



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
- Spring activities

Director’s Corner

Doing good & spreading joy – this is what RSVP volunteers do every single day.

Volunteers are in a bunch of non-profits, schools, groups and organizations; they’re working with children, other senior citizens & everyone in between. Volunteers are doing manual labor & making phone calls.

Just so you know, these are some of the services that we provide through RSVP:

- Helping people get prescriptions through prescription assistance programs.
- Making reassurance phone calls to homebound seniors.
- Providing transportation to visit area nursing homes.
- Hosting a quarterly workshop focused on helping seniors remain

secure and self-sufficient.

Volunteers are some of the happiest people on earth, and they love to spread that joy with everyone they come in contact with.

This spring, I hope you understand the amount of joy you give others and also that you bring joy to us by sharing with us what you do!

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News

Tax season is almost over, just a couple more weeks until we finish for the year. Our 24 volunteers have been working tirelessly to make sure that all returns are filed quickly and correctly. There is something new every year, and this year is no exception. But this group has a wonderful way of rolling with the punches and coming out on top. They have filed over 1400 federal returns so far, which means 1400 families in Etowah &

Cherokee Counties get all of their refund money because they don’t have to pay for this service. If you know any of our volunteers be sure to tell them thank you for all of their hard work and dedication!

If you are looking for something to do with the grandchildren (or great-grandchildren!) this spring, there are plenty of options! The Chocolate Festival will be in Rainbow City April 1st,

Smoke on the Falls April 7 & 8, the Gadsden Symphony Orchestra Spring Pops Concert April 8th, Southeastern Plein Air Art Invitational all the month of April, First Fridays each month, free movies at the Pitman in April, May & June – and that’s just to name a few! Go have fun!



Success Story

The Etowah Baptist Missions Center has a heart for restoring dignity to those who are in need. They labor tirelessly to meet the physical, emotional and spiritual needs of those in our community who are unable to afford the necessities that many of us take for granted. Beginning on the first Tuesday in April, they will begin giving out food through Client Choice. This process will allow the clients to go through what is

set up as a “mini-mart”, where they will be able to select their own food instead of the center workers bagging it for them! They give all glory to God for this opportunity that He has given them to serve the community – and they are so very thankful for the dedicated service of their RSVP volunteers.

Our last Quarterly Workshop was presented by Ray & Jennifer Wise of Combat

Survival of Alabama. They taught us what to do if we found ourselves in a difficult situation, but more importantly how to stay out of a difficult situation to begin with!

Our next SOD workshop is scheduled for April 20th at 10:00 in the Etowah County Courthouse. The speaker will be Tena King from King’s Olive Oil, and she will be telling us all the benefits of olive oil and vinegar.

“No matter how long the winter, spring is sure to follow.” ~Proverb

STATISTICS

New volunteers – 14
 Total volunteers – 324
 Total stations – 53
 Volunteer Hours –9295
 Value of Hours – \$193,714.05

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

Volunteer Opportunities

- **MANNA** – volunteers are needed to deliver hot meals to the elderly and homebound.
- **Reading Buddies** – local elementary schools need volunteers to listen to students read.
- **Senior Nutrition Centers** – volunteers are needed with daily operations and delivering meals to the homebound.
- **Etowah Pregnancy Testing Center** – needs volunteers for one-on-one peer counseling.
- **Big Brothers/Big Sisters** – volunteers are needed to be mentors for children, and also in schools to oversee High School ‘Bigs’ with elementary school ‘Littles’.
- **Etowah Baptist Mission Center** – needs volunteers to interview clients.
- **For these & other volunteer opportunities, call RSVP @ 256-549-8147!**

Volunteer Recognition

In this newsletter, we want to recognize an RSVP volunteer who is truly extraordinary. “Betty McElroy has volunteered with Habitat for over 20 years, climbing ladders, building houses and encouraging all on site. To this day, she provides a handmade wooden key to every new homeowner at

the dedication of their home – as well as a personalized name plaque for each child customized with favorite colors and activities. Betty’s generosity and love for her fellowman is a gift she shares with everyone she meets.” ~Suzanne Scharfenberg, Board Director, Gadsden-Etowah Habitat for Humanity.

The winner of our on-time time sheet drawing is Mr. John Bentley who has volunteered at the Etowah County Pregnancy Testing Center & RSVP Community Service since 2007 & has 8,048 hours of service on record. Congratulations Mr. Bentley & thank you for all that you do!

Upcoming Events

April 13 – Last day of RSVP Free Tax Preparation. Call 256-549-8147 for our schedule.

April 14 – Good Friday - Etowah County Courthouse closed.

April 16 – Easter Sunday

April 20 – RSVP Quarterly Workshop will be in the Etowah County Courthouse, Room 205 @ 10:00 AM with Tena King from King’s Olive Oil. Call 256-549-8147 to register.

April 26 – **RSVP Annual Recognition Luncheon.** **Be on the lookout for your invitation!**

May 3 – Senior Fun Day @ Convention Hall.

May 14 – Mother’s Day

May 19 – AARP Safe Driver’s Class @ the Gadsden Public Library. Call 256-549-4699 ext. 120 to register.

May 29 – Memorial Day – Etowah County Courthouse closed.

June – The City of Gadsden will be hosting a nutrition program for kids. Call 256-549-4646 for information.

June 14 – Flag Day

June 17 – Artist event celebrating Cherokee County Artist’s @ the museum – for details call Cherokee County Historical Society @ 256-927-7835.

June 18 – Father’s Day



L L A B E S A B U R N X G G E M C
 F I Y X O T Z T P F H O N R A T X
 H R M C R C R Q U D N I S N S P J
 W P H E N E G T N L T E T A T M J
 L A C A M S D B S N I Y E D E L B
 F Z R R G N T A A R A P Y R R S H
 W M A T A I M L F M E A S E G T T
 E W M H G J P V O F Q W Q I O M T
 S N O W M E L T W L O U O M L N O
 G G R O W T H C I E I D O L F V F
 Q J P R A I N L F N T F I I F R P
 U C C M S N I B O R L D I L O S U
 K E B S Y E M X Y M P D Z G S V L
 F N A H S B Y O R D A Y S P E B W

WORD SEARCH

- APRIL
- BASEBALL
- DAFFODILS
- EARTHWORMS
- EASTER
- EQUINOX
- SNOWMELT
- FROGS
- GOLF
- GREEN
- GROWTH
- INSECTS
- LILIES
- MARCH
- MAY
- PLANTING
- RAIN
- ROBINS
- SEASON
- FLOWERS
- TULIPS
- WARMER
- WET



*"The work an unknown
good man has done is like a
vein of water flowing
hidden underground,
secretly making the ground
green." ~Thomas Carlyle*

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 READING BUDDIES
AMERICAN RED CROSS – ETOWAH & CHEROKEE CHAPTERS	ETOWAH HISTORICAL SOCIETY	RIVERVIEW REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER
BIG BROTHERS/BIG SISTERS OF NEAL	EVEN START EXTENDED FAMILY	ROC-1 ST BAPTIST CHURCH OF CENTRE
BOYS & GIRLS CLUB	FAMILY SUCCESS CENTER	RSVP ADVISORY BOARD
CATHOLIC CENTER OF CONCERN	FIRST CALL FOR HELP	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 SALVATION ARMY
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
CITY OF GADSDEN	GLENCOE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL	TAX COUNSELING PROGRAM
COMMUNITY ACTION AGENCY	HABITAT FOR HUMANITY	TELE-CHEK
COUNCIL ON AGING	HEAD START	THE CHAMBER
CULTURAL ARTS CENTER	HUMANE SOCIETY PET RESCUE & ADOPTION	UNITED WAY OF ETOWAH COUNTY
ETOWAH BAPTIST MISSION CENTER	MANNA	W.E. STRIPLIN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

VOLUNTEER BIRTHDAYS

Pat Trotter	04/04	Craig Scott	05/01	Amelia Collins	06/02
Carolyn Elkins	04/05	Orval Hubbard	05/02	Becky St. John	06/02
Gary Batson	04/12	James Mashburn	05/02	Deborah Henderson	6/3
Emma Cylar	04/13	Wanda Neal	05/02	Sarah Vance	06/05
Bonnie Link	04/13	Carolyn Sterling	05/03	Annie Leeth	06/06
Loyd Watkins	04/13	Judy Edwards	05/04	Jerre McNeal	06/06
Jewell Moore	04/15	Jean Foster	05/04	Danny Long	06/07
Carolyn Hammond	4/16	Shirley Pollard	05/05	Sarah Spear	06/07
Mary Ann Hill	04/17	Eloise Ramer	05/06	Martha Yates	06/07
Jean Pettis	04/17	Danny Wagon	05/06	Christine Woods	06/08
Gloria Hope	04/20	Jerry Howell	05/09	Claude Burnett	06/11
Margaret Long	04/20	Joyce Howell	05/10	Betty Roberts	06/12
Joyce Hilburn	04/21	Ruby Jo Boyle	05/17	Doug Belyue	06/17
Jerry W. Lee	04/24	Robert Smith	05/17	Delores Cerecke	06/18
Rose Hawkins	04/26	Katherine Buchanon	5/19	Suzanne Scharfenberg	6/21
Gerrie Jordan	04/27	Lessie Fluharty	05/19	Ann Boatwright	06/22
Louise Anderson	04/28	Ruth Farmer	05/20	John Leach	06/22
Mary S. Grissom	04/28	Vicki Spelce	05/20	John Parks	06/24
Ping Pondick	04/28	Mary Jo Wilson	05/20	Dorman Robinson	6/24
		Jan Kelley	05/21	Doris Smith	06/25
		Carol Warmack	05/21	Dorothy Carter	06/26
		DeAnna DeVille	05/24	Becky Henson	06/29
		Joyce Wheeler	05/24		
		Alma Boswell	05/25		
		Betty Brannon	05/27		
		Marie Cylar	05/30		



*"We are always the same
age inside."*

~ Gertrude Stein

RSVP

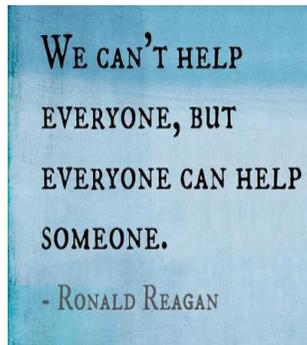
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GETTING THINGS DONE.



RSVP Staff

Director – Traci Pondick

Van Driver/Volunteer
Coordinator –
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Administrative Asst. –
Joy Morrison

RSVP Advisory Council

Chair – Pat Hill

Vice Chair – 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

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)

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

ADVANCE AUTO PARTS	HOKES BLUFF DRUG SHOPPE	RAYMOND JAMES ADVISOR MIKE JONES
BAKER TIRE	JOHNSON'S GIANT FOODS	RED LOBSTER
BELKS	JACK'S OF GADSDEN	REGIONS BANK
COTHRAN'S BAKERY	MARAELLA WINERY	REGIS SALON
DISCOUNT PEST CONTROL	MATER'S PIZZA & PASTA	RIVER BANK & TRUST
FAMILY SAVINGS CREDIT UNION	MCDONALD'S OF GADSDEN	SPORTS MANIA
FIRST EQUITY HOME LOAN	NOCCALULA FALLS PARK	STATE FARM AGENT DANNY CLAYTON
GADSDEN PUBLIC LIBRARY	OBSERVER OFFICE SUPPLY	STEVIE B'S PIZZA
GADSDEN VARIETY & ANTIQUE MALL	PACK'S NURSERY	SUTTON BRIDGE EXXON
GOLD'S GYM	PHYSICIANS HOME HEALTH SUPERSTORE	TRE REGAZZI'S
GOTTA HAVE IT	PREMIERE CINEMA 16	WILLS CREEK VINEYARDS

