



Making a Difference

April-June, 2012

Vol. XI Issue 2

OUR MISSION:
TO IMPROVE LIVES,
STRENGTHEN
COMMUNITIES &
FOSTER CIVIC
ENGAGEMENT
THROUGH SERVICE &
VOLUNTEERING.

In The News:

Tax Program

Quarterly Workshop

“The taxpayer – that’s someone who works for the federal government but doesn’t have to take the civil service exam.”

~ Ronald Reagan

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
Birthdays	6

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



Director’s Corner

Spring is in the air! This is the time for cleaning out closets, filing income tax returns & taking on new challenges. Days are getting longer and volunteers are getting busier, making sure everything gets done.

RSVP is SPRINGing into action too – helping our partners with their volunteer needs, and helping our volunteers with new and different

ways to help in our community.

RSVP has been going through a rebirth of sorts, and we are still in the process of rethinking how we do things and how we work with our volunteers, partners and sponsors. So bear with us through this ‘growth spurt’, remember that we are all growing together, and let us know what you think or need. We

very much want to be a big part of the volunteer community in Etowah and Cherokee County, and be a resource that people turn to when they need volunteer solutions.

As always – be the change you want to see in your world (we’ll be right there with you!).

News

RSVP’s free income tax program is in full swing! This is the 1st year that our program has been totally online – so when we complete a tax return it is immediately sent to the IRS.

The two biggest changes this year are that our downtown Gadsden location is inside the Courthouse, in Room 205 – NOT in

the old Health Dept. building; and the last day to file is April 17th, which is a Tuesday. So far volunteers have completed more than 500 federal returns!

Next, our most recent quarterly workshop was very informative. Josie Johnson from Attorney General Luther Strange’s Office talked to our group about

frauds and scams, especially those aimed at senior citizens. Ms. Johnson gave a lot of useful information - put all your phone #s on the Do Not Call Registry (1-888-382-1222), always keep your social security cards & Medicare cards in a safe place, & when purchasing a gift card from a display get one from the back, not the one in front.



STATISTICS

New volunteers this
Quarter - 23
Resigned volunteers
This quarter -17

Total volunteers –
445

Hours produced –
12,253

Value of hours –
\$216,878.10

*“The greatest reward for
man’s toil is not what he
gets from it, but what he
becomes by it.”*

~ John Ruskin

Success Story

In January of this year, RSVP sponsored a Volunteer Coordinator Training for nonprofits & faith based agencies in our area. This was a new endeavor for us in that we feel very strongly about helping these organizations interact with their volunteers. And they support us by providing a safe place for senior citizens to volunteer.

The workshop was free for anyone involved with volunteer management, thanks to the RSVP Advisory Council who sponsored this training event. Laura McCullars was our presenter and it was held at the Pitman Theater in Historic Downtown Gadsden. 26 people attended, and according to results of

surveys that the attendees completed, everyone learned something about being an effective Volunteer Coordinator & how to productively manage volunteers. Hopefully we will be able to offer more workshops on relevant topics in the future – to help agencies *and* volunteers!

Volunteer Opportunities

- **Big Brothers Big Sisters** – there are many ways to volunteer here, mentoring youth, public speaking, or helping in the office. Call 256-546-5079 for details.
- **Even Start** – this agency needs help with preschool children, infants, toddlers & adults! Call 256-549-2953 for information on how to volunteer.
- **Gadsden Public Library** – the Library can use volunteers in their bookstore, to help shelve books or to help scan photos into the computer. Call 256-549-4699 for info.
- **Etowah Courthouse Information Desk** – RSVP uses volunteers in the lobby to help visitors with directions & information.
- **Habitat for Humanity** – this agency could use some skilled volunteers at construction sites of new homes. Call 256-543-1898 for details.
- **Red Cross** – volunteers are needed in Etowah & Cherokee Counties for disaster services, youth programs, emergency services & public relations. Call 256-547-8667 for more info.

Volunteer Recognition

This year, RSVP has been very fortunate to have four very qualified, hard working NEW volunteers in our free tax assistance program. We get excited if we get one new volunteer each year, so you can imagine how we feel now! These four volunteers have jumped right in, learning tax law, a new computer

program, how our program operates, plus working with a demanding schedule. These four admirable volunteers are: Sandra Coffey, Randall Harvey, Pat Herrod & Eve Pentecost. If you know any of them, please help us say “**Thank You!**” and we expect you to volunteer again next year!

The winner of our on time – time sheet drawing is Ms. Jeanne Chambers, who volunteers with the Etowah Pregnancy Testing Center. Mrs. Chambers has volunteered with RSVP since 2008 & has 540 hours on record. Congratulations Mrs. Chambers!



Upcoming Events

- **April 6** – Good Friday, Etowah County Courthouse will be closed.
- **April 8** – Easter
- **April 17** – Last day to file taxes without being late!
- **April 26** – Seniors Outfitted for Defense Workshop, local attorney Stewart Burns will talk about how to handle your assets as you get older. Call RSVP to reserve a seat – 549-8147
- **May 1** – Senior Fun Day @ Convention Hall from 11:00 – 1:00.
- **May 10** – Etowah Pregnancy Testing Center’s Choose Life Banquet @ Convention Hall. Call 256-442-6101 for details.
- **May 13** – Mother’s Day
- **May 23** – RSVP Annual Recognition Lunch @ the Senior Activity Center, 10:00 – 1:00
- **May 28** – Memorial Day, Etowah County Courthouse will be closed.
- **June 6** – Ice Cream/Bingo Bash @ the Senior Activity Center from 12:00 – 2:00

- **June 15** – United Way’s Day of Action – call 256-547-2581 to find out how you can be a part of one of the biggest volunteer opportunities nationwide!
- **June 17** – Father’s Day
- **June 20** – Summer begins!

TIDBITS

- ❖ The Etowah County Commission has a new, updated website – www.etowahcounty.org. Check it out – RSVP is on there too!
- ❖ For all of our computer whizzes: when searching for something on the internet, go to www.goodsearch.com & enter RSVP of Etowah County as your preferred charity, & you can help us raise money every time you search – it’s that easy!
- ❖ Joy Ballenger is the new Director of Red Cross in Etowah & Cherokee County! Stop by to say hello (or to volunteer!) in Gadsden on Mondays, Wednesdays or Fridays & in Centre on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Also, you can donate blood in Gadsden every Thursday from 11:00 – 5:00!

PUZZLE – MURDER MYSTERY!



- | | |
|---------------|-------------|
| ALIBI | MOTIVE |
| ARREST | MURDER |
| CAPTURE | MYSTERY |
| CAUTION | OPPORTUNITY |
| CHARGE | PERPETRATOR |
| CLUE | PLOT |
| CRIME | POLICE |
| CRIMINAL | PURSUIT |
| DETECTIVE | SENTENCE |
| EVIDENCE | SOLVE |
| FORENSIC | SUSPECT |
| INVESTIGATION | WEAPON |



RSVP Staff

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

“A fool tells what he will do, a boaster tells what he has done, a wise man does it and says nothing.”
 ~ Anonymous



GADSDEN HEALTH & REHAB CENTER

Gadsden Health & Rehab Center would like to say “Thank You” to the Friendly Nursing Home Visitors for helping them with activities every week!

RSVP Advisory Board

<i>Chairperson –</i> Millie Cartrett	Thelma Edgar	Joe Neal
<i>Vice Chairperson –</i> Joyce Farrell	Juanita Elrod	Wanda Neal
<i>Treasurer –</i> Deborah Lankford	Perry Gwin	Nettie Robinson
<i>Secretary –</i> Wanda Neal	Pat Hill	Ila Mae Wright
	Jerre McNeal	CiCi Whiteside

Local Merchants who Support RSVP

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

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



Places where you can volunteer through RSVP!

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 County Historical Museum
Cherokee Medical Center
Christ Central Church Library
Circuit Clerk’s Office of Etowah County
City of Gadsden
Council on Aging
Cultural Arts Center
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
Hospices
MANNA
Mountain View Hospital
Northeast Etowah Community Center
Pilot Club
Queens of Entertainment
Riverview Regional Medical Center
ROC – 1st Baptist Church of Centre
RSVP Disaster Volunteers
RSVP Advisory Board
RSVP Community Service Volunteers
RSVP Entertainers
Rx Help
Salvation Army
Senior Nutrition Centers
Seniors Outfitted For Defense
Summer Enrichment Program
SWAT Team
Tax Counseling Program
Tele-Chek Program
The Chamber/Gadsden & Etowah County
United Way of Etowah County
Veterans Affairs



Shirley Hughes	4/1	Danny Wagnon	5/6	Sarah Vance	6/5
Colleen Thornton	4/1	Geraldine Battles	5/8	Harvey Collins	6/6
Julian Yates	4/2	Jerry Howell	5/9	Ormond Grimes	6/6
Vernon Carr	4/3	Joyce Howell	5/10	Annie Leeth	6/6
Tom Roper	4/4	Alonza Scott	5/14	Jerre McNeal	6/6
Pat Trotter	4/4	Ray Stephens	5/16	Sarah Spear	6/7
Rick Lankford	4/5	Ruby Jo Boyle	5/17	Martha Yates	6/7
Betty Segers	4/6	A.C. Boyd	5/18	Donald Ray Hoskins	6/9
Lorraine Moore	4/9	Betty McGriff	5/18	Bobbie Reeves	6/12
Molly Cheatwood	4/10	Sue Tidwell	5/18	Betty Roberts	6/12
Edith Sitz	4/11	Edna Brittain	5/19	Beatrice Brooks	6/14
Gary Batson	4/12	Katherine Buchanan	5/19	Louise Mullican	6/14
Emma Cylar	4/13	Lessie Fluharty	5/19	Samuel Penn	6/14
Bonnie Link	4/13	Sudie Heard	5/19	Doris Wilson	6/14
Loyd Watkins	4/13	Ruth Farmer	5/20	Charlotte Edwards	6/16
Linda Gooden	4/16	Mary Jo Wilson	5/20	Margaret Hyde Jaynes	6/16
Gail Bennich	4/17	Jan Kelley	5/21	Doug Belyue	6/17
Mary Ann Hill	4/17	DeAnna DeVille	5/24	Lena Faye Jones	6/17
Virginia King	4/18	James Thornton, Jr.	5/24	Lucille Nix	6/17
Mary Cylar	4/19	Joyce Wheeler	5/24	Mildred Thompson	6/17
Geraldine Gooden	4/19	Kathryn Barrett	5/25	Delores Cerecke	6/18
James Waters	4/19	Alma Boswell	5/25	Orena Starling	6/19
Margaret Long	4/20	Bettie Jones	5/25	David Burns	6/21
Gloria Marbury	4/20	Margaret Sexton	5/26	Sara Higginbotham	6/21
Joyce Hilburn	4/21	Jenell Twilley	5/28	Suzanne Scharfenberg	6/21
Michael Tillman	4/22	Marie Cylar	5/30	Ann Boatwright	6/22
Ruby Jones	4/23	Jack Gooden	5/30	Ramona Burchfield	6/23
Mildred Battles	4/25	Bettye Knowles	6/1	Louise Hines	6/24
Gerrie Parker	4/27	David Rogers	6/1	James Holcomb	6/24
Winnie Tillman	4/27	Alvatine Blackwell	6/2	John Parks	6/24
Louise Anderson	4/28	Amelia Collins	6/2	Dohrman Robinson	6/24
Mary Sue Grissom	4/28	Dawn Henderson	6/2	R. V. Amos	6/25
Ping Pondick	4/28	Earline Harrison	6/3	Julia Scott	6/25
Hattie Johnson	5/2	Randall Harvey	6/3	Patricia Scales	6/26
Wanda Neal	5/2	Deborah Henderson	6/3	Carolyn Chaviers	6/29
Jean Foster	5/4	Dorothy Jones	6/4	Mary Owens	6/29
Eloise Ramer	5/6	Gordon Maddox	6/5	Jerry Campbell	6/30

