DIRECTOR’S CORNER

Change is in the air! When seasons change it brings such excitement and anticipation. It’s the same way with RSVP! We are working on new things we’ve never tried before, old things and making them new again, some things we are leaving just as they are. Why mess with perfection?

A new thing we’re trying for the first time is working with the Probate Office and the guardians/conservators and wards who are under their care. We are planning to train volunteers to monitor cases.

An old thing we are making new again is our Tele-Chek program. We have a couple of volunteers who love to talk to people and we want to put them to work on the telephone talking with home bound seniors who need to hear a friendly voice.

And what are we leaving the same? Well, our Tax Assistance Program of course. The only difference here is we are missing a retired CPA we had come to rely on. But we shall carry on and do great things!

What does this season of change hold for you? If it’s a change in volunteering or adding a new kind of volunteering let us help!

STATISTICS

New Volunteers: 11
Total Volunteers: 296
Total Stations: 60
Volunteer Hours: 7,478
Value of Hours: $155,844.02

(According to federal guidelines, the value of a volunteer’s time $21.92 per hour.)
NEWS

If you are on Medicare and need to examine your plan during the Open Enrollment season this year (October 15 - December 7) you will have to register at MyMedicare.gov. It’s not hard but if you need help, volunteers with Council on Aging and RSVP will be available to help with that. RSVP and Family Savings Credit Union will host Free Shred Days again this year: October 25th at the main branch of Family Savings and October 26th from 10:00 - 2:00 in the parking lot of the Courthouse. Shred It has a big truck that can shred paper (paper clips are okay - not heavier metals) so this is a good time to get rid of all your sensitive papers that you don’t have to save anymore. We will have our Senior Angel Tree again this year so we may be asking you to “adopt” an angel. Our angels are people 55 and older who have asked for Christmas assistance through the Etowah Baptist Missions Center, Salvation Army or DHR. We will let you know when angels are ready to be adopted!

Our last Quarterly workshop was presented by Renee Baker & Sheila Buckelew. They informed seniors about independent housing options and/or possible repairs. Our next Smarter Seniors Workshop will be October 17th at 10:00am in the Commission Chambers on the first floor in room 108 of the Etowah County Courthouse. Mr. Michael Delozier with Coosa Insurance will be speaking on Long term care insurance. Call us at 256-549-8147 to reserve a seat!

SUCCESS STORY

In September, RSVP and MANNA hosted a Suicide Prevention Workshop. While we don’t like to think or talk about something like suicide, sometimes we need to. People in this workshop learned about QPR. This stands for Question (ask gentle questions and don’t make someone feel even worse if they have been contemplating suicide), Persuade (persuade someone to get professional help with circumstances they are dealing with and really listen to someone if they are telling you about their problems) and Refer (if you know a good mental health professional call them yourself or call one of these suicide hotlines: 1-800-273-TALK or 1-800-SUICIDE).

Let us know if you would like information about hosting this training yourself!

VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION

Jenifer Grace would like to recognize Carol Hudson and Maureen Latronico for all of their volunteer work for The Council on Aging. They both play a huge part in the Medicare open enrollment program and attend several trainings throughout the year. Mrs. Hudson does anything she is asked to do on top of her already busy schedule. Mrs. Latronico is the technical guru and helps fix any problems we have come our way. Council on Aging would not survive without the dedication and commitment these two volunteers give to the organization.

The winner of our on-time time sheet drawing is Mrs. Janice McClure. Mrs. McClure volunteers at the H.D. Buttram Senior Nutrition Center. She has been an RSVP volunteer for 8 years. She has a total of 900 hours on record. Thank you Mrs. McClure!
**UPCOMING EVENTS**

**OCTOBER:**
October 15th - December 7th - Call the Council on Aging for information about scheduling an appointment during the Medicare Open Enrollment period. 256-543-3616.
2nd - Physicians Who Care Annual Senior Health Fair, 9-11am at the Downtown Civic Center
3rd - Love Center presents Community Feud Fundraiser at the Venue 6-9pm, call 256-478-7611 for tickets
17th - Smarter Senior Workshop - Long term care insurance, at 10am in the Commission Chamber on the first floor in room 108 of the Etowah County Courthouse, call our office to reserve a seat.
25th - Red Cross Blood Drive at the Gadsden Mall - Premiere Cinemas 1-7pm
25th - Family Savings Credit Union FREE Shred Day at the main branch
26th - RSVP's FREE Shred Day in the Parking Lot of the Etowah County Courthouse 10-2pm
31st - Halloween

**NOVEMBER:**
8th - GPL Once Upon a Prom 7-10pm, 210 at the tracks, call 256-549-4699, ext 2107 for tickets
11th - Veteran's Day, Etowah County Courthouse will be closed
27th - Red Cross Blood Drive at the Gadsden Mall - Premiere Cinemas 1-7pm
28-29th - Thanksgiving, Etowah County Courthouse will be closed
29th - Red Cross Blood Drive at the Gadsden Mall - Premiere Cinemas 1-7pm

**DECEMBER:**
24-25th - Christmas Eve/Day, Etowah County Courthouse will be closed

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**WORD SEARCH**

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A C O R N S G F Z R I X R Y G O U R D F C
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**VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES**

*211 FIRST CALL FOR HELP*
Desperately seeking volunteers for their call center
Contact Ruth Moffatt 256.546.4357 or email: callhelp@uwoec.org

*AmeriCAn red cross*
Gadsden office needs a volunteer to help answer phones and help with light office duties. The Disaster Services team in Gadsden needs 1-2 people to help do inventory of supplies. Call 256-547-8667 or email: tammy.burks@redcross.org

**COUNCIL ON AGING**
Volunteers are needed to help enroll Medicare recipients for medicare.gov
Medicare Open Enrollment is October 15-December 16th, various locations and times.
Contact Jenifer Grace for more information. 256.543.3616 or email: jenifer.grace@etowahcoa.org

*Habitat for humanity*
Volunteers are needed on Wednesdays or Saturdays for home construction and if you are interested in serving on a committee
Habitat for Humanity is accepting resumes for their open job position of Construction Project Manager!
Call RSVP if interested

*HUMANE SOCIETY*
Volunteers are needed for clerical work 10-12 or 12-4 & various upcoming events
Call RSVP if interested

*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.
Call RSVP if interested

YOU ARE ENOUGH!
It is not Happy people who are Thankful. It is Thankful people who are Happy!!

-Author Unknown
RSVP
800 Forrest Avenue
Room 219
Gadsden, AL 35901

PHONE NUMBER
256-549-8147

FAX NUMBER
256-549-5351

EMAIL
tpondick@etawahcounty.org

WE'RE ON THE WEB!!!
See us at:
www.etawahcounty.org

FRIEND US ON FACEBOOK
https://www.facebook.com/
groups/327258517069

FOLLOW US ON TWITTER!
Twitter.com/etowahrsvp

ADD US ON INSTAGRAM!
https://www.instagram.com/
volunteers_of_etawah/

RSVP Staff

Director:
Traci Pondick

Van Driver/ Volunteer Coordinator:
Faye Russell

Secretary/ Reading Buddies Coordinator:
Samantha Snow

RSVP Advisory Council

President: Jenifer Grace
Pat Hill
Ebonee’ Horn
Vice President: Carol Hudson
Portia Foster
Kenneth Hudson
Secretary: Jeff Little
Deborah Lankford
Judith Moon
Treasurer: Sarah Trammell
Deborah Henderson

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

Advance Auto Parts
Gadsden Dental
Jenifer Grace
Advanced Cardiovascular
Implant & Denture
Ebonee’ Horn
Associates
Gadsden Foot Clinic
Carol Hudson
Alabama Teacher’s
Gadsden Lighting &
Credit Union
Showroom
Portia Foster
Jeff Little
ATI Physical Therapy
Jefferson’s
Kenneth Hudson
BlingsNThings
Johnson’s Giant Food
Samantha Snow
Cadence Bank
King’s Olive Oil
Samantha Snow
Clinical Urology Associates
Life Insurance
Samantha Snow
Cold Creek Honey
Company of Alabama
Samantha Snow
Collier Butler Funeral
Lookout Mountain
Samantha Snow
Home
Goat Ranch
Samantha Snow
Discount Pest Control
Magnolia Gardens
Samantha Snow
Dress Out Boutique
Marabella’s Winery
Samantha Snow
Dusty Things Antique
Noccalula Falls Park
Samantha Snow
Exchange Bank
Northeast Alabama
Samantha Snow
Family Savings
Audiology Clinic
Samantha Snow
Credit Union
Pack’s Nursery
Samantha Snow
Foote Brothers Carpet
Physician’s Home
Samantha Snow
Gadsden Dental
Health Superstore
Samantha Snow
Implant & Denture
Pack’s Nursery
Samantha Snow
Gadsden Foot Clinic
Physician’s Home
Samantha Snow
Gadsden Lighting &
Health Superstore
Samantha Snow
Showroom
Hospice
Samantha Snow
Jeff Little
Red Lobster
Samantha Snow
Regions Bank
Rick’s Drugs
Samantha Snow
River Bank & Trust
Rococo Floral Studio
Nodes and Things Antique
Snap Fitness
Samantha Snow
Exchange Bank
Southern Care New Beacon
Samantha Snow
Northeast Alabama
Sportsmania
Samantha Snow
Audiology Clinic
Stevi B’s Pizza Buffet
Sportsmania
Pack’s Nursery
Super Bee Pharmacy
T. J Maxx
Northernleigh Hobbies
The Choice/ 278 Restaurant
The Coffee Bar
The Myers Institute
The Taming of the Ewe
Will’s Creek Vineyard