

# 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! What a winter this has been. Are you looking forward to spring? 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 sense of 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!*

### In the News

Tax Program

Quilters Guild

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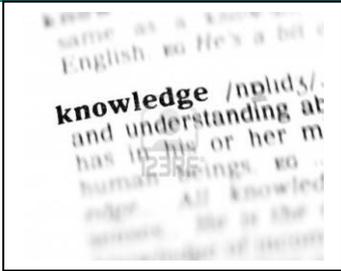
## News

Our tax program has been going strong since the last week of January, and so far volunteers have completed over 1,100 federal tax returns for people all over Etowah & Cherokee County. One reason I love this program so much is because we can see in actual dollars how we make a difference in people's lives. Every year, volunteers help people get back over a

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 you may not know about is the Etowah Quilters Guild. The Quilters Guild is a place where people can learn to quilt, work on their quilting skills & gather with other quilters. Not only is this group made up of some

very talented, award winning quilters, but they also donate their beautiful handmade quilts to DHR every year for children who are in foster care. In 2014, the members of this group donated 25 quilts to children – all of which had their names sewn into the quilt so they would always have something of their very own made especially for them.



## Success Story

Every year East Alabama Area Agency on Aging holds a spelling bee for people 60 or over who live in their service area. Their service area covers 11 counties. This year our very own Joanna Ross, who is a volunteer at the Courthouse Information Desk & with the Friendly Nursing Home Visitors, came in 2<sup>nd</sup> place! C-O-N-G-R-A-

T-U-L-A-T-I-O-N-S Ms. Ross and T-H-A-N-K Y-O-U for representing RSVP of Etowah County so well!

Our last Quarterly Workshop was presented by volunteer Jaide Winn, who spoke about how to manage your health & how to talk with your doctor. Ms. Winn gave us some very valuable

information and she has promised to speak with us again.

Our next SOD workshop is scheduled for May 5<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 in the Etowah County Courthouse. The speaker will be Kathy Boggs, Bradford Health Services, and she will be talking about things that seniors (especially parents & grandparents) need to aware of.

"No winter lasts forever;

no spring skips its turn."

~Hal Borland

### STATISTICS

New volunteers – 12

Total volunteers – 356

Total stations – 45

Volunteer Hours –7473

Value of Hours – \$132,272.10

*(According to federal guidelines, the value of a volunteer's time is \$17.70 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! If you can volunteer on Wednesdays or Saturdays call 256-543-1898 or email gehabitat@comcast.net
- **Catholic Center of Concern** – volunteers are needed to help with

clerical duties & interviewing clients. Call 256-546-0028 to learn more.

- **Etowah Historical Museum** – needs volunteers to man the information desk, answer phones & greet visitors to the museum.
- **Disaster Volunteers** – are needed to help at Red Cross and with the Emergency

Management Agency. There are several different ways to volunteer, from clerical help to actually responding to disasters, to teaching classes.

- **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 – Ms. Jane Brittain. Jane has been volunteering with our tax program and on our Advisory Council since 1990! She has

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

The winner of our on-time time sheet drawing is Ms. Jeanne Chambers who has volunteered at the Etowah Pregnancy Testing Center since 2008. Congratulations Ms. Chambers & thank you for what you do!

# Upcoming Events

**April 3** – Good Friday, Etowah County Courthouse will be closed.

**April 5** – Easter Sunday

**April 7** – Mayor’s Day of Recognition for National Service. Mayors across the country recognize the impact that volunteers make every day!

**April 11** – Reality Check for middle school & high school students & their parents @ Gadsden Public Library.

**April 15** – Last day to file tax returns! Call us @ 256-549-8147 to find out where preparers will be to help you!

**April 15** – Council on Aging Health Fair at Convention Hall

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

**May 5** – RSVP Quarterly Workshop for volunteers, Kathy Boggs of Bradford Health Services will talk about important things for parents & grandparents to be aware of.

**May 6** – City of Gadsden’s Senior Fun Day @ Convention Hall

**May 7** – AARP Safe Driver Class @ Cherokee Medical Center in Centre. Call RSVP @ 256-549-8147 to register.

**May 10** – Mother’s Day

**May 14** – May Day sponsored by East Alabama AAA in Talladega.

**May 25** – Memorial Day, Etowah County Courthouse will be closed.

**June 3** - City of Gadsden’s Ice Cream/Bingo Bash @ the Senior Activity Center

**June 21** – Father’s Day & 1<sup>st</sup> day of Summer!



# 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

*"If you don't like how  
things are, change it!  
You're not a tree." ~Jim  
Rohn*

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

## VOLUNTEER BIRTHDAYS

Pat Trotter	04/04	Wanda Neal	05/02	David Rogers	06/01
Carolyn Elkins	04/05	Jean Foster	05/04	Alvatine Blackwell	06/02
Rick Lankford	04/05	Shirley Pollard	05/05	Amelia Collins	06/02
Edith Sitz	04/11	Eloise Ramer	05/06	Deborah Henderson	6/3
Gary Batson	04/12	Danny Wagnon	05/06	Gordon Maddox	06/05
Emma Cylar	04/13	Pamela Wilson	05/07	Sarah Vance	06/05
Bonnie Link	04/13	Jerry Howell	05/09	Annie Leeth	06/06
Loyd Watkins	04/13	Joyce Howell	05/10	Jerre McNeal	06/06
Jewell Moore	04/15	Ruby Jo Boyle	05/17	Danny Long	06/07
Carolyn Hammond	4/16	Sue Tidwell	05/18	Sarah Spear	06/07
Mary Ann Hill	04/17	Katherine Buchanon	5/19	Martha Yates	06/07
Rebecca Parris	04/17	Lessie Fluharty	05/19	Claude Burnett	06/11
Jean Pettis	04/17	Ruth Farmer	05/20	Bobbie Reeves	06/12
Margaret Long	04/20	Mary Jo Wilson	05/20	Betty Roberts	06/12
Gloria Hope	04/20	Jan Kelley	05/21	Beatrice Brooks	06/14
Joyce Hilburn	04/21	Carol Warmack	05/21	Louise Mullican	06/14
Joyce Scott	04/23	Georgia Echols	05/22	Betty Ann Watkins	6/14
Mildred Battles	04/25	DeAnna DeVille	05/24	Doug Belyue	06/17
Rose Hawkins	04/26	James Thornton Jr.	5/24	Delores Cerecke	06/18
Gerrie Jordan	04/27	Joyce Wheeler	05/24	Suzanne Scharfenberg	6/21
Louise Anderson	04/28	Alma Boswell	05/25	Ann Boatwright	06/22
Mary Sue Grissom	4/28	Betty Brannon	05/27	John Parks	06/24
Ping Pondick	04/28	Joan Brown	05/27	Dorman Robinson	6/24
Craig Scott	05/01	Jenell Twilley	05/28	R.V. Amos	06/24
Orville Hubbard	05/02	Marie Cylar	05/30	Shirley Johnson	06/28
James Mashburn	05/02	Bettye Knowles	06/01	Mary Owens	06/29



*"In childhood, we yearn to be grown-ups. In old age, we yearn to be kids. It just seems that all would be wonderful if we didn't have to celebrate our birthdays in chronological order.*

*~Robert Brault*

**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)

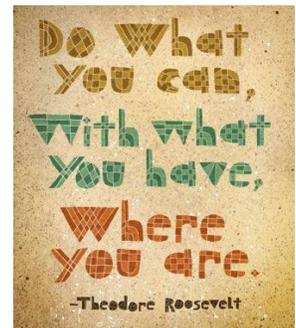
GETTING THINGS DONE.

## RSVP Staff

Director – Traci Pondick

Van Driver/Volunteer  
Coordinator – Faye  
Russell

Secretary/Bookkeeper –  
Sarah Kelley



## RSVP Advisory Council

*Chair* – Jane Brittain

*Vice Chair* – Joyce  
Farrell

*Treasurer* – Deborah  
Lankford

*Secretary* – Millie  
Cartrett

Lisa Dobbins

Thelma Edgar  
Theresa Frye

Jenifer Grace  
Jennifer Harold

Pat Hill  
Sandra Jackson

Jerre McNeal

Carolyn Parker  
Jean Pettis

Nettie Robinson  
Craig Scott

Doralynn Thomas  
CiCi Whiteside

**We're on the Web!**

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

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

**Friend us on Facebook!**



<https://www.facebook.com/groups/327258517069/>

**Follow us on Twitter!**



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

ADVANCE AUTO PARTS

ATTALLA FLORIST

BELK'S

BOOMERS SPA

THE CHOICE

DISCOUNT PEST

ETOWAH FOOT SPEC.

FAMILY SAVINGS CU

FIRST EQUITY HOME

FLIPSIDE CAFÉ

REP CRAIG FORD

GADSDEN EYE ASSOC.

GENERATIONS BANK

GOLD'S GYM

HICK'S SHOES

HINDSMAN DAVIS

HOKES BLUFF DRUG

ILLEGALLY BLONDE

JACK'S OF GADSDEN

JOHNSON'S FOODS

KEYSTONE BANK

LINDA BARRETT-VAUGHN

LIVE, LAUGH & LOVE

MASTER CUTS SALON

MCCLELLAN CHIROPRACTIC

MCDONALDS

MCNAIR JEWELERS

ONCE WRITTEN, TWICE READ

PACK'S NURSERY

PAPA JOHN'S PIZZA

PHYSICIANS HOME HEALTH

PRUETT'S BBQ

RED LOBSTER

REGIONS BANK

REGIS HAIR SALON

RSVP ADVISORY COUNCIL

SHEAR CLASS SALON

SPORTS MANIA

STEVIE B'S PIZZA

SUTTON BRIDGE EXXON

TAMING OF THE EWE

THINGS OF DESIRE

TRE RAGAZZI'S

UNCLE SAM'S BBQ

WELLS FARGO ADVISORS

