

MAKE A DIFFERENCE

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DIRECTOR'S CORNER

There's nothing like Daylight Savings Time to make you sit up and take stock of what you've got going on and how much time it takes to do everything there is to be done. That one lost hour makes a big difference, doesn't it?

Sometimes life is like that, you can be rolling along just fine, everything is in order, but one little bump in the road can mess it all up. What do you do? Sometimes you just have to take a nap because you know you'll feel better afterwards.

Well, we've had a nap and there are many things that need to be done, many places to go and many people to see. RSVP is getting our Etowah County Commissioners more involved in what we and our partners are doing, we're talking to the Cherokee County Commission about what we can do there, and we're working with our partner agencies to make sure they are willing and able to handle the volunteers that they so desperately need.

Hang on!

STATISTICS

New Volunteers: 12

Total Volunteers: 353

Total Stations: 45

Volunteer Hours: 6,654

Value of Hours: \$145,855.68

(According to federal guidelines, the value of a volunteer's time is \$21.92 per hour.)

NEWS

Samantha is back! As some of you may know, Joy Morrison left us in early January because her husband accepted a position in North Carolina. But we are fortunate to have Samantha Snow back at her desk! Samantha had left us for a full-time position, but this is where her heart is and because of Joy's hard work this job is now full-time. So sad and happy for us at the same time!

Tax Season so far: 26 volunteers have completed well over 1,000 federal tax returns in about 6 weeks' time. These volunteers continue to work tirelessly at 8 different locations, making it as easy as possible for people to get to us to have their returns prepared thoroughly and professionally. A lot of people don't realize that we can prepare returns for young and old alike! We want to make sure that no one who is low income OR elderly on a fixed income has to pay to have their returns prepared. These are the people that need to keep their money for more important things!

Our last Quarterly Workshop was presented by Veterans Affairs agent Brian Evans. Brian gave us good information about conditions that affect veterans' claims for benefits and also some things that people don't realize they may qualify for.

Our next Quarterly Workshop is scheduled for April 18th at 10:00 in the Etowah County courthouse. Students from Pathways Academy will be on hand to help seniors learn how to utilize their cell phones and tablets. Call us if you want to attend!

SUCCESS STORY

Every year the Council on Aging of Etowah County helps people during Medicare Open Enrollment make sure that they have the best Medicare plan for their needs. Plans change every year which means that what has worked for someone before may not be the best plan for the coming year. From October-December, 2018, 7 volunteers along with Council on Aging staff helped 367 clients realize a \$174,730 savings in prescription prices.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

* 211 FIRST CALL FOR HELP

Volunteer needed to answer calls through a computer.
Call 256-546-4357 or email: callhelp@uwoec.org to volunteer.

*HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

Volunteers are needed for construction of the new home in Green Pastures and for the Dragon Boat Festival coming up in August!
Call 256-543-1898 or email: ghabitat@comast.net to volunteer.

*MANNA

Volunteers are desperately needed to deliver homebound meals to seniors once a week. Call 256-543-5876 or email: director.mannagadsden@gmail.com

*READING BUDDIES

Volunteers are needed in local elementary schools to help kids K-3rd grade learn to read or help with reading comprehension.

* FOR THESE & OTHER VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITES,
CALL RSVP @ 256-549-8147

VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION

We would like to recognize Dot Phipps for all of her volunteer activities (Dot firmly believes that idle hands are the devil's workshop!), but for one instance in particular. RSVP decided at the last minute to collect socks and toiletries for area homeless people for Martin Luther King Jr. Day. All we had to do was call Dot! She rounded up tons of stuff from friends and neighbors.
Thanks Dot!

The winner of our on-time time sheet drawing is Mrs. Cathy Bottoms who volunteers, along with her husband, at GRMC and for special events. Cathy has 450 hours on record at RSVP.
Congratulations Mrs. Bottoms & thank you for what you do!



well done

UPCOMING EVENTS

APRIL:

15th- Last day to file tax returns!

Call us @ 256-549-8147 to find out where preparers will be to help you!

18th- RSVP Quarterly Workshop for volunteers! The Pathway Students will be coming to show you how to use your cell phone.

19th- Good Friday, Etowah County courthouse will be closed.

21st- Easter Sunday

26th- Council on Aging

"Behind the Green Door" Casino Night 6-10pm 210 at The Tracks

Call 256-543-3616 for more details.

MAY:

RSVP'S ANNUAL VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION LUNCHEON.

BE ON THE LOOKOUT FOR YOUR INVITATION!

1st- City of Gadsden's Senior Fun Day 10-11:30am @ The Venue

12th- Mother's Day

23rd- May Day sponsored by East Alabama AAA in Talladega

27th- Memorial Day. Etowah County courthouse will be closed.

JUNE:

16th- Father's Day

21st- First Day of Summer

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You can only become truly accomplished at something you love. Don't make money your goal. Instead, pursue the things you love doing, and then do them so well that people can't take their eyes off of you.
-Maya Angelou

Volunteer Opportunities at RSVP in Etowah & Cherokee County

AARP Coosa Valley Chapter #3337	Gadsden Public Library
Alabama Coop. Extension Service	Gadsden Quilters Guild
American Red Cross	Gadsden Regional Medical Center
Big Brothers/ Big Sister of NEAL	Habitat for Humanity
Boys & Girls Club of Gadsden/ Etowah	Head Start
Catholic Center of Concern	Humane Society of Gadsden
Central-Carver Foundation, Inc.	Manna
Cherokee County Health & Rehab	Mountain View Hospital
Cherokee County Historical Museum	Northeast Etowah Community Center
Circuit Clerk's Office/ Etowah County	Physicians Who Care
City of Gadsden	Pilot Club
Community Action of Etowah County	Reading Buddies Program
Convergence Free Will Intervention	Riverview Regional Medical Center
Council on Aging	ROC- First Baptist Church, Centre
Etowah Baptist Mission Center	RSVP Advisory Board
Etowah Co. Courthouse/ Info Desk	RSVP Community Service Volunteers
Etowah Co. Dept. of Human Resources	RX Help
Etowah Co. Pregnancy Testing Center	Salvation Army
Etowah Historical Society	Senior Nutrition Centers
Extended Family	Summer Enrichment Program
Family Success Center	SWAT(Senior Workers Available Today)
First Call for Help	Tax Counseling Program
Floyd Cherokee Medical Center	Tele-Chek Program
Friendly Nursing Home Visitors	The Chamber Gadsden & Etowah
	The Love Center
	Theatre of Gadsden
	United Way of Etowah County

Start Before You Are Ready!

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

Jeannette Reed 04/01	Mary Ann Hill 04/17
Willis Cleave Estis 04/03	Jean Pettis 04/17
Judith Moon 04/04	Thelma Thornton 04/18
Carolyn Elkins 04/05	Gloria Hope 04/20
Rick Lankford 04/05	Margaret Long 04/20
Jerry Frye 04/08	Jim Palmertree 04/20
Thomas Page 04/10	Joyce Hilburn 04/21
Kathy Schaefer 04/10	Alice Hurst 04/24
Gary Batson 04/12	Jerry Wayne Lee 04/24
Emma Cylar 04/13	Rose Hawkins 04/26
Carol Link 04/13	Nella Fay King 04/26
Loyd Watkins 04/13	Gerrie Jordan 04/27
Linda Brandon 04/15	Louise Anderson 04/28
Carolyn Hammond 04/16	Mary Sue Grissom 04/28
Georgia Henley 04/16	Ping Pondick 04/28

MAY BIRTHDAYS

Craig Scott 05/01	Donald Portwood 05/16
Larry Tuck 05/01	Ruby Jo Boyle 05/17
Daniel Levinson 05/03	Robert Smith 05/17
Carolyn Sterling 05/03	Katherine Buchanan 05/19
Judy Edwards 05/04	Lessie Fluharty 05/19
Jean Foster 05/04	Vicki Spelce 05/20
Shirley Pollard 05/05	Gloria Jan Kelley 05/21
Eloise Ramer 05/06	DeAnna Deville 05/24
Danny Wagnon 05/06	Joyce Wheeler 05/24
Cathy Bottoms 05/09	Alma Boswell 05/25
Jerry Howell 05/09	Betty Brannon 05/27
Joyce Howell 05/10	Marie Cylar 05/30
June Maddox 05/11	Kathy Gidley 05/30
Jerry Skinner 05/14	

JUNE BIRTHDAYS

Becky St. John 06/02	Delores Cerecke 06/18
Deborah Henderson 06/03	Suzanne Scharfenberg 06/21
Annie Leeth 06/06	Ann Boatwright 06/22
Sarah Ann Spear 06/07	John Leach 06/22
Martha Yates 06/07	John Parks 06/24
Christine Woods 06/08	Dorman Robinson 06/24
Claude Burnett 06/11	Doris Smith 06/25
Betty Roberts 06/12	Dorothy Carter 06/26
Deborah Salter 06/15	Becky Henson 06/29

**AGE IS
MERELY
THE
NUMBER
OF YEARS
THE
WORLD
HAS BEEN
ENJOYING
YOU!!!**



RSVP
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Gadsden, AL 35901

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256-549-8147

FAX NUMBER
256-549-5351

EMAIL
tpondick@etowahcounty.org

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)

ADD US ON INSTAGRAM!



https://www.instagram.com/volunteers_of_etowah/

RSVP Staff

Director:
Traci Pondick

Van Driver/ Volunteer Coordinator:
Faye Russell

Secretary/ Reading Buddies Coordinator:
Samantha Snow

RSVP Advisory Council

President:	Portia Foster
Pat Hill	Theresa Frye
Vice President:	Jenifer Grace
Craig Scott	Sandra Jackson
Secretary:	Deborah Lankford
Millie Cartrett	Judith Moon
Treasurer:	Jeff Little
Deborah Henderson	Sarah Trammell

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

Absolute Fitness	Gadsden Foot Clinic	Regis Salon
Ace Hardware	Johnsons Giant Food	Rick's Discount Drugs
Advance Auto Parts	Kindred at Home	RSVP Advisory Council
Alabama Teachers Credit Union	LA Brooke Salon	Smith & Bailey Dental
Attalla Downtown Cafe	Life Insurance Company of America	Stevie B's Pizza
Baker Tire	Mastercuts Salon	Super Bee Pharmacy
Cash Saver - Hokes Bluff	Myers Institute of Hand & Plastic Surgery	Sutton Bridge Exxon
Cherokee Medical Center	Noccalula Falls Park	Taming of the Ewe
Auxillary	Observer Supply	Team One Chevrolet
Comfort Care	Physicians Home Health Superstore	The Meadows Assisted Living
Cotton Belle	Publix	Top O'River
Discount Pest Control	Red Lobster	Linda Barrett-Vaughn
Exchange Bank	Region Bank	Revenue Commissioner
Family Savings Credit Union		Wester Sizzlin'