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!
NOTICE

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!
10th- Good Friday
12th- Easter Sunday
24th- Council on Aging "Speakeasy" 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!
2nd - Family Success Center "Talk Derby to Me" 4-8pm Brunson Farms of Rainbow City Call 256-312-3296 for more details
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!!

SUDOKU

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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

* **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@gadsdenhabitat.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

* **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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>April</th>
<th>May</th>
<th>June</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jeannette Reed 04/01</td>
<td>Ginger Goebbel 04/18</td>
<td>Ann St. John 06/02</td>
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<td>Willis Cleave Estis 04/03</td>
<td>Thelma Thornton 04/18</td>
<td>Becky St. John 06/02</td>
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<td>Judith Moon 04/04</td>
<td>Gloria Hope 04/20</td>
<td>Deborah Henderson 06/03</td>
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<td>Carolyn Elkins 04/05</td>
<td>Margaret Long 04/20</td>
<td>Sarah Spear 06/07</td>
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<td>Emma Cylar 04/13</td>
<td>Alice Hurst 04/24</td>
<td>Christine Woods 06/08</td>
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<td>Carol Link 04/13</td>
<td>Jerry Wayne Lee 04/24</td>
<td>Donna Freeman 06/09</td>
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<td>Loyd Watkins 04/13</td>
<td>Rose Hawkins 04/26</td>
<td>Becky Wickham 06/09</td>
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<td>Carolyn Hammond 04/16</td>
<td>Nella Fay King 04/26</td>
<td>Claude Burnett 06/11</td>
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<td>Georgia Henley 04/16</td>
<td>Gerrie Jordan 04/27</td>
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<td>Mary Ann Hill 04/17</td>
<td>Mary Sue Grissom 04/28</td>
<td>Betty Ann Watkins 06/14</td>
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<td>Jean Pettis 04/17</td>
<td>Ping Pondick 04/28</td>
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<tr>
<td>Craig Scott 05/01</td>
<td>Michael Henderson 05/10</td>
<td>Delores Cerecke 06/18</td>
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<td>Daniel Levinson 05/03</td>
<td>June Maddox 05/11</td>
<td>Suzanne Scharfenberg 06/21</td>
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<td>Carolyn Sterling 05/03</td>
<td>Sherrie Barclay 05/13</td>
<td>Ann Boatwright 06/22</td>
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<td>Jerry Skinner 05/14</td>
<td>John Leach 06/22</td>
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<td>Donald Portwood 05/16</td>
<td>John Parks 06/24</td>
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<td>Jean Foster 05/04</td>
<td>Ruby Jo Boyle 05/17</td>
<td>Dorman Robinson 06/24</td>
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<td>Shirley Pollard 05/05</td>
<td>Vicki Spelce 05/20</td>
<td>Dorothy Carter 06/26</td>
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<td>Eloise Ramer 05/06</td>
<td>Gloria Jan Kelley 05/21</td>
<td>Shirley Alford 06/28</td>
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<td>Danny Wagnon 05/06</td>
<td>DeAnna DeVille 05/24</td>
<td>Becky Henson 06/29</td>
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<td>Cathy Bottoms 05/09</td>
<td>Joyce Wheeler 05/24</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jerry Howell 05/09</td>
<td>Marie Cylar 05/30</td>
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**The older you get, the better you get unless you're a banana.**

- Betty White
RSVP Staff
Director:
Traci Pondick

Van Driver/ Volunteer Coordinator:
Faye Russell

Secretary/ Reading Buddies Coordinator:
Samantha Snow

RSVP Advisory Council
President: Pat Hill
Vice President: Portia Foster
Secretary: Deborah Lankford
Treasurer: Deborah Henderson

Jenifer Grace
Carol Hudson
Kenneth Hudson
Jeff Little
Judith Moon
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
Noccualu 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

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https://www.facebook.com/groups/327258517069

FOLLOW US ON TWITTER!
Twitter.com/etowahirsvp

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