

# 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).

## In the News

New Volunteer Station

New Administrative Asst.

## Director's Corner

There have been a lot of changes around here lately, so I have been thinking about **'change'**. Most of the time I am very content with the way things are – I don't like **change**.

But, change happens all the time. Change affects everyone, & it's up to us to decide if we will embrace it or fight it. Of course, it doesn't do any good to

fight it, right?

So, what are some good things about change?

Change brings new opportunities, usually opportunities that we would never have even considered unless something changed.

Change keeps you flexible. Just like your bones & joints get stiff if you don't move them, not changing at all

keeps your mind & spirit inflexible and stuffy.

Change also can build self-confidence & strength; by trying new things and succeeding we learn and grow.

So, after coming to terms with it – let's go **CHANGE** the world for the better!

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## News

We have another new volunteer station in Etowah County – The Boys & Girls Club! This organization is like many others – working with very little & trying to do so much. Sometimes they will have over 100 children at once in their facility, but these kids now have a safe place to stay (& learn a few things!) after school & before their parents get home. Would you like to volunteer there?

And there are four new members on our Advisory Council – working to make sure RSVP stays focused on our mission to improve lives & strengthen communities through volunteering! Welcome Millie Cartrett (returning member), Theresa Frye, Jenifer Grace & Sandra Jackson!

We also have a brand new staff member – Sarah Kelley is now the RSVP Administrative Assistant. I think

Sarah is an outstanding addition to our office; she is very friendly, easy to get along with, and organized! I hope everyone can get a chance to come by sometime to meet her. Samantha Snow will be sorely missed, but she has moved on to bigger and better things – and that's the way it should be.



## Success Story

This summer was very active for RSVP volunteers!

The Summer Enrichment Program had 87 children that completed the six-week schedule, tutored & mentored by 12 RSVP volunteers. These children not only keep up with what they have already learned in school so that they're ready for the next year;

they also learn etiquette & get to take trips that they may not be able to do otherwise.

The Gadsden-Etowah County Habitat for Humanity Dragon Boat Festival was also successful this year, raising enough money to build a house! 15 RSVP volunteers were there that day doing many things.

Thirteen volunteers helped the Library with their Children's Summer Reading Program Finale, and six others helped compile Yellow Dot folders for the entire state.

And these are just special events that took place this summer, not mentioning everything that happened on a regular basis!

*"Things do not change, we change." ~ Henry David*

*Thoreau*

## Volunteer Opportunities

**Courthouse Information Desk** – we need volunteers to man the information desk & help give directions!

**Gadsden Regional Home Health & Hospice** – volunteers are needed to help in the office or with patients. Call 256-538-2273 for more info.

**Etowah Baptist Mission Center** – volunteers are always needed to help at the Mission Center, but especially now for Thanksgiving & Christmas assistance.

**Tax Counseling Program** – we need volunteers for this program to be greeters and preparers. It's really not hard, if you can use a computer & like to

help people this is the opportunity for you!

**Working with Children** – Head Start, Even Start & Family Success Center all need volunteers to help with children.

**For these & other volunteer opportunities, call RSVP @ 256-549-8147!**

### STATISTICS

New volunteers – 10  
Total volunteers – 346  
Total stations – 50  
Volunteer Hours – 11,395.00  
Value of Hours – \$201,691.50

*(According to federal guidelines, the value of a volunteer's time is \$17.70 per hour)*

## Volunteer Recognition

You know the saying "It takes a village"? Well, every time there is a disaster around here it really does take a village to get things put back together! This quarter's volunteer recognition is for 3 volunteers who helped at the Donation Center after the last tornado.

Jenifer Grace writes "I would like to say wonderful things about Sally Shamblin, Carol & Kenneth Hudson. Sally helped each week sorting & packing food boxes, & Carol & Kenneth also helped receiving goods & delivering food boxes to the Smith Institute

Community. We appreciate their hard work & loving hearts! Our on time, time sheet winner is: Helen Morgan! Ms. Morgan volunteers @ Cherokee County Nursing Home & Senior Center & has 475 hours on record!

# Upcoming Events

**October – December –**  
 Council on Aging can help you during the Medicare Open Enrollment period. If you want to change Part D plans or just make sure that you still have the best plan, call 256-543-3616 for more info.

**October –** several agencies will begin accepting applications for holiday assistance in October (Etowah Baptist Mission Center, Catholic Center of Concern, Salvation Army, and Community Action). Remember to tell people who may need this help.

**October 13 –** deadline to

apply for Habitat housing. Call 256-543-1898 for application.

**October 16 –** RSVP  
 Quarterly Workshop, 10:00 AM, Room 205 in the Etowah County Courthouse. Are you dizzy or unsteady? Learn how to treat this. Call 256-549-8147 to make reservations.

**October 16 –** Soup Lunch fundraiser for the Etowah Baptist Mission Center will be at Gadsden 1<sup>st</sup> Baptist Church from 11 – 2.

**October 31 –**Halloween

**November 2 –** Daylight

Savings Time ends.

**November 11 –** Veterans Day

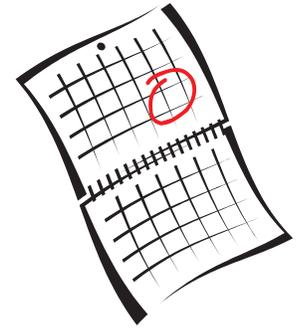
**November 12 –** City of Gadsden Holiday Lunch for Seniors. 11:00 @ Convention Hall.

**November 27 –** Thanksgiving

**December 21 –** winter begins

**December 25 –** Christmas Day

**December 31 –** New Year's Eve.



*"You can avoid having ulcers by adapting to the situation: If you fall in the mud puddle, check your pockets for fish."*

*~Author Unknown*

# Autumn Word Search

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

HALLOWEEN  
 GOURDS  
 NOVEMBER  
 APPLES  
 LEAVES  
 OCTOBER  
 AUTUMN  
 APPLE CIDER  
 FOOTBALL  
 PUMPKIN  
 PIE  
 FROST  
 HARVEST  
 SCHOOL  
 CHILL  
 RAKING  
 COLORS  
 THANKSGIVING  
 SCARECROWS  
 JACKOLANTERNS



## RSVP Volunteer Stations

AARP – COOSA VALLEY CHAPTER #3337	ETOWAH COUNTY COURTHOUSE	MOUNTAIN VIEW HOSPITAL
ALABAMA COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE	ETOWAH COUNTY DEPT. OF HUMAN RESOURCES	NORTHEAST ETOWAH COMMUNITY CENTER
AMERICAN RED CROSS – ETOWAH & CHEROKEE CHAPTERS	ETOWAH COUNTY PREGNANCY TESTING CENTER	PILOT CLUB  RIVERVIEW REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER
BIG BROTHERS/BIG SISTERS	ETOWAH HISTORICAL SOCIETY	ROC-1 <sup>ST</sup> BAPTIST CHURCH OF CENTRE
BOYS & GIRLS CLUB	EVEN START	RSVP ADVIROSY BOARD
CATHOLIC CENTER OF CONCERN	EXTENDED FAMILY  FAMILY SUCCESS CENTER	RSVP COMMUNITY SERVICE VOLUNTEERS
CENTRAL-CARVER FOUNDATION, INC.	FIRST CALL FOR HELP	RSVP DISASTER VOLUNTEERS
CHEROKEE COUNTY HEALTH & REHAB.	FRIENDLY NURSING HOME VISITORS	RX HELP
CHEROKEE COUNTY HISTORICAL MUSEUM	GADSDEN MUSEUM OF ART	SALVATION ARMY  SENIOR NUTRITION CENTERS
CHEROKEE MEDICAL CENTER	GADSDEN PUBLIC LIBRARY	SUMMER ENRICHMENT PROGRAM
CIRCUIT CLERK’S OFFICE OF ETOWAH COUNTY	GADSDEN QUILTERS GUILD	SWAT
CITY OF GADSDEN	GADSDEN REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER	TAX COUNSELING PROGRAM
COMMUNITY ACTION	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	

*“We all have big changes  
in our lives that are more  
or less a second chance.”  
~Harrison Ford*

# HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Sarah Trammell	10/01	Sandra Baker	10/27	Rebecca Hilleke	11/30
Jean Dunnaway	10/03	Doris Collier	10/29	Portia Foster	12/01
Betty Woodward	10/03	Barbara Mosley	10/29	Irene Mashburn	12/02
Lucile Harris	10/04	Nick Garrard	10/30	James Packer	12/02
Charlotte Hughes	10/07	Marynette Watson	10/31	Darlynn Campbell	12/03
Jeanne Chambers	10/08	Isabell Woods	11/01	Sally Shamblin	12/04
Mildred Marsh	10/08	LaVerne Williams	11/02	Sue Young	12/04
Mary Jane Smith	10/08	Ray St. John	11/04	Kathy Blattel	12/05
Mary Curry	10/10	Janice McClure	11/05	Kenneth Mayo	12/07
Myrtle Cushing	10/10	Karyle Harper	11/06	Eloise Turk	12/07
Mary Ruth Davis	10/11	Elsie Hawkins	11/07	Betty Overall	12/08
Eva Fulmer	10/11	Linda Hudson	11/09	Rebecca Tinker	12/08
Shirley Steapleton	10/12	Sherre McGinnis	11/11	Judy Berger	12/11
Betty Causey	10/14	Gloria Ansley	11/13	Ellen Phillips	12/12
Patricia Duke	10/14	Kenneth Epperson	11/13	MaryAnne Snyder	12/12
E.D. Witherspoon	10/15	Peggy Ann Moll	11/16	Ann Ratliff	12/14
Mary Heaton	10/16	Dianne Higgins	11/17	Nina Tenerani	12/17
Larry McNair	10/16	Terry Wintermyer	11/17	Evelyn Westcott	12/21
Monya Vanek	10/16	Carole Slaton	11/20	Erma Davidson	12/22
Doris Fleming	10/17	Amy Chester	11/22	Sandra Coffey	12/25
Joe Hall	10/17	Alma Alford	11/23	Steve Scharfenberg	12/26
Dianne Williams	10/18	Treasia Spelce	11/24	Virginia Williams	12/27
Troy Word	10/20	Millie Cartrett	11/26	Ray Cruz	12/28
Bonnie Childs	10/22	Jeanette Foster	11/26	Linda Ellison	12/28
Lena Faye Jones	10/24	Janice Armstrong	11/28	Pat Hill	12/28
Sonya Nesbitt	10/24	Jeanette Boggs	11/28	Nettie Robinson	12/28
Linda Rakestraw	10/26	Rich. Wappelhorst	11/29	Helen Jones	12/29



*"The way I see it, you should  
live every day like it's your  
birthday."*

*~ Paris Hilton*

**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)

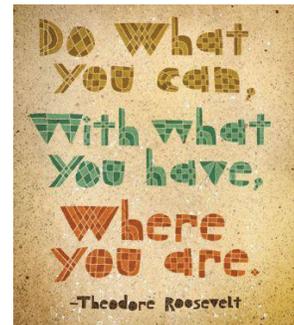
GETTING THINGS DONE.

## RSVP Staff

Director – Traci Pondick

Van Driver/Volunteer  
Coordinator – Faye  
Russell

Administrative Asst. –  
Sarah Kelley



## RSVP Advisory Council

*Chairperson* – Jane  
Brittain  
*Vice Chairperson* –  
Joyce Farrell  
*Treasurer* – Deborah  
Lankford  
*Secretary* – Millie  
Cartrett

Lisa Dobbins  
Thelma Edgar  
Theresa Frye  
Jenifer Grace  
Pat Hill  
Jennifer Harrold  
Sandra Jackson

Jerre McNeal  
Jean Pettis  
Nettie Robinson  
Craig Scott  
Doralynn Thomas  
CiCi Whiteside  
Carolyn Parker,

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

### 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)

ADVANCE AUTO PARTS	GOLD'S GYM	PHYSICIANS HOME HEALTH SUPERSTORE
APPLEBEE'S	HINDSMAN-DAVIS, PC	RAINBOW AUCTION
BELKS	JACK'S OF GADSDEN	RED LOBSTER
BOJANGLE'S	JOHNSON'S GIANT FOODS	REGIONS BANK
BOOMER'S SPA	KEYSTONE BANK	REGIS SALON
REP. CRAIG FORD	REVENUE COMMISSIONER LINDA BARRETT-VAUGHN	SPORTS MANIA
DISCOUNT PEST CONTROL	MARAELLA WINERY	STEVIE B'S PIZZA
FAMILY SAVINGS CREDIT UNION	McDONALD'S	SUTTON BRIDGE EXXON
FIRST EQUITY HOME LOAN	McNAIR JEWELERS	TAMING OF THE EWE
GADSDEN EYE ASSOC.	OBSERVER OFFICE SUPPLY	TOP OF THE RIVER
GADSDEN PUBLIC LIBRARY	PACK'S NURSERY	UNCLE SAM'S BBQ
GADSDEN VARIETY & ANTIQUE MALL	PAPA JOHN'S	WELLS FARGO ADVISORS
CIRCUIT CLERK CASSANDRA JOHNSON		

