

Make A Difference



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

Wow! It seems like winter has lasted forever. Are you looking forward to spring? I am! Spring always brings with it a freshness & creativity that helps bring us out of our winter shells.

And just like the seasons, RSVP uses this time every year to take a new look at things and how we serve our community.

Spring also brings a sense of restlessness, a need to get outside & do something or go somewhere. I have a hard time concentrating on paperwork and computer work. But if I remember to take a deep breath and focus on what needs to be done, I usually work better *because of* that restlessness.

So let’s use this time to our advantage. Think of new ideas and new ways we can volunteer or help our neighbors, do what you love to the best of your ability, follow your heart – but don’t forget to *focus!* And let us know all of your good ideas and how we can help!

In the News

- Tax Program
- Reading Buddies

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News

Our tax program has been going strong since the last week of January, and so far volunteers have completed over 1,200 federal tax returns for people all over Etowah & Cherokee County. With this program we can see in actual dollars how we make a difference in people’s lives. Every year, volunteers help people get back about 2 million dollars in federal

refunds, all of which goes straight into their pockets since this is a free service. Now that’s bang for your buck!

Another program we are working on is Reading Buddies. Volunteers serve as Reading Buddies in area elementary schools, working specifically with children in Kindergarten through 3rd grade who are reading below grade

level. Many studies have shown a direct correlation between not reading well and not prospering later in life (low paying jobs, relying on assistance programs, even trouble with illegal activities). Reading Buddies are trained and partnered with 1 – 6 students, so these students get the personalized instruction they need to read and thrive!



Success Story

Every year, October-December, volunteers with the Council on Aging of Etowah County help clients make sure they have the best Medicare plan. These volunteers (and CoA staff!) have events all over Etowah County (and Cherokee County!) to make sure they reach as many people as possible. They spend a lot of time

gathering information, discussing options, & making sure clients know which plan will cover them best, at the best cost. This year, they helped 318 people realize a savings of \$144,868.60 by making good choices!

Our last Quarterly Workshop was presented by the American Heart Association & we learned a lot about what they do!

Our next quarterly workshop is scheduled for April 19th at 10:00 in the Etowah County Courthouse. Speakers will be Brandi Medina, she will be telling us about services offered through the Alzheimer’s Association; & Belk’s will be telling us about a special event – Fit for the Cure!

"I hear the passing echoes of winter and feel the warming spring on my face." ~Terri Guillemets

STATISTICS

New volunteers – 10
 Total volunteers – 329
 Total stations – 55
 Volunteer Hours –8195
 Value of Hours – \$170,783.80

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

Volunteer Opportunities

- **Habitat for Humanity** – Volunteers are always needed for various parts of construction, & don’t forget the Dragon Boat Festival coming up in August! Call 256-543-1898 or email info@gadsdenhabitat.com
- **Community Action of Etowah County** – volunteers are needed to help with intake/screening for the JARC program.
- **Senior Nutrition Centers** – volunteers are needed with daily operations and delivering meals to the homebound.
- **Emergency Management Agency** – needs volunteers to be floaters and crossing guards for their Spring Break Emergency Preparedness event for children downtown on March 27th.
- **For these & other volunteer opportunities, call RSVP @ 256-549-8147!**

Volunteer Recognition

This quarter we are recognizing a volunteer who works with our Tax Assistance Program – Mrs. Deborah Henderson. Deborah has been volunteering with our tax program and on our Advisory Council since 2008! She has

progressed in the tax program from being a preparer to a site coordinator and instructor. Deborah is a retired educator, and RSVP has been able to use her skills and expertise to our full advantage!

Our on-time, time sheet winner is: Mr. Kenneth Mayo! Mr. Mayo is a volunteer with Gadsden Regional Medical Center & MANNA. He registered with RSVP in 2011 and has 1601 hours on record!

Upcoming Events

March 30 – Good Friday, Etowah County Courthouse will be closed.

April 1 – Easter Sunday

April 3 – Mayor’s Day of Recognition for National Service. Mayors across the country recognize the impact that volunteers make every day!

April 13 – Last day to file tax returns! Call us @ 256-549-8147 to find out where preparers will be to help you!

April 16 – Registration begins to register your team for the 7th Annual Habitat Dragon Boat Festival

April 18 – Council on Aging Senior Health & Wellness Carnival Day @ George Wallace Senior Center

April 19 – RSVP Quarterly Workshop

April 27 – Council on Aging Mancave Casino Night @ 210 at the Tracks

April 27 – Sageberry chicken salad fundraiser for Cherokee County Museum. Pre-sale only 256-927-7835

May 2 – City of Gadsden’s Senior Fun Day @ Convention Hall

May 10 – Mother’s Day

May 17 – May Day sponsored by East Alabama AAA in Talladega.

May 23 – **RSVP’s Annual Volunteer Recognition Luncheon. Be on the lookout for your invitation!**

May 28 – Memorial Day, Etowah County Courthouse will be closed.

June 6 - City of Gadsden’s Ice Cream/Bingo Bash @ the Senior Activity Center

June 8 – Team One Golf Tourney benefiting United Way’s 211 @ Silver Lakes

June 17 – Father’s Day



Sudoku

	4				2		1	9
			3	5	1		8	6
3	1			9	4	7		
	9	4						7
2						8	9	
		9	5	2			4	1
4	2		1	6	9			
1	6		8				7	

RSVP Volunteer Stations

*"We cannot live only for ourselves. A thousand fibers connect us with our fellow man."
~ Herman Melville*

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

VOLUNTEER BIRTHDAYS

Jeanette Reed	04/01	Mary Sue Grissom	04/28	DeAnna DeVille	05/24
Judith Moon	04/04	Ping Pondick	04/28	Joyce Wheeler	05/24
James Rogers	04/04	Craig Scott	05/01	Alma Boswell	05/25
Pat Trotter	04/04	Larry Tuck	05/01	Betty Brannon	05/27
Carolyn Elkins	04/05	Orval Hubbard	05/02	Marie Cylar	05/30
Rick Lankford	04/05	Daniel Levinson	05/03	Kathy Gidley	05/30
Jerry Frye	04/08	Carolyn Sterling	05/03	Becky St. John	06/02
Gary Batson	04/12	Judy Edwards	05/04	Deborah Henderson	6/03
Emma Cylar	04/13	Jean Foster	05/04	Sarah Vance	06/05
Bonnie Link	04/13	Shirley Pollard	05/05	Annie Leeth	06/06
Loyd Watkins	04/13	Eloise Ramer	05/06	Sarah Spear	06/07
Carolyn Hammond	04/16	Danny Wagon	05/06	Martha Yates	06/07
Georgia Henley	04/16	Cathy Bottoms	05/09	Christine Woods	06/08
Mary Ann Hill	04/17	Jerry Howell	05/09	Claude Burnett	06/11
Jean Pettis	04/17	Joyce Howell	05/10	Betty Roberts	06/12
Thelma Thornton	04/18	June Maddox	05/11	Deborah Salter	06/15
Gloria Hope	04/20	Jerry Skinner	05/14	Doug Belyue	06/17
Margaret Long	04/20	Ruby Jo Boyle	05/17	Delores Cerecke	06/18
Gloria Hope	04/20	Robert Smith	05/17	Suzanne Scharfenberg	6/21
Jim Palmertree	04/20	Katherine Buchanan	5/19	Ann Boatwright	06/22
Joyce Hilburn	04/21	Lessie Fluharty	05/19	John Leach	06/22
Alice Hurst	04/24	Cindy Spina	05/19	John Parks	06/24
Jerry Wayne Lee	04/24	Vickie Spelce	05/20	Dorman Robinson	06/24
Rose Hawkins	04/26	Jan Kelley	05/21	Doris Smith	06/25
Gerrie Jordan	04/27	Carol Warmack	05/21	Dorothy Carter	06/26
Louise Anderson	04/28			Becky Henson	06/29



"Youth would be an ideal state if it came a little later in life." ~ Herbert Asquith

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!



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	

