

# Make A Difference



RSVP of Etowah & Cherokee County

October – December, 2018 Volume 19, 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 27th 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!



## 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!

*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)*

## 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

Vicky Griffin volunteers in the front office of the Etowah Baptist Missions Center. She has great compassion for the people we serve. Vicky is an encouragement to all who meet her and no one walks away without smiling. Thank you for sharing her with us.

~ Ashley Baccus, Administrative Assistant/Volunteer Coordinator, Etowah County Baptist Missions Center

Our on time, time sheet winner is: Jan Kelley! Ms. Kelley is an RSVP Community Volunteer. She registered with RSVP in September of 2004 and has 1600 hours on record! Thank you Ms. Kelley for your faithful service to our community!

# 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 <sup>ST</sup> 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](mailto:tpondick@etowahcounty.org)

GETTING THINGS DONE.

**We're on the Web!**

See us at:  
[www.etowahcounty.org](http://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!**



[https://www.instagram.com/volunteers\\_of\\_etowah/](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                            |                            |