

Volunteer Connection

July-August 2011

Dear Friends,

Many of our local non-profits are being impacted by budget cuts. So, of course, we believe that the volunteer efforts of our RSVP volunteers are more vital than ever in helping local programs, agencies and organizations keep their doors open. But, unfortunately, we at Family Service RSVP are not immune to budget cuts either.

We recently learned that both our State and Federal grants have been cut by 20%. These cuts total just over \$22,000, which is approximately 17% of our budget. I want you all to know that we remain as committed as ever to you, our dedicated RSVP members and our 100+ non-profit partners. However, we cannot absorb cuts like these without reducing some of the services and benefits that we offer and without some painful staff reductions. And, it appears as though the next budget that will be passed at the Federal level may include even further cuts for Family Service RSVP and other senior programs.

Because we know that some RSVP volunteers cannot continue to volunteer without mileage reimbursement (especially as gas prices keep rising) we will still offer this benefit; however, we will have fewer dollars to spend and will run the risk of running out of funds before the end of our fiscal year. Because we know that our annual volunteer recognition event is important to so many of you (and because we enjoy it as well!) we will still be inviting you to join us for a celebratory get-together, but the event may be scaled back from recent years.

What can you do to help RSVP and your community?

- Contact your legislators! Remind them how much money senior volunteers save local agencies each year. Tell them how you benefit and how the community benefits from your volunteer service. Ask them not to cut money for the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) or the Illinois Depart-

ment on Aging, which provide funding for RSVP, because without RSVP your community will suffer. Your handwritten letters, faxes, or phone calls DO have an impact.

- If you have enjoyed RSVP program support for your volunteer service and believe that RSVP performs an important role in the community, consider a tax-deductible gift to Family Service RSVP. Family Service is a private, non-profit, 501(c)(3) charitable organization. Your financial support can benefit RSVP and provide a tax benefit to you.

Again, we are committed to continuing to serve our RSVP members and our non-profit partners and plan to be here for you for years to come. But, as never before, we need your support! Please contact me at (217) 359-6500 or rsvpchampaign@gmail.com if you would like more information.

Fondly,

Karen Bodnar

YOUR LEGISLATORS:

U.S. Senator Richard Durbin (217) 494-4062
U.S. Senator Mark Kirk (217) 492-5089
U.S. Representative Timothy V. Johnson (217) 403-4690
Senator Michael W. Frerichs (217) 355-5252
Senator Dale A. Righter (217) 235-6033
Senator Shane Cultra (815) 268-4090
Representative Naomi Jakobsson (217) 373-5000
Representative Chapin Rose (217) 558-1006
Representative Jason Barickman (815) 844-4642
Representative Chad Hayes (217) 447-0104

If you have internet access, you can find addresses and fax numbers for each senator and representative, or call me and I will provide more contact information.

ITEMS OF INTEREST

FREE SUMMER CONCERT Friday, July 15 – 2-3pm

No reservations needed – invite a friend! Come be entertained by a choir of music lovers, treating you to a concert of Broadway, popular tunes and sacred music. There will be an audience “sing-along” as part of the concert, which is free, open to the public, and suitable for all ages. The event will take place at Grace Lutheran Church, 313 S. Prospect Avenue in Champaign (corner of Prospect Avenue & Springfield Avenue), from 2 – 3pm on Friday, July 15.

The concert will be the highlight of a weeklong choral singing workshop, which has been offered by Road Scholar (formerly “Elderhostel”) at U of I for 16 years. Many of the singers, who come from around the U.S., return year after year because of their love of music and the instructors. Most of the singers are community and church choir members and some are retired school music teachers.

The choir has been directed for the last 16 years by Rick Murphy, musical director at University Laboratory High School and a faculty member in the annual Illinois Summer Youth Music program at the University.

For more information, contact Cheryl Barber at 217-333-7369 or cabarber@illinois.edu.

ATTENTION
ALL
VOLUNTEERS

DATE OF
EVENT
CHANGE . . .

MEALS OF HOPE

is a community-based food packaging event that will **NOW** take place on **Saturday, October 22nd** at Urbana High School. This is the 2nd year for the event, which is co-sponsored by the Eastern Illinois Foodbank and Meals of Hope of SW Florida. Last year, Meals of Hope was able to provide over 50,000 meals to hungry families, and this year plans to make 55,000 meals; each meal, costing roughly \$.50, will feed a family of five. Lots of volunteers are needed to make this event happen. Participants will fill bags with food, weigh/seal bags, and act as runners to box finished bags and palletize them. It is estimated that each volunteer will spend 2 hours packing around 350 meals! Please contact Marsha Reardon at (217) 359-6500 or site.rsvp@gmail.com for more information.



Family Service invites you to join our
Centennial Celebration

1911-2011

Take a fun trip down memory lane
at our old fashioned ice cream party

Saturday
July 16, 2011
1:00-3:30 pm

88 Broadway, Lincoln Square Mall



• **Activities**

• **Ice Cream**

• **Entertainment**

• **Raffle • Prizes**



& Recognizing our Wonderful

Community Partnerships

DONATE YOUR OLD PLASTIC BAGS TO HELP SALVATION ARMY

Champaign County Nursing Home is now accepting donations of usable, (no rips or holes), plastic grocery and shopping bags. Nursing Home residents will inspect donated bags and flatten them for use for the Salvation Army. The Salvation Army uses such bags for bagging bread and other food supplies to be donated and usually is in need of 3,000-4,000 bags per month. Please make donations of plastic bags to Jim Hronek at the Champaign County Nursing Home. For questions, please call Jim at 384-3784.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT OPPORTUNITIES

SPOTLIGHT ON NEW SITES . . .

EMBARRAS RIVER BASIN AGENCY (ERBA) OFFICE ASSISTANCE NEEDED

ERBA assists low-income households in Douglas County in obtaining energy assistance, school supplies and scholarships for children, etc. They are seeking help in their Tuscola office with the Head Start program for next school year. Volunteers are needed to help gather and pack school supplies for their backpack drive, among other initiatives. For more information, please contact Sheila Barnes at (217) 253-4434.

IL DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES, DOUGLAS COUNTY – RECEPTIONIST NEEDED

The Douglas County DHS in Tuscola is seeking a friendly volunteer to assist at the front desk by answering phones, greeting guests, filing papers, and possibly doing some light clerical work. Times and dates to volunteer are flexible based on volunteers' schedules, M-F 8:30AM-5PM. For more information, please contact Karol Schaefer at (217) 253-3347 or Karol.Schaefer@illinois.gov.

MONTICELLO RAILWAY MUSEUM

RSVP is excited to introduce the Monticello Railway Museum as a new volunteer site! The Railway Museum strives to preserve the rich history of the railroad in Central Illinois. There are opportunities here for every type of volunteer: Volunteers are needed to assist with ticket sales

and work in the gift shop and downtown depot on weekend afternoons. Museum "docents" are needed to greet guests, answer general questions about exhibits, and to watch over the displays. Those interested in helping with the general maintenance and upkeep of the grounds such as cleaning and gardening are also needed. And finally, for those who would like a more challenging, hands-on kind of job, volunteers are needed to help restore the locomotives. Those with experience in plumbing, electrical, engine work, and/or use of machinery would be fantastic for this position, (but they are willing to train those willing to learn!) To volunteer, please contact Syl Keller at (217) 493-1688.

EBERHARDT SENIOR COMMUNITY IN ARTHUR – WORK WITH SENIORS CITIZENS

Eberhardt Senior Community is seeking volunteers who enjoy working with seniors on a one-on-one basis. Volunteers are needed to aid in the dining room, assist with senior transportation, help out in the main office, or for leading skill-based group classes on technology, quilting, exercises, etc. Volunteer times, dates, and assignments are flexible based on what the volunteer would like to do. All volunteers are welcome to free and accessible parking and free meals each time they visit. For more information, please contact Jo Ellen Schultz at (217) 543-3705 or jschultz@arthurhome.com.

Presbyterian Church in Champaign. Please contact Rebecca Motley at (217) 355-5437 or rmotley@dmbgc-cu.org.

FOOD FOR SENIORS

The Food for Seniors Program meets twice a month to distribute bags of groceries for low-income seniors. The program runs early mornings on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month and drivers and sackers are needed for these sessions. For more information call Robbie at 359-6500 or rsvpcomp@gmail.com.

WELCOME NEW VOLUNTEERS

Robert H. Freitag • Sandra Hansen • Sandra Hart
Roberta R. Klos • James Nantz • Karen Nantz
Joan Roane • Jan Sabey



*The VC Newsletter is prepared for mailing by
Members of the RSVP General Assembly Team.*



BECOME A SENIOR PEN PAL

Make a positive impact on a child's life without having to leave the house. Senior Pen Pals correspond with local elementary school students via letters and are required to respond to all letters received. Volunteers will have an opportunity to meet their pen pals in person at the end of the school year. There will be an informational meeting on Friday, August 12 at 9 AM at the Champaign Public Library for all of those interested. For more information, please contact Jean Smith at (217) 356-1972.

SUMMER READING WITH KIDS

The Don Moyer Boys & Girls Club's summer program, June 6-July 29, is seeking volunteers to read one-on-one with elementary aged children and/or help program leaders with the academic portion of the camp. Former teachers/those experienced working with children would be ideal for this work. Volunteers are needed 9:30-11AM each weekday morning at the First