Our mission is to improve lives, strengthen communities and foster civic engagement, through service and volunteering. RSVP is sponsored locally by the Etowah County Commission, and federally by the Corporation for National & Community Service (CNCS).

Director’s Corner

In the News

Reading Buddies

Make a Difference Day

Senior Angel Tree

Fall is here! As much as I love summer (the sun, the beach, long days, swimming), there is something nostalgic about autumn. Maybe it’s because there are new routines or because shorter days allow us to have more time to just sit and think. I remember my own school times and my child’s school times fondly. (I probably didn’t *then* but I do now.)

As always, things change around our office along

with the seasons. Now, we are working with elementary schools in Etowah County (Cherokee County soon!) to help children in kindergarten – 3rd grades who are struggling readers. Once children get to 4th grade, they aren’t *taught* to read so much as they are *expected* to read to learn all of the things they need to know.

So we want to make sure that all of these children

are reading as well as possible before they go into the 4th grade.

We’re also just beginning to think about our tax program for next year. Right now it’s just ideas floating around, but I look forward to seeing what happens.

Remember – you can slow down sometimes but don’t ever stop doing what you do!

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News

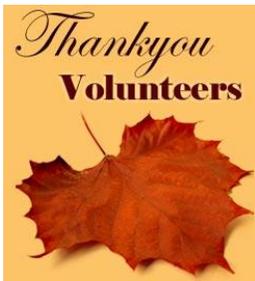
We put out the call for volunteers interested in being a Reading Buddy & you answered in a big way! This program is really getting off the ground; we have about 30 volunteers interested, 4 schools on board & we’re talking to several more – way to go!

Coming up October 28th is Make a Difference Day. RSVP will be hosting our annual Free Shred Event & Drug Round Up. Volunteers, a big Shred It

truck, and agents from the Etowah County Drug Enforcement Unit (DEU) will be in the parking lot of the Etowah County Courthouse (800 Forrest Avenue) to shred all of your personal paperwork that you need to get rid of (it’s much safer than throwing it away or burning it) and collect all of your old or unused medications. DEU agents dispose of the old drugs in the most environmentally-friendly way which saves space in

our landfills and keeps it away from curious animals and children.

Then in November we will sponsor our Senior Angel Tree. We obtain our angels from the Salvation Army, Etowah Baptist Mission Center, Catholic Center of Concern & DHR, and then we ask people to help us buy Christmas presents for them. Help make the holiday season special for everyone!



*Summer ends, and Autumn
comes, and he who would
have it otherwise would
have high tide always and a
full moon every night; and
thus he would never know
the rhythms that are at the
heart of life.*

~ Hal Borland

STATISTICS

New volunteers – 13

Total volunteers – 341

Total stations – 53

Volunteer Hours –
10,830

Value of Hours –
\$225,697.20

*(According to federal
guidelines, the value of
a volunteer's time is
\$20.84 per hour)*

Success Story

The Summer Enrichment Program at Wills Creek Baptist Association had another good year. Dr. Gertie Lowe reported that they had 60 students enrolled for this 6 week program. All of those who attended were tutored in math, English, science, and also had etiquette lessons! This program is available every summer and is free

to students, thanks to Dr. Lowe & other volunteers!

RSVP has been making rounds to area senior groups to remind everyone about the Yellow Dot program and talk a little about a new program we will be promoting – Home Fit. This is an AARP program with some valuable information. Let us know

if you would like to hear more!

Every year, roughly 350 RSVP volunteers are working to help partner organizations reach their full potential, and assist people less fortunate than themselves get back on their feet.

Thank you for being part of our success story!

Volunteer Opportunities

- **Etowah Baptist Mission Center** – volunteers are always needed to help at the Mission Center, but especially now for holiday assistance.
- **Gift Wrapping!** – Family Success Center will need volunteers to help gift wrap in the Gadsden Mall in November & December. Call 256-547-6888 or 256-549-8147 to help.
- **Habitat for Humanity** – volunteers are needed for several different committees and ALWAYS to help with construction!
- **Tax Counseling Program** – we need volunteers for this program to be greeters and preparers. It's really not hard, if you can use a computer & like to help people, this is for you!
- **Reading Buddies** – if you would like to help children in a local elementary school work on their reading skills, let us know at which school you would like to work!
- **For these & other volunteer opportunities, call RSVP @ 256-549-8147!**

Volunteer Recognition

Currently, Mrs. Ping Pondick and Mrs. Ruby Jo Boyle are employed in the Etowah County Clerk's office as volunteers.

Mrs. Ping is a go getter! She is willing to help wherever she is needed. She is quick to smile and a treasure to everyone that works here.

Mrs. Ruby is our shredding machine! She also helps with other office work such as making files and applying labels to envelopes. She is so adored by our office, she even has VIP parking!

~ Cassandra Johnson, Circuit Clerk of Etowah County

Our on time, time sheet winner is: Donna Patterson! Ms. Patterson volunteers with Big Brothers/Big Sisters of NEAL, Friendly Nursing Home Visitors and is a RSVP Community Volunteer. She registered with RSVP in November of 2009 and has 406 hours on record!

Upcoming Events

- October – December** – Council on Aging can help you during the Medicare Open Enrollment period. If you want to change Part D plans or make sure that you still have the best plan, call 256-543-3616.
- Oct/Nov** – several agencies will be accepting applications for holiday assistance in October & November (Etowah Baptist Mission Center, Catholic Center of Concern, Salvation Army, and Community Action). Remember to tell people!
- October 1** – Life Chain at Moragne Park sponsored by Etowah Pregnancy Testing Center. Call 256-442-6101 for info.
- October 4** – Physicians Who Care Health Fair at the Senior Activity Center from 9-11am.
- October 9** – Columbus Day.
- October 19** – RSVP Quarterly Workshop will be @ 10 AM in the Etowah County Courthouse. Call 256-549-8147 to reserve a seat.
- October 26** – “Wall Street Treats” from 5-7pm on Wall Street in Alabama City. Good, clean, family fun! Dress up and enjoy food, candy, games, bouncy houses and more! Sponsored by the Etowah Baptist Mission Center.
- October 28** – RSVP is sponsoring another free Shred event & drug round up in the parking lot of the Etowah County Courthouse from 10 – 2.
- November 5** – Daylight Savings Time ends. Remember to set your clocks back one hour.
- November 11** – Veterans Day, there will be celebrations in Gadsden and Centre!
- November 24** – Thanksgiving
- December 25** - Christmas



Word Search

O	C	L	Y	X	E	G	A	I	L	O	F	A	O	W	X	J
R	P	L	B	S	G	Z	P	Z	B	E	D	Q	E	B	Q	Q
A	D	O	Y	A	E	S	R	A	E	J	X	H	F	V	G	J
N	E	O	Y	A	C	E	E	T	A	Y	T	N	U	O	B	L
G	C	C	N	C	B	K	R	P	U	U	Z	E	K	S	T	A
E	I	J	I	O	Z	R	T	T	T	A	X	K	J	R	H	E
M	D	T	T	H	Z	S	E	O	Y	E	M	P	G	O	A	Z
V	U	C	Y	V	E	X	A	B	S	A	M	O	P	L	N	S
X	O	T	Y	A	E	J	R	N	M	C	B	B	D	O	K	E
X	U	Z	S	E	S	G	M	F	L	E	H	X	E	C	S	V
C	S	O	K	V	L	U	N	L	R	S	V	O	I	R	G	A
I	N	J	L	F	T	L	A	A	D	O	M	O	O	X	I	E
N	L	Y	Q	U	B	F	O	O	H	U	S	R	N	L	V	L
E	N	F	A	L	U	T	O	W	R	C	A	T	A	N	I	Z
C	H	A	L	L	O	W	E	E	N	R	A	T	U	R	N	Z
S	U	X	I	W	S	G	D	B	U	U	X	M	O	T	G	G
X	T	S	E	V	R	A	H	Z	T	R	A	K	E	I	T	G

- WORD SEARCH ANSWERS:
- AUTUMN
 - BACKTOSCHOOL
 - BEAUTY
 - BOUNTY
 - CHANGE
 - COLORS
 - COOL
 - DELICIOUS
 - FALL
 - FOLIAGE
 - FROST
 - HALLOWEEN
 - HARVEST
 - LEAVES
 - NOVEMBER
 - OCTOBER
 - ORANGE
 - RAKE
 - RED
 - SCENIC
 - SEASON
 - SEPTEMBER
 - THANKSGIVING
 - TREES
 - TURN
 - WOODS
 - YELLOW



RSVP Volunteer Stations

ADAMS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL	ETOWAH COUNTY COURTHOUSE	NORTHEAST ETOWAH COMMUNITY CENTER
AARP – COOSA VALLEY CHAPTER #3337	ETOWAH COUNTY DEPT. OF HUMAN RESOURCES	PILOT CLUB
ALABAMA COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE	ETOWAH COUNTY PREGNANCY TESTING CENTER	RIVERVIEW REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER
AMERICAN RED CROSS – ETOWAH & CHEROKEE CHAPTERS	ETOWAH HISTORICAL SOCIETY	ROC-1 ST BAPTIST CHURCH OF CENTRE
BIG BROTHERS/BIG SISTERS	EXTENDED FAMILY	RSVP ADVISORY BOARD
BOYS & GIRLS CLUB	FAMILY SUCCESS CENTER	RSVP COMMUNITY SERVICE VOLUNTEERS
CATHOLIC CENTER OF CONCERN	FIRST CALL FOR HELP	RSVP DISASTER VOLUNTEERS
CENTRAL-CARVER FOUNDATION, INC.	FRIENDLY NURSING HOME VISITORS	RX HELP
CHEROKEE COUNTY HEALTH & REHAB.	GADSDEN MUSEUM OF ART	SALVATION ARMY
CHEROKEE COUNTY HISTORICAL MUSEUM	GADSDEN PUBLIC LIBRARY	SENIOR NUTRITION CENTERS
CHEROKEE MEDICAL CENTER	GADSDEN QUILTERS GUILD	SOUTHSIDE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
CIRCUIT CLERK’S OFFICE OF ETOWAH COUNTY	GADSDEN REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER	SUMMER ENRICHMENT PROGRAM
CITY OF GADSDEN	GLENCOE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL	SWAT
COMMUNITY ACTION AGENCY	HABITAT FOR HUMANITY	TAX COUNSELING PROGRAM
COUNCIL ON AGING	HEAD START	TELE-CHEK
CULTURAL ARTS CENTER	HUMANE SOCIETY PET RESCUE & ADOPTION	THE CHAMBER
ETOWAH BAPTIST MISSION CENTER	MANNA	THE LOVE CENTER
	MOUNTAIN VIEW HOSPITAL	UNITED WAY OF ETOWAH COUNTY
		W.E. STRIPLIN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

*Not only must we be good,
but we must also be good
for something.*

~ Henry David Thoreau

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Sarah Trammell	10/01	Helen Bowlen	11/01	Sally Shamblin	12/04
Betty Woodward	10/03	Isabell Woods	11/01	Sue Young	12/04
Lucile Harris	10/04	LaVerne Williams	11/02	Kathy Blattel	12/05
Charles Sealy	10/5	Ray St. John	11/04	Kenneth Mayo	12/07
Connie Wappelhorst	10/6	Janice McClure	11/05	Eloise Turk	12/07
Jeanne Chambers	10/08	Elsie Hawkins	11/07	Betty Overall	12/08
Sue Richie	10/08	Carolyn Holloway	11/08	Judy Smith	12/08
Mary Jane Smith	10/08	Sherre McGinnis	11/11	Rebecca Tinker	12/08
Myrtle Cushing	10/10	Gloria Ansley	11/13	Judy Berger	12/11
Janice Glover	10/11	Kenneth Epperson	11/13	Ann Ratliff	12/14
Shirley Steapleton	10/12	Phyllis Dabbs	11/14	Nina Tenerani	12/17
Alvada Wilson	10/13	Nellie Salter	11/15	Maureen Latronico	12/18
Betty Causey	10/14	Jackie Hamilton	11/19	Janet Tingle	12/19
Patricia Duke	10/14	Mary Clayton	11/20	Melvin Harris	12/20
"Jo" Hughes	10/17	Carole Slaton	11/20	Evelyn Westcott	12/21
Dianne Williams	10/18	Alma Alford	11/23	Erma Davidson	12/22
Troy Word	10/20	Treasia Spelce	11/24	Kenneth Means	12/22
Bonnie Childs	10/22	Millie Cartrett	11/26	Sandra Coffey	12/25
Rose Higgins	10/24	Jeanette Foster	11/26	Frances Lipscomb	12/25
Lena Faye Jones	10/24	Jeanette Boggs	11/28	Beth Serrentino	12/25
Sonya Nesbitt	10/24	Richard Wappelhorst	12/29	Steve Scharfenberg	12/26
Sandra Baker	10/27	Lucille Box	11/30	Linda Ellison	12/28
Tony Hilley	10/28	Rebecca Hilleke	11/30	Pat Hill	12/28
Doris Collier	10/29	Portia Foster	12/01	Helen Jones	12/29
Wayne Farley	10/29	Sue Myers	12/01	EllaJay Willis	12/29
Barbara Mosley	10/29	Victor Mendez	12/02	Gary Hilburn	12/30
Nick Garrard	10/30	Dolly Thomas	12/02	Nancy O'Dell	12/30



Birthdays are good for you. Statistics show that the people who have the most live the longest.

~ Larry Lorenzoni

RSVP

800 Forrest Avenue
Room 219
Gadsden, AL 35901

Phone

256-549-8147

Fax

256-549-5351

E-mail

tpondick@etowahcounty.org

GETTING THINGS DONE.

We're on the Web!

See us at:
www.etowahcounty.org

Friend us on Facebook!



<https://www.facebook.com/groups/327258517069/>

Follow us on Twitter!



[Twitter.com/etowahrsvp](https://twitter.com/etowahrsvp)

Follow us on Instagram!



Instagram

https://www.instagram.com/volunteers_of_etowah/

RSVP Staff

Director – Traci Pondick

Van Driver/Volunteer
Coordinator – Faye
Russell

Administrative Asst. –
Joy Morrison



RSVP Advisory Council

Chairperson – Pat Hill
Vice Chairperson –
Craig Scott
Treasurer –
Deborah Henderson
Secretary –
Millie Cartrett

Jane Brittain
Lisa Dobbins
Theresa Frye
Jenifer Grace
Jennifer Harrold

Sandra Jackson
Deborah Lankford
Jean Pettis
Carolyn Parker

Please shop at these local businesses & say “Thank You!” for supporting RSVP!

ADVANCE AUTO PARTS	FLIPSIDE CAFE	RAINBOW CITY AUCTION HOUSE
BAKER TIRE	GADSDEN MEMORIAL FUNERAL HOME	REGIONS BANK
BEANS AND GREENS	GADSDEN PUBLIC LIBRARY	RIVER BANK & TRUST
CASH SAVER OF HOKES BLUFF	JOHNSON’S GIANT FOODS	RSVP ADVISORY COUNCIL
CHEROKEE MEDICAL CENTER AUXILIARY	MARAELLA WINERY	STEVIE B’S PIZZA
DISCOUNT PEST CONTROL	OBSERVER OFFICE SUPPLY	SUTTON BRIDGE EXXON
FAMILY SAVINGS CREDIT UNION	PHYSICIANS HOME HEALTH SUPERSTORE	TOP O’ THE RIVER
	PUBLIX	