

## January-February 2021 Senior Connection

### From the Director's Desk

Dear Friends,

Well, we finally made it through 2020. I hope this finds everyone doing well. This newsletter will be my last one that I will participate in as your director. I am retiring by the end of January. I want to thank everyone for their great support, cooperation, and friendship. These past six years have been amazing; so much has happened in my life. All of you have brought so much joy and excitement to me and to our program. I couldn't have worked with a better team and will be around to help the new director in any way I can. I'm sad to leave, but so thrilled to be retired. My husband and I are looking forward to many trips full of new adventures. I am sure I will see you out and about because I plan to do a lot of volunteering! You are my family so know that you will always be in my heart even if we do not see one another on a regular basis. Thanks so much for being part of my Family Service experience.

"Good friends are hard to find, harder to leave and impossible to forget." ~ *Author: G. Randolph*

**Karen J. Kraemer**

Director, Family Service RSVP &  
Stevick Senior Center  
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<http://www.famservcc.org/>  
Responding in Service - Volunteering with Pride



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### Valued RSVP Volunteers & Stations 2020 Award Winners

Family Service RSVP has had a volunteer appreciation luncheon every year for the past 47 years. On this 48th anniversary, the Covid is the only thing that has kept us down. Since we were unable to celebrate this past October, we are presenting our special awards in our new office.

Special recognition to the following are for Fiscal Year 2020 which is July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2020.

#### The Vicky Stewart Award

is for service even in the face of adversity.

#### Rena Lenz Award

is for special service in their first year of belonging to RSVP.

#### Stations of the year

- Champaign County Faith in Action (OSF)
- Carle Hospice



Jo Church (L) is presented with the Vicky Stewart Award from Karen Kraemer, RSVP Director (R).



Debbie Isham (L) is presented with the Rena Lenz Award from Karen Kraemer, RSVP Director (R).

## COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT OPPORTUNITIES



We are hoping that each of you have a special way to serve on MLK Day of Service. Due to COVID, we do not have a specific event planned for this year.

Please have someone take a picture of you serving for MLK Day and send it to me at [rsvpchampaign@gmail.com](mailto:rsvpchampaign@gmail.com) so we can honor those of you serving even under these trying circumstances.

### THANK YOU FROM CARLE HOSPICE & CHAMPAIGN COUNTY FAITH IN ACTION (OSF)

We would like to thank all of the RSVP Volunteers for making so many Lapghans. Below is just sample of these beautiful blankets!



### 2020 TAXES

We regret having to announce that AARP and RSVP will not be doing taxes this year due to COVID. You can go to [irs.gov](https://www.irs.gov) for further assistance or Google “tax preparation near me” to find a tax account in your area. We apologize for the inconvenience and hope that we will be able to continue the tax service in 2022.

### Family Service Senior Resource Center Senior Transport Needs Drivers—Can You Help?

Family Service Senior Resource Center is in dire need of drivers to provide individual transportation to Champaign County residents who are age 60 and over. The responsibilities are to drive seniors to medical appointments, business appointments and/or to the grocery store/pharmacy, to provide a steady hand to the elbow or to help carry grocery bags.

**Qualifications and Requirements are:** To have your own car, possess a valid driver’s license, to have insurance and a good driving record, reliable and the ability to follow confidentiality practices.

**Orientation/Training:** Senior Resource Center staff will provide orientation and answer day-to-day questions. The initial orientation takes 20-30 minutes during which time staff will make copies of your driver’s license and auto insurance card.

**Times Needed and Place of Work:** A flexible schedule is based on the availability and need of the resident. The volunteer can specify what days of the week or times of day she/he can volunteer. The transportation provided is in Champaign County, and usually in the Champaign-Urbana area.

**Commitment Required:** Availability twice per month is requested. More times will be greatly appreciated.

**Benefits: Mileage is reimbursable.** The main benefit is within yourself. Just knowing you are making a significant contribution to the health and well-being of seniors in our community will make you smile!

To apply for this wonderful way to help those without the support for transportation, please call Terry at 217-352-0099. She’s the SRC Volunteer Manager. She will answer all your questions and sign you up.

Please, take to heart and help those in need to have a better quality of life by simply assisting them in their daily transportation needs.

## WELCOME NEW VOLUNTEERS



*Christine Gonda • Carolyn S. Hyde • Cindy Martin  
Elizabeth Sims • Alice Sunderland • Marilyn Whalen*



## RSVP VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

For information about these and many more volunteer opportunities please call 217/359-6500 or [site.rsvp@gmail.com](mailto:site.rsvp@gmail.com).

### CARLE HOSPICE & CHAMPAIGN COUNTY

#### FAITH IN ACTION (OSF)

We are in need of lap blankets. Please contact Vicky at [site.rsvp@gmail.com](mailto:site.rsvp@gmail.com) or 359-6500 for further information on lap blankets.

#### C-U CANTEEN PROGRAM

They are in need of drivers and volunteers to deliver meals to the homeless. They also need toothpaste, razors, men's briefs—all sizes; men's long sleeved shirts—all sizes; men's gloves; men's light-weight jackets—all sizes; men's winter coats—all sizes; combs and/or brushes; and men's socks. For more information call 217-359-6500. If you want to be a driver, please contact the Salvation Army, 217-373-7832.

#### FAMILY SERVICE MEALS ON WHEELS

Delivery Assistant. Deliver prepared meals to seniors' homes using your own vehicle. Work a minimum of one shift per month, however, weekly is preferred. Mileage reimbursement is available. Please call 217-352-5100 for more information.

#### PROJECT READ-NEEDS TUTORS- TRAINING PROVIDED VIA ZOOM

This is a Parkland College tutoring program for adult learners seeking to improve their writing, reading and/or speaking English as a second language. The College is looking for volunteers to assist them. The volunteer tutors attend 12 hours of formal training to earn certification in tutoring adults. The Project READ ([parkland.edu/projectread](http://parkland.edu/projectread)) helps adults improve their skills in basic reading, basic math, or English as a second language. This program is made possible by volunteers who give their time to improve the quality of life for hundreds of people in our community. They are now hosting trainings and tutoring sessions via Zoom. The following dates available are: Introduction to Tutoring—Friday, January 15th: 10am-12pm and Introduction to Tutoring—Wednesday, January 27th: 6pm-8pm. Learn more on their Sign-up Genius site: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60b0c49a5a728a6ff2-tutor1>.

### RSVP: FRIENDLY CALLERS

Friendly Callers is a free program designed to offer wellness calls to adults 60 and older in Champaign County. This program is through a partnership of Family Service and OSF Healthcare. Seniors who live alone or afraid of a fall or health emergency that could go undetected are encouraged to call Family Service at 217-352-5100 to get details about getting a "Friendly Call" from an RSVP Volunteer. Could you be a "Friendly Caller"? If you would like more information about volunteering, please call Vicky at 359-6500.

### VA ILLIANA HEALTH CARE

They are in need of male patient clothing requests:

- New L - 3X short sleeved outer shirts
- New blue jeans, waist sizes 30-40, in various lengths
- Socks - tube or ankle
- Sweatpants and sweatshirts L-2X, including 3XL sweatshirts

You can see more of their needs by going to: [https://www.danville.va.gov/giving/Incidental\\_Needs\\_2017.pdf](https://www.danville.va.gov/giving/Incidental_Needs_2017.pdf)

### TURNING IN HOURS—DID YOU KNOW?

If you turn in your hours by the 15th of the month, your name will be put in a hat and 2 volunteers will be selected to receive a gift card!

Please send any hours you have to Robbie at [rsvpcomp@gmail.com](mailto:rsvpcomp@gmail.com).

The winners for November were Bari Arnote (Carle Hospital) & Ed Wilhite (Champaign Park District & Grand Prairie Friends)

*Congratulations* 😊

Have you moved ?  
Changed your phone number ?  
Do you *now* have an e-mail address or have changed your e-mail address ?  
No longer volunteering? Please let us know by calling  
 217-359-6500 or e-mailing  
[rsvpcomp@gmail.com](mailto:rsvpcomp@gmail.com) or  
[rsvpchampaign@gmail.com](mailto:rsvpchampaign@gmail.com) 