

# Make A Difference



RSVP of Etowah & Cherokee County

July – September, 2018 Volume 19, 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).

## In the News

- Tax Program Results
- Arthritis Walk With Ease Program

## Director’s Corner

What did you think about our Recognition Luncheon? We truly did regret having to “arrest” everyone, but you left us no choice! 😊

If you didn’t make it hopefully you can come next year. We also appreciate everyone who turned in a survey; they are very helpful in how we operate this program!

Just to make sure everyone knows: we invite all of our volunteers who have reported 20 or more hours of volunteer service during the past year. And Faye, Joy & your volunteer station manager work very hard to make sure we hear from all of our active volunteers. If you don’t get a time sheet in the mail or a phone call from our

office or are listed on a log sheet, please let me know.

Being an active volunteer also is the only way to guarantee coverage under our insurance policy while you are volunteering and to make sure you get this newsletter!

## Contents

Success Story	2
Volunteer Opportunities	2
Volunteer Recognition	2
Upcoming Events	3
Puzzle	3
Volunteer Stations	4
Birthdays	5
RSVP Advisory Council	6
Staff	6
Merchants	6

## News

Well tax season is over, and this year our volunteers out-worked themselves yet again! 24 tax volunteers (including 4 new ones) completed 2,198 federal returns for hard working taxpayers. These returns were done thoroughly, professionally, and absolutely free! And because of that, those clients received \$1,975,836 in federal refunds that goes straight

into their pockets! We do this to help low-income workers of all ages and senior citizens who are on a fixed income from having to pay large fees to file their tax returns. And this is made possible each year by a committed group of volunteers who train and work a demanding schedule for 4 months every year. If you know any of these people remember to say thank

you!

Did you know that the City of Gadsden’s Parks & Recreation Department hosts the Arthritis Foundation Walk With Ease walking program on Monday, Wednesday & Friday at the Gadsden Mall? They meet at 10:00, and you can walk at your own pace and as far as you want. Call Belinda @ 256-549-4740 for more info.



*"I would thank you from  
the bottom of my heart, but  
for you my heart has no  
bottom."*

*~ Author Unknown*

## STATISTICS

New volunteers – 8

Total volunteers – 322

Total stations – 58

Volunteer Hours –  
11,481

Value of Hours –  
\$239,264.04

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

## Success Story

Our Reading Buddy program has been very successful so far, especially considering we only got started in October! We ended this school year with 15 Reading Buddies in 7 different elementary schools in Etowah County, and they touched the lives of 70 students. All of these students showed some

improvement in reading. Now we have all summer to get ready for next school year – just imagine what can happen with a whole school year of reading intervention! Let us know if you want to be a part of this wonderful group.

Our next SOD workshop is scheduled for July 12<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 in the Etowah

County Courthouse. The speakers (2 this time!) will be Rita McMillan & Erin Morgan. Rita will be talking about Medicare programs and Erin will be talking about home health care/ hospice care, and hopefully how those things can work together. Call RSVP at 256-549-8147 if you would like to join us!

## Volunteer Opportunities

- **Etowah Baptist Mission Center** – needs volunteers to interview clients.
- **MANNA** – Subs and regular delivery drivers needed. Only 1-2 hours once per week!
- **Etowah Pregnancy Testing Center** – needs volunteers for one-on-one peer counseling.
- **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!
- **Various local non-profit agencies** – need volunteers to answer phones and perform light clerical duties.
- **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](mailto:info@gadsdenhabitat.com)
- **For these & other volunteer opportunities, call RSVP @ 256-549-8147!**

## Volunteer Recognition

Habitat would like to recognize the continued generous contributions of Steve Scharfenberg, current Board President. He serves as Construction Coordinator and co-chair of the Habitat Dragon Boat Festival in addition to many other

volunteer contributions. He has been a volunteer with Habitat for 23 years. Thank you for ALL you do for others, Steve!  
~ Suzanne Scharfenberg, Executive Director, Gadsden-Etowah Habitat for Humanity

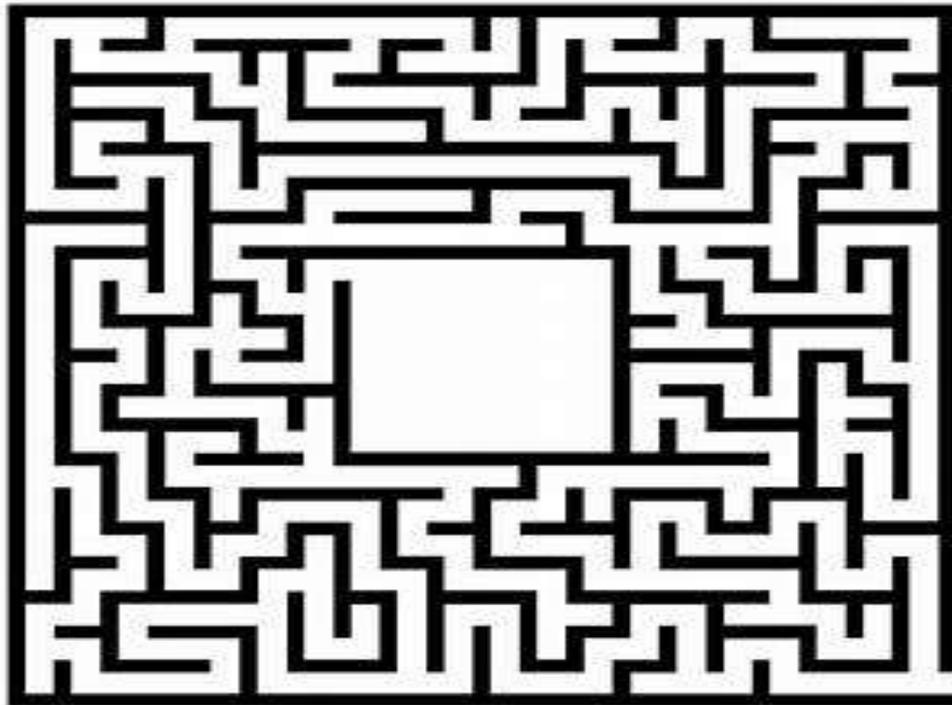
Our on time, time sheet winner is: Faye Shelton! Ms. Shelton volunteers with the Etowah Pregnancy Testing Center. She began reporting hours through RSVP in July of 2007 and has 1,114 hours on record!

## Upcoming Events

- **July 4** – Independence Day  
Please sign up at your rental office by July 10 if you will attend and if you need transportation. For more info, call Deborah or Towanna @ 256-547-2501 or Marisa @ 256-543-3616.
- **July 9** – Career Ready classes begin at the Etowah Baptist Mission Center. Child care will be provided upon request. Please call 256-546-2980 for more information.
- **July 12** – RSVP  
Quarterly Workshop will be @ 10 AM in Room 205 of the Etowah County Courthouse. Call 256-549-8147 to reserve a seat.
- **July 25** – Council on Aging & GGHA Senior Picnic at Banks Park Bldg (1604 Central Ave) from 10 am – 1 pm. All GGHA residents age 55 & older are welcome to attend. No children are allowed.
- **July 28** – Bellevue Baptist Church will host the "Run for Glory 5K" to benefit the Etowah Baptist Mission Center.
- **July 31-August 4** – The Etowah Baptist Missions Center will be distributing school supplies.
- **August 18** – The 7th Annual Habitat Dragon Boat Festival at Riverwalk Park behind Chili's beginning with the opening ceremony at 8:45 am. Races begin at 9 am. Gather 24 of your friends and co-workers to complete your team and call Habitat to enter @ 256-543-1898. Come out and support your favorite dragon boat team. Admission is free and there will be free parking and free shuttle from Convention Hall and Moragne Park on the day of the event.
- **September 3** – 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 DEPT. OF HUMAN RESOURCES	NORTHEAST ETOWAH COMMUNITY CENTER
AARP – COOSA VALLEY CHAPTER #3337	ETOWAH PREGNANCY TESTING CENTER	PILOT CLUB
ALABAMA COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE	ETOWAH HISTORICAL SOCIETY	READING BUDDIES
AMERICAN RED CROSS – ETOWAH & CHEROKEE	EXTENDED FAMILY	RIVERVIEW REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER
ATTALLA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL	FAMILY SUCCESS CENTER	ROC-1 <sup>ST</sup> BAPTIST CHURCH OF CENTRE
BIG BROTHERS/ BIG SISTERS OF NEAL	FIRST CALL FOR HELP	RSVP ADVISORY BOARD
BOYS & GIRLS CLUB	FLOYD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL	RSVP COMMUNITY SERVICE VOLUNTEERS
CATHOLIC CENTER OF CONCERN	FRIENDLY NURSING HOME VISITORS	RSVP DISASTER VOLUNTEERS
CENTRAL-CARVER FOUNDATION, INC.	GADSDEN MUSEUM OF ART	RX HELP
CHEROKEE COUNTY HEALTH & REHAB.	GADSDEN PUBLIC LIBRARY	SALVATION ARMY
CHEROKEE COUNTY HISTORICAL MUSEUM	GADSDEN QUILTERS GUILD	SENIOR NUTRITION CENTERS
CHEROKEE MEDICAL CENTER	GADSDEN REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER	SOUTHSIDE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
CIRCUIT CLERK'S OFFICE OF ETOWAH COUNTY	GLENCOE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL	STRIPLIN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
CITY OF GADSDEN	HABITAT FOR HUMANITY	SUMMER ENRICHMENT PROGRAM
COMMUNITY ACTION AGENCY	HEAD START	SWAT
CONVERGENCE FREE WILL INTERVENTION	HOKES BLUFF ELEMENTARY SCHOOL	TAX COUNSELING PROGRAM
COUNCIL ON AGING	HUMANE SOCIETY PET RESCUE & ADOPTION	TELE-CHEK
CULTURAL ARTS CENTER	JOHN JONES ELEMENTARY SCHOOL	THE CHAMBER
ETOWAH BAPTIST MISSION CENTER	MANNA	THE LOVE CENTER
ETOWAH COUNTY COURTHOUSE	MOUNTAIN VIEW HOSPITAL	UNITED WAY OF ETOWAH COUNTY

*"Volunteers do not  
necessarily have the time;  
they just have the heart."*

*~ Elizabeth Andrew*

# HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

5

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



*"The secret to staying young is to live honestly, eat slowly, and lie about your age."*

*~ Lucille Ball*

**RSVP**  
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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  
Carolyn Parker  
Jean Pettis  
Traci Pondick

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

ABSOLUTE FITNESS	GADSDEN FOOT CLINIC	REGIS SALON
ACE HARDWARE	JOHNSON’S GIANT FOODS	RICK’S DISCOUNT DRUGS
ADVANCE AUTO PARTS	KINDRED AT HOME	RSVP ADVISORY COUNCIL
ALABAMA TEACHERS CREDIT UNION	LA BROOKE SALON	SMITH & BAILEY DENTAL
ATTALLA DOWNTOWN CAFE	LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY OF AMERICA	STEVIE B’S PIZZA
BAKER TIRE	MASTERCUTS SALON	SUPER BEE PHARMACY
CASH SAVER HOKES BLUFF	MYERS INSTITUTE OF HAND & PLASTIC SURGERY	SUTTON BRIDGE EXXON
CHEROKEE MEDICAL CENTER AUXILIARY	NOCCALULA FALLS PARK	TAMING OF THE EWE
COMFORT CARE	OBSERVER SUPPLY	TEAM ONE CHEVROLET
COTTON BELLE	PHYSICIANS HOME HEALTH SUPERSTORE	THE MEADOWS ASSISTED LIVING
DISCOUNT PEST CONTROL	PUBLIX	TOP O’ THE RIVER
EXCHANGE BANK	RED LOBSTER	LINDA BARRETT-VAUGHN REVENUE COMMISSIONER
FAMILY SAVINGS CREDIT UNION	REGIONS BANK	WESTERN SIZZLIN’



