

# MAKE A DIFFERENCE

VOLUME 20, ISSUE 1

## IN THIS ISSUE

### NEWS

P. 02

### SUCCESS STORY & VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION

P. 02

### UPCOMING EVENTS

P. 03

### VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

P. 04

### VOLUNTEER BIRTHDAYS

P. 05

### ADVISORY COUNCIL, STAFF, & DONORS

P. 06

## DIRECTOR'S CORNER

Wow! The sun is shining. After all of the rain we've had it's good to see the bright sunshine. Spring always brings with it a freshness & creativity that helps bring us out of our winter shells.

And just like the seasons, RSVP uses this time every year to take a new look at things and how we serve our community. Spring also brings a sense of restlessness, a need to get outside and do something or go somewhere. And because of all the rain and the fear of getting sick, we have been cooped up too long. It's hard to concentrate on paperwork and computer work. But if we remember to take a deep breath and focus on what needs to be done, we usually work better because of that sense of restlessness.

So let's use this time to our advantage. Think of new ways we can volunteer or help our neighbors, do what you love to the best of your ability, follow your heart - but don't forget to focus!

### STATISTICS

New Volunteers: 10

Total Volunteers: 275

Total Stations: 58

Volunteer Hours: 9,888

Value of Hours: \$206,065.92

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

Our tax program has been going strong since the last week of January, and so far volunteers have completed over 1,200 federal tax returns for people all over Etowah & Cherokee County. Every year, volunteers help people get back over 2 million dollars in federal tax refunds, all of which goes straight back into their pockets since this is a free service. Now that's bang for your buck.

Have you received a letter from the Census Bureau yet? They were mailed out from March 12 - 20 telling you all of the different ways you can complete the census. And did you know that April 1st is not only April Fool's day - it's also Census Day. When you complete the census you need to tell them about everyone who was living in your house on April 1, 2020. Why is it so important to respond correctly? Census information tells the federal government how much money to spend on our roads & new highways, for schools and Head starts, and support for rural areas and housing assistance for older adults. We're here if you need help!

Our last Quarterly workshop was presented by Hali Vinyard with Amedisys Home Health. She and her coworkers talked about ways to prevent a fall and the services available with Amedisys.

Our next Smarter Seniors Workshop will be April 23rd at 10:00 on the first floor in Room 118 of the Etowah County Courthouse. We will have Lori Helms speaking from the Etowah County Animal Shelter talking about volunteering, fostering or adopting animals from the shelter. Call us at 256-549-8147 to reserve a seat!

## SUCCESS STORY

RSVP is getting a replacement van from ALDOT for our Friendly Nursing Home Visitors! We're not sure exactly when we will receive it, but we will share pictures of the van and our wonderful volunteers. Faye drives our van to a different nursing home or assisted living home every weekday, where volunteers help residents with activities. This is the only volunteer opportunity we have where transportation is provided - and everyone enjoys it!

## VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION

Craig Scott, Director of GPL, would like to spotlight, Ms. Shirley Alford. The Library is fortunate, grateful, and very appreciative of Shirley and her "Friends of the Library" group. Shirley is the current President of the Friends group. She and her volunteer team members assist in organizing, managing, and running the Friends Bookstore located in the library. Without Shirley and her fantastic "Friends of the Library", the Gadsden Public Library would not be nearly as progressive nor as widely respected as it is today by other public libraries in the great state of Alabama!

Thank you Shirley!!!

The winner of our on-time time sheet drawing is Ms. Ann Boatwright. Ann Boatwright volunteers at Riverview Regional Medical Center. Ann has been a volunteer with RSVP for 16 years with 2,966 hours on record. Congratulations

Ms. Boatwright &  
thank you for what you do!



# 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!  
 23rd- RSVP Quarterly Workshop for volunteers! Lori Helms with the Etowah County Animal Shelter will be speaking. Call RSVP to reserve a seat!

**MAY:**  
 RSVP'S ANNUAL VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION LUNCHEON. BE ON THE LOOKOUT FOR YOUR INVITATION!  
 2nd - Family Success Center "Talk Derby to Me" 4-8pm Brunson Farms of Rainbow City Call 256-312-3296 for more details  
 6th- City of Gadsden's Senior Fun Day 10-11:30am @ Downtown Civic Center  
 10th- Mother's Day  
 7th- May Day sponsored by East Alabama AAA in Talladega  
 25th- Memorial Day

**JUNE:**  
 20th- First Day of Summer  
 21st - Father's Day

**DUE TO THE CORONAVIRUS ALL DATES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE!!**

# S U D O K U

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	4		2	6	3			
1		7	4					
3	6						4	5
		2		5		7		
7	9						6	2
					9	4		1
			1	3	4		9	
			6		5			

When you're in a dark place, you sometimes tend to think you've been buried.

Perhaps you've been planted.

Bloom.

-Christine Caine

# Volunteer Opportunities at RSVP in Etowah & Cherokee County

## \*AMERICAN RED CROSS

Volunteers are needed for the office at the Gadsden location  
& to help with local blood drives & local disasters

Contact Tammy Burks at 256-763-1237 or email: [tammy.burks@redcross.org](mailto:tammy.burks@redcross.org)

## \*CHEROKEE COUNTY ASSISTED LIVING FACILITY

Volunteers are needed to play games and/or help with different activities with residents  
Call RSVP if interested

## \*ETOWAH BAPTIST MISSION CENTER

Volunteers are needed to help interview clients, front office desk, and sort clothing and/or food.  
Call RSVP if interested

## \*ETOWAH COUNTY ANIMAL SHELTER

Volunteers are needed for clerical work, the shelter is open 8-430 Monday-Friday  
Call RSVP if interested

## \*FRIENDLY NURSING HOME VISITORS

Volunteers are needed to ride the van and go to different nursing homes  
every weekday to assist in activities with the residents.  
Call RSVP if interested

## \*GADSDEN REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER

Volunteers are needed on the 2nd floor to answer phones and help retrieve patients for doctors  
Call RSVP if interested

## \*HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

Volunteers are needed every Weds. & Sat. to help build house #56 on Springfield Ave in E. Gadsden  
Call 256-543-1898 or email: [info@gadshabitat.com](mailto:info@gadshabitat.com) to volunteer

## \*HUMANE SOCIETY

Receptionist needed & anyone who is interested in fostering animals on a weekly or monthly basis  
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](mailto: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

## \*RIVERVIEW HOSPITAL

Volunteers are always welcome throughout the hospital  
Call RSVP if interested

**Act Without Expectation!**

# BIRTHDAYS

**A  
P  
R  
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L**

Jeannette Reed 04/01  
Willis Cleave Estis 04/03  
Judith Moon 04/04  
Carolyn Elkins 04/05  
Emma Cylar 04/13  
Carol Link 04/13  
Loyd Watkins 04/13  
Carolyn Hammond 04/16  
Georgia Henley 04/16  
Mary Ann Hill 04/17  
Jean Pettis 04/17

Ginger Goebbel 04/18  
Thelma Thornton 04/18  
Gloria Hope 04/20  
Margaret Long 04/20  
Alice Hurst 04/24  
Jerry Wayne Lee 04/24  
Rose Hawkins 04/26  
Nella Fay King 04/26  
Gerrie Jordan 04/27  
Mary Sue Grissom 04/28  
Ping Pondick 04/28



**M  
A  
Y**

Craig Scott 05/01  
Daniel Levinson 05/03  
Carolyn Sterling 05/03  
Robin Weston 05/03  
Judy Edwards 05/04  
Jean Foster 05/04  
Shirley Pollard 05/05  
Eloise Ramer 05/06  
Danny Wagon 05/06  
Cathy Bottoms 05/09  
Jerry Howell 05/09

Michael Henderson 05/10  
June Maddox 05/11  
Sherrie Barclay 05/13  
Jerry Skinner 05/14  
Donald Portwood 05/16  
Ruby Jo Boyle 05/17  
Vicki Spelce 05/20  
Gloria Jan Kelley 05/21  
DeAnna DeVille 05/24  
Joyce Wheeler 05/24  
Marie Cylar 05/30



**J  
U  
N  
E**

Ann St. John 06/02  
Becky St. John 06/02  
Deborah Henderson 06/03  
Sarah Spear 06/07  
Christine Woods 06/08  
Donna Freeman 06/09  
Becky Wickham 06/09  
Claude Burnett 06/11  
Betty Roberts 06/12  
Betty Ann Watkins 06/14

Delores Cerecke 06/18  
Suzanne Scharfenberg 06/21  
Ann Boatwright 06/22  
John Leach 06/22  
John Parks 06/24  
Dorman Robinson 06/24  
Dorothy Carter 06/26  
Shirley Alford 06/28  
Becky Henson 06/29



**The  
older  
you get  
the  
better  
you get  
unless  
you're a  
banana.  
- Betty  
White**

RSVP  
800 Forrest Avenue  
Room 219  
Gadsden, AL 35901

PHONE NUMBER  
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/](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:

Pat Hill

Jenifer Grace

Vice President:

Portia Foster

Carol Hudson

Kenneth Hudson

Secretary:

Deborah Lankford

Jeff Little

Judith Moon

Treasurer:

Deborah Henderson

Sarah Trammell

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

Advance Auto Parts  
Advanced Cardiovascular  
Associates  
Alabama Teachers Credit  
Union  
ATI Physical Therapy  
BlingsNThings  
Cadence Bank  
Clinical Urology Associates  
Cold Creek Honey  
Collier Butler Funeral  
Home  
Discount Pest Control  
Dress Out Boutique  
Dusty Things Antique  
Exchange Bank  
Family Savings Credit  
Union  
Foote Brothers Carpet

Gadsden Dental  
Gadsden Foot Clinic  
Gadsden Lighting &  
Showroom  
Jefferson's  
Johnsons Giant Food  
King's Olive Oil  
Life Insurance  
Company of America  
Lookout Mountain Goat  
Ranch  
Maraella's Winery  
Noccalula Falls Park  
NE Alabama Audiology  
Clinic  
Pack's Nursery  
Physicians Home  
Health Superstore  
Publix

Red Lobster  
Region's Bank  
Rick's Pharmacy  
River Bank & Trust  
RSVP Advisory Council  
Snap Fitness  
SouthernCare New  
Beacon  
Sportsmania  
Stevie B's Pizza  
Super Bee Pharmacy  
Sutton Bridge Exxon  
T.J Maxx  
The Choice/278  
Restaurant  
The Coffee Bar  
The Meadows  
The Myers Institute  
Taming of the Ewe  
Will's Creek Vineyard