



Making a Difference

Oct.-Dec. 2012

Vol. XI Issue 3

*Retired & Senior Volunteer Program of Etowah & Cherokee Counties
800 Forrest Avenue, Room 219, Gadsden, AL 35901 (256) 549-8147*



In The News:

Make A Difference Day

SOD quarterly workshop

*“In every community there is work to be done. In every nation there are wounds to heal. In every heart there is the power to do it.”
~ Marianne Williamson*

Individual Highlights:

Director’s Corner	1
News	1
Success Story	2
Volunteer	
Opportunities	2
Volunteer	
Recognition	2
Upcoming Events	3
Puzzle	3
RSVP Staff and	
Advisory Board	4
Local Merchants	4
Volunteer Stations	5
Volunteer Birthdays	6

Director’s Corner

Don’t you love the fall? What are some of the things you love best? For me, it’s the colored leaves, warm cozy sweaters, fall festivals (with candy apples & punkin’ chunkin’), cooler temps, all the comfort food (casseroles, soups & stews, spice cake), and of course football! It’s like the calm before the storm. Everything slows down just a bit from trying to do so

much during summer vacation, but the holiday season is just around the corner! RSVP is no different. We are busy ‘cleaning out our file cabinets’ to get ready for upcoming events. By the way, this is an open invitation to all of our volunteers – if we haven’t heard from you in a while let us know what you’ve been up to lately! We will once again sponsor the Senior Angel Tree (for senior

citizens in our area who couldn’t afford Christmas otherwise) with help from the Salvation Army, Etowah Baptist Mission Center and Catholic Center of Concern. There will be an AARP Driver’s Safety Class in Gadsden and Centre, several area organizations have holiday happenings that RSVP volunteers help with, and it’s also time to get ready for tax season!

News

October 27th will be Make A Difference Day this year, and RSVP will continue with a Community Shred/Drug Round Up Event. One difference this year will be that we are working with a local company to provide the shredding service – Observer Office Supply! Although Observer does not have the mobile truck, they do have a facility in Attalla. We will have volunteers at

that facility and also Etowah County Drug Enforcement Unit Agents will be on hand to collect all of your old or unused medicines so that they can be disposed of properly. At our last quarterly workshop, which we call *SOD* (Seniors Outfitted for Defense), Lori Parker from the Social Security Administration talked with our group about the social security

program, & survivors benefits in particular. Ms. Parker was very informative and able to answer all questions from those in attendance. One thing she discussed was the fact that our local social security office is one of the most helpful in the country, and no one should feel intimidated by asking questions at this facility, everyone there is happy to help you with your benefits.



Success Story

Did you see the Dragon Boats in August? It was a spectacular sight – 46’ long canoes with 22 people on board racing down the Coosa River. 25 teams competed for top honors, team drummers dressed in all kinds of costumes, and the team spirit in the Athlete’s Village was intense!

This event was a fundraiser sponsored by

Gadsden-Etowah County Habitat for Humanity and they raised enough money to build the next house for a deserving family in our area!

The Habitat for Humanity mission is to eliminate substandard housing by building simple, decent, affordable homes for families living in substandard housing.

Families are selected based on income, need & willingness to partner. These families complete 300 hours of sweat equity and have a 0% interest, 20 year mortgage on their new home.

Over 60 volunteers (several RSVP volunteers!) were on hand to keep things running smoothly!

STATISTICS

New volunteers this Quarter - 15
Resigned volunteers This quarter -40

Total volunteers – 385

Hours produced – 10,445.25

Value of hours – \$184,880.92
(According to federal guidelines, the value of a volunteer’s time is \$17.70 per hour)

Volunteer Opportunities

- Etowah County Courthouse Information Desk – volunteers are needed as receptionists, to greet visitors and give directions. This is a great way to meet many interesting people! Call RSVP @ 256-549-8147 for more info.
- Etowah Baptist Mission Center – Volunteers are needed in December to work as Christmas present wrappers & in the toy store. Call 256-546-2980.
- New Beacon Hospice - volunteers are needed for direct care, going to homes & nursing homes to sit with patients while their caregiver takes a ‘break’.
- Family Success Center – volunteers will be needed in November & December to gift wrap at the Gadsden Mall for Christmas. Call RSVP @ 256-549-8147 for info.
- Big Brothers Big Sisters – become a mentor for precious children age 6-13, or if you have good computer and telephone skills volunteer in the BBBS office. Call 256-546-5079 for info.
- Tax counseling volunteers will be needed, beginning in January!
- For these & other volunteer opportunities, Call RSVP @ 256-549-8147!

Volunteer Recognition

RSVP has dedicated this space to recognize a volunteer each quarter that one of our partners submits. This time we are proud to recognize Judy Smith who volunteers with our Rx Help program. Judy has been with the Rx Help program since 2008 & is very dedicated to helping people who cannot

afford their medicines. Ms. Smith has a background of working at a local pharmacy and also at a local hospital. This knowledge has served her well in the Rx Help program, being an advocate between our clients and the pharmaceutical companies. Thank you Judy!

The winner of our on time – time sheet drawing is Ms. Betty Wicker, who volunteers with at the Cherokee Medical Center & the Cherokee County Health & Rehab Center. Ms. Wicker has been an RSVP volunteer since September, 2006 and has 927 hours of service recorded! Congratulations!

“No act of kindness, no matter how small, is ever wasted.”

~ Aesop



Upcoming Events

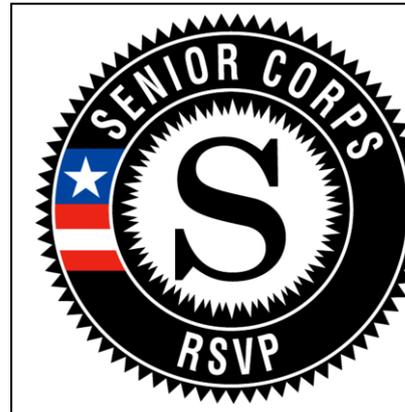
- **October** – New Beacon Hospice food drive for patients all month long!
- **October 18** – RSVP Quarterly workshop, 10 AM, Etowah County Courthouse Room #205. The Etowah Count Health Dept. will present a program on staying mentally healthy as we age. Call to reserve a seat.
- **October 18** – Fundraising Soup Lunch for the Etowah Baptist Mission Center @ First Baptist Church of Gadsden.
- **October 31** – Halloween
- **November 4** – Daylight Savings Time ends
- **November 8** – AARP Drivers Safety Class in Centre, AL, 9 AM – 3 PM. Call RSVP @ 256-549-8147 for reservations.
- **November 13** – Senior Holiday Lunch @ Gadsden Convention Hall. (make reservations & get tickets by 10/29, call 256-549-4740)
- **November 19** – AARP Drivers Safety Class in Gadsden, AL, 9 AM – 3 PM. Call RSVP @ 256-549-8147 for reservations.
- **November 22** – Thanksgiving. Etowah County Courthouse will be closed Thursday & Friday.
- **December** – RSVP will again sponsor the Senior Angel Tree, so anyone can ‘adopt’ a senior citizen for Christmas! Call us @ 256-549-8147 for more info.
- **December 6** – Open House at Etowah Baptist Mission Center.
- **December 9** – Hanukkah
- **December 21** – Winter begins
- **December 25** – Christmas Day. Etowah County Courthouse will be closed Monday & Tuesday.

SUDOKU

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

"We can do anything we want, if we stick to it long enough."

~ Helen Keller



RSVP Staff

Director – Traci Pondick
 Van Driver/Volunteer
 Coordinator – Faye Russell
 Secretary/Bookkeeper – Jan Kelley

Thanks RSVP for your dedication to our residents! You make such a difference in their lives!

Anyone interested in volunteering please contact our Activities

Coordinator, Brandi Walden [256 439 2818](tel:2564392818).



RSVP Advisory Board

<i>Chairperson</i> – Pat Hill	Jane Brittain	Joe Neal
<i>Vice Chairperson</i> – Joyce Farrell	Lisa Dobbins	Jean Pettis
<i>Treasurer</i> – Deborah Lankford	Thelma Edgar	Nettie Robinson
<i>Secretary</i> – Wanda Neal	Juanita Elrod	Doralynn Thomas
	Jerre McNeal	Ila Mae Wright
		CiCi Whiteside

Local Merchants who Support RSVP

Visit these local merchants and say "Thank you for supporting RSVP"!

- | | | | |
|------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------|
| Absolute Fitness | Exchange Bank | Lawley Drugs | Rep. Craig Ford |
| Academy Sports | Flipside Grill | Merle Norman | Samson & Delilah |
| Applebee's | Gadsden Eye Assoc. | Observer Office | Sheriff Todd Entrekin |
| B&B Pawn | Gadsden Foot Clinic | Performance Chiropractic | Shoney's |
| Beauty Outlet | Gadsden Variety Store | Physician's Home Store | Sports Mania |
| Belk's | Gifts On Wings | Popeye's | Stevie B's Pizza |
| Beyond Beauty | Gold's Gym | Premiere Cinema | Superior Bank |
| Books a Million | Hick's Shoes | Professional Opticians | Sutton Bridge Exxon |
| Brown's Framing | Ideal Flowers | Pruett's BBQ | Things of Desire |
| Bubbles Car Wash | J Bradley & Brayden | Rainbow Auction | WGAD Radio Station |
| Chic-Fil-A | JC Penny Salon | Red Lobster | |
| Chili's | Joy's Flowers | Regions Bank | |
| Cothran's Bakery | Kyuka Water | Regis Hair Salon | |



These are all of the places where you can volunteer!

AARP Coosa Valley Chapter #3337
American Red Cross – Cherokee County
American Red Cross – Etowah County
Big Brothers Big Sisters of NEAL
Central – Carver Museum
Cherokee County Health & Rehabilitation
Cherokee Medical Center
Circuit Clerk’s Office of Etowah County
City of Gadsden
Council on Aging
Cultural Arts
El Señor Club
Etowah Baptist Mission Center
Etowah County Council of Community Services
Etowah County Community Action Agency
Etowah County Courthouse Information Desk
Etowah County Dept. of Human Resources
Etowah County Pregnancy Testing Center
Etowah Historical Society
Even Start
Extended Family
Family Success Center
First Call for Help
Friendly Nursing Home Visitors
Gadsden Museum of Art
Gadsden Public Library
Gadsden Quilters Guild
Gadsden Regional Medical Center
Habitat for Humanity
Head Start
MANNA
Mountain View Hospital
Northeast Etowah Community Center
Pilot Club
Riverview Regional Medical Center
ROC – 1st Baptist Church of Centre
RSVP Disaster Volunteers
RSVP Advisory Board
RSVP Community Service Volunteers
Rx Help
Salvation Army
Senior Nutrition Centers
Seniors Outfitted For Defense
Summer Enrichment Program
SWAT Team
Tax Counseling Program
Tele-Chek Program
United Way of Etowah County
Veterans Affairs



Happy Birthday to all of our Fall babies!

Sarah Trammell	10/1	Sandra Baker	10/27	Jeanette Boggs	11/28
Bulah Mae Lawrence	10/2	Anne Butler	10/27	Steve Gooden	11/29
Jean Dunnaway	10/3	Harry Butler	10/29	Richard Wappelhorst	11/29
Betty Woodward	10/3	Nick Garrard	10/30	Rebecca Hilleke	11/30
Lucile Harris	10/4	Joyce Mallett	10/30	Portia Foster	12/1
Jeanne Chambers	10/8	Barbara Clemons	10/31	Irene Mashburn	12/2
Mildred Marsh	10/8	Marynette Watson	10/31	Doris Walker	12/3
Sue Richie	10/8	LaVerne Williams	11/2	Sue Young	12/4
Mary Jane Smith	10/8	Ray St. John	11/4	Kathy Blattel	12/5
Joy Morris	10/9	Janice McClure	11/5	Kenneth Mayo	12/7
Millie Mostella	10/9	Karyle Harper	11/6	Eloise Turk	12/7
Mary Curry	10/10	Elsie Hawkins	11/7	Betty Overall	12/8
Myrtle Cushing	10/10	Paula Beck	11/10	Judy Smith	12/8
Mary Ruth Davis	10/11	Sherre McGinnis	11/11	Rebecca Tinker	12/8
Eva Fulmer	10/11	Juanita Elrod	11/13	Ellen Phillips	12/12
Shirley Steapleton	10/12	Kenneth Epperson	11/13	Mary Johnson	12/13
Thomas Collins	10/14	Phyllis Dabbs	11/14	Ann Ratliff	12/14
Ann Williams	10/14	Carla Justice	11/16	Nina Tenerani	12/17
Mary Catherine Heaton	10/16	Peggy Ann Moll	11/16	Evelyn Westcott	12/21
Larry McNair	10/16	Dianne Higgins	11/17	Harold Smith	12/23
Monya Vanek	10/16	Jackie Hamilton	11/19	Wilma Odom	12/24
Doris Fleming	10/17	Carole Slaton	11/20	Sandra Coffey	12/25
Joe Hall	10/17	Phoebe Woodward	11/20	Waurena Holcomb	12/26
Martha Ann Gray	10/18	Naomi Tarvin	11/21	Steve Scharfenberg	12/26
Louise Kline	10/18	Amy Chester	11/22	Ray Cruz	12/28
Dianne Williams	10/18	Alma Alford	11/23	Linda Ellison	12/28
Ginny Boman	10/22	Treasia Spelce	11/24	Pat Hill	12/28
Ray Lewis	10/23	Frances Brooks	11/26	Nettie Robinson	12/28
Lena Faye Jones	10/24	Millie Cartrett	11/26	Flora Alvis	12/30
Joe-Ann Dooley	10/25	Jeanette Foster	11/26	Gary Hilburn	12/30
Linda Rakestraw	10/26	Carolyn Sheridan	11/26	Peggy Thomas	12/30