

# Make A Difference



RSVP of Etowah & Cherokee County

July – September, 2017 Volume 17, Issue 3



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

I love summer, don't you? It reminds me of being a child and not having to work or worry about anything.

Lately, there has been much to worry about. Our government, our country, the whole world seems to be in turmoil. But then I remember all of our volunteers and partner agencies who are helping people and not

worried about what the future may bring.

They're so involved in this minute that there is no time for worry. There is a saying – you can't wring your hands and roll up your sleeves at the same time. That sums up our volunteers perfectly! And that is what everyone should be doing.

If you're busy doing something useful, you won't have time to worry about things that will probably never happen anyway.

May this summer season bring you no worries, only joy and happiness and the knowledge that we are all changing the world for the better!

### In the News

- Tax Program Results
- Recognition Luncheon

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## News

Whew! We reached the end of tax season, and there are 23 exhausted volunteers who are very happy about it! In case you were wondering how their volunteerism impacts the community, they prepared 2,088 federal returns resulting in \$1,971,845 of federal refunds and \$563,330 in Earned Income Credit. If we estimate that every person helped by our tax volunteers would have paid someone \$200 to prepare their return (instead of our volunteers doing it for free), they saved them \$417,600 in fees alone!

This is the reason why our volunteers tirelessly perform this service every year – so that working families (young and old) can keep more of their hard earned money in their pockets.

Were you able to come to our Recognition Luncheon in April? If not, we missed you! We had a wonderful time eating the delicious food prepared by The Fisherman and served table to table to us by the Job Corps students, listening to some great singing by local talent Doris Day, and giving

away some fantastic door prizes! All of this around beautifully decorated tables courtesy of Faye, and put together by our Advisory Council.

Did you know it only takes 20 hours of volunteer service to be invited to this event? So call (256-549-8147), mail (we'll even send you the stamped envelope), or email ([jmorrison@etowahcounty.org](mailto:jmorrison@etowahcounty.org)) those hours in to us monthly or quarterly. We can even place you on our call list...just get those hours in to us!



## Success Story

Our last Quarterly Workshop was presented by Tena King, co-owner of King’s Olive Oil Company in downtown Gadsden. Tena shared personal stories with us of how and why her business was born, and told us all about the health benefits of olive oil and vinegar. She gave a handout explaining how they both help fight cancer, lower bad cholesterol

and blood pressure, lower stroke and heart attack risk, lower blood sugar spikes for diabetics, and help with digestive disorders and weight loss. Tena also shared samples and answered all the questions our attendees had!

Our next workshop is scheduled for July 13 at 10:00 am in Room 205 of the Etowah County Courthouse.

We will be presenting “Wardrobe Therapy”, age-appropriate fashion tips using some public officials as fashion models.

Call RSVP @ 256-549-8147 if you would like to join us!

We’re glad you are part of our success story!

*“You make a living by what you get, but you make a life by what you give.”*

~ Author Unknown

### STATISTICS

New volunteers – 12

Total volunteers – 336

Total stations – 53

Volunteer Hours – 11,222

Value of Hours – \$233,866.48

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

## Volunteer Opportunities

- **Etowah Baptist Mission Center** – needs volunteers to interview clients.
- **MANNA** – volunteers are needed to sub for regular delivery drivers.
- **Etowah Pregnancy Testing Center** – needs volunteers for one-on-one peer counseling.
- **Senior Nutrition Centers** – volunteers are needed with daily operations and delivering meals to the homebound.
- **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 help in the fall!
- **Habitat for Humanity** – House #50 is under construction in Attalla. Volunteers are needed and welcome. There are lots of committees, so if you can’t do construction, sign up to help with another activity!
- **For these & other volunteer opportunities, call RSVP @ 256-549-8147!**

## Volunteer Recognition

Mary Cooper started volunteering at Carver Senior Nutrition Center in February of 2016. She works with a smile as she does whatever she’s asked to do. Mary has one son & daughter-in-law, and five grandkids. She

enjoys volunteering, she wakes up to come and serve the folks at Carver Nutrition and when she’s not here we miss her dearly.

~Delma Smith, Director of Carver Senior Nutrition Center

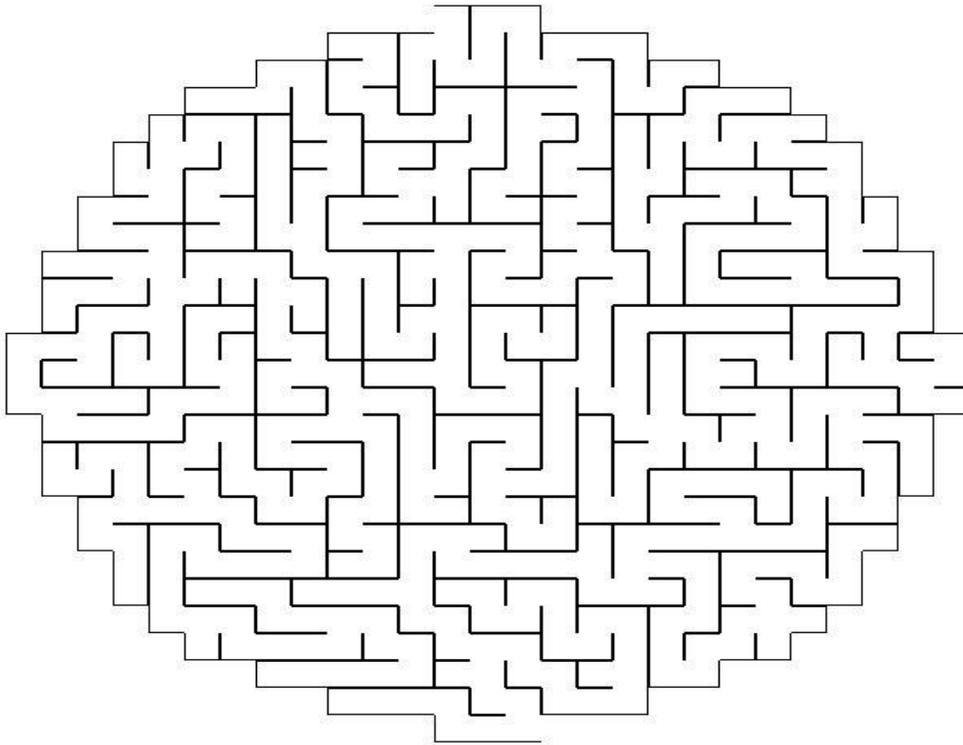
Our on time, time sheet winner is: Johnny Farmer! Mr. Farmer volunteers with the El Senior Club. He began reporting hours through RSVP in October of 2010 and has 542 hours on record!

## Upcoming Events

- **July 4** – Independence Day
- **July 7** – MANNA will be hosting their annual Golf Tournament at Twin Bridges. Please contact Jennifer Swann @ 256-543-5876 for more information.
- **July 13** – RSVP Quarterly Workshop will be @ 10 AM in Room 205 of the Etowah County Courthouse. Call 256-549-8147 to reserve a seat.
- **July 22** – The Etowah Baptist Missions Center will have their 4th Annual Cardboard Boat Race @ Rainbow Landing in Rainbow City. Please contact Ashley @ 256-546-2980, ext 105 for more details.
- **July 31-August 4** – The Etowah Baptist Missions Center will be distributing school supplies.
- **August 3-6** – World's Longest Yard Sale starts at Noccalula Falls!
- **August 18** – Gadsden Public Library is hosting an AARP Driver's Safety Class. Call (256) 549-4699, ext. 120.
- **August 19** – The 6th Annual Habitat Dragon Boat Festival. Teams race a 250 meter course on the Coosa River while having the ride of their life raising funds to support Gadsden-Etowah Habitat for Humanity. It's a great team-building experience for co-workers, family and friends. Register your team of 24 today for \$2,100 and help make a difference in our community. If you would like to volunteer for the Habitat Dragon Boat Festival, contact Traci Pondick at (256) 549-8147.
- **September 5** – Labor Day
- **September 19-21** – The Etowah Baptist Missions Center will be having bag days where guests can fill a big bag full of summer clothing before we switch seasonal attire in the clothing room.



## MAZE – can you find your way out?





## RSVP Volunteer Stations

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 COUNTY PREGNANCY TESTING CENTER	PILOT CLUB
AMERICAN RED CROSS – ETOWAH & CHEROKEE CHAPTERS	ETOWAH HISTORICAL SOCIETY	READING BUDDIES
BIG BROTHERS/BIG SISTERS	EVEN START	ROC-1 <sup>ST</sup> BAPTIST CHURCH OF CENTRE
BOYS & GIRLS CLUB	EXTENDED FAMILY	RSVP ADVISORY BOARD
CATHOLIC CENTER OF CONCERN	FAMILY SUCCESS CENTER	RSVP COMMUNITY SERVICE VOLUNTEERS
CENTRAL-CARVER FOUNDATION, INC.	FRIENDLY NURSING HOME VISITORS	RSVP DISASTER VOLUNTEERS
CHEROKEE COUNTY HEALTH & REHAB.	GADSDEN MUSEUM OF ART	RX HELP
CHEROKEE COUNTY HISTORICAL MUSEUM	GADSDEN PUBLIC LIBRARY	SALVATION ARMY
CHEROKEE MEDICAL CENTER	GADSDEN QUILTERS GUILD	SENIOR NUTRITION CENTERS
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	UNITED WAY OF ETOWAH COUNTY
		W.E. STRIPLIN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

*"I've learned that you shouldn't go through life with a catcher's mitt on both hands. You need to be able to throw something back."*

*~ Maya Angelou*

# HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Betty McElroy	07/01	Iva Patty	08/02	Betsy Norton	08/29
Bill Stancil	07/01	Joe Neal	08/03	Sandra Davis	09/01
Pat Griffith	07/03	Dianne Treadwell	08/03	Barbara Kines	09/01
Gail Chestnut	07/04	Ruby Nuss	08/07	Ronda Duke	09/04
Jean Pierini	07/04	Nancy Bolton	08/09	Carolyn Nichols	09/04
Pearl Spanks	07/04	Annie Dixon	08/10	Valerie Reynolds	09/04
Nettie Hooks	07/06	Shirley Dupont	08/10	Sharon Covington	09/05
Shirley Gillilan	07/08	Frances Bearden	08/11	Brenda Garrard	09/05
Kathy Snyder	07/08	Joyce Neighbors	08/11	Wayne Rhodes	09/06
Dot Bentley	07/09	Joyce Stephens	08/11	Jeanette Allen	09/07
Mattie Eubanks	07/09	Aris Mayo	08/13	Barbara Beshears	09/07
Mary Billingsley	07/10	Larry Williams	08/13	Taylor Knowles III	09/07
Roberta Harville	07/10	Emma Crayton	08/14	Louise Blackwell	09/08
Frank Umphrey	07/10	Johnnie Harris	08/15	Ruth Mims	09/09
Shirley Hufstetler	07/12	Willie Mae Jordan	08/15	Joyce Farrell	09/10
Nancy Harrison	07/14	Faye Shelton	08/15	Vivian Burnett	09/11
Dianne Knowles	07/14	Alexcia Hembree	08/16	Patsy Lee	09/12
Bobby Gillilan	07/15	Linda Kindon	08/17	Durwood Johns	09/15
Johnny Farmer	07/16	Patricia McGee	08/17	Dr. Gertie Lowe	09/17
Theresa Frye	07/16	Gail Reeves	08/17	Sharyon Ramsey	09/17
Sandra Jackson	07/17	Joanna Ross	08/19	Cenda Price	09/19
Deborah Lankford	07/18	Martha Umphrey	08/19	Betty Wicker	09/19
Billy Vance	07/18	Patricia Butler	08/20	Phillip Scott	09/20
Jane Wilson	07/18	Nell Gober	08/20	Eugenia Hammett	09/21
Norman Hindman	07/20	Jennifer Long	08/21	Chuck Keith	09/21
Joan Peek	07/20	Viola Franklin	08/22	Daniel Brock	09/22
Jane Bishop	07/24	Sandy Grant	08/22	Jim Bryan	09/22
Bonnie Hilley	07/25	David Coffey	08/23	Dalton Bradley	09/24
Lurene Kerley	07/25	Spence Adcock	08/24	Faye Hooker	09/24
Sedalia Sealy	07/26	Roselene Jenkins	08/24	Reba Mathis	09/24
Maxine Mintz	07/27	Beverly O'Hara	08/24	John Bentley	09/25
Dominique Young	07/30	Dot Phipps	08/25	Joy Ann Smith	09/26
Willadean Parks	07/31	Charles Brown	08/26	Adele Morris	09/27
Eileen Gray	08/01	Patsy Duck	08/27	Floyd Winger	09/27
Pat Herrod	08/01	Donna Patterson	08/28		



*“Just remember, once  
you’re over the hill you  
begin to pick up speed.”*

*~ Charles Schultz*

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Gadsden, AL 35901

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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/>

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

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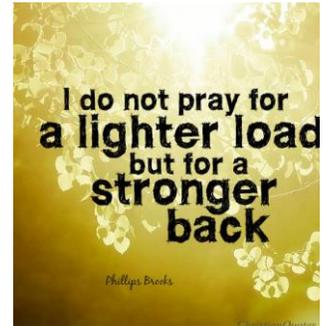
[https://www.instagram.com/volunteers\\_of\\_etowah/](https://www.instagram.com/volunteers_of_etowah/)

## 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* – Jane  
Brittain  
*Secretary* – Millie  
Cartrett

Lisa Dobbins  
Thelma Edgar  
Theresa Frye  
Jenifer Grace  
Jennifer Harrold  
Deborah Henderson

Sandra Jackson  
Deborah Lankford  
Carolyn Parker  
Jean Pettis  
Traci Pondick

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	



