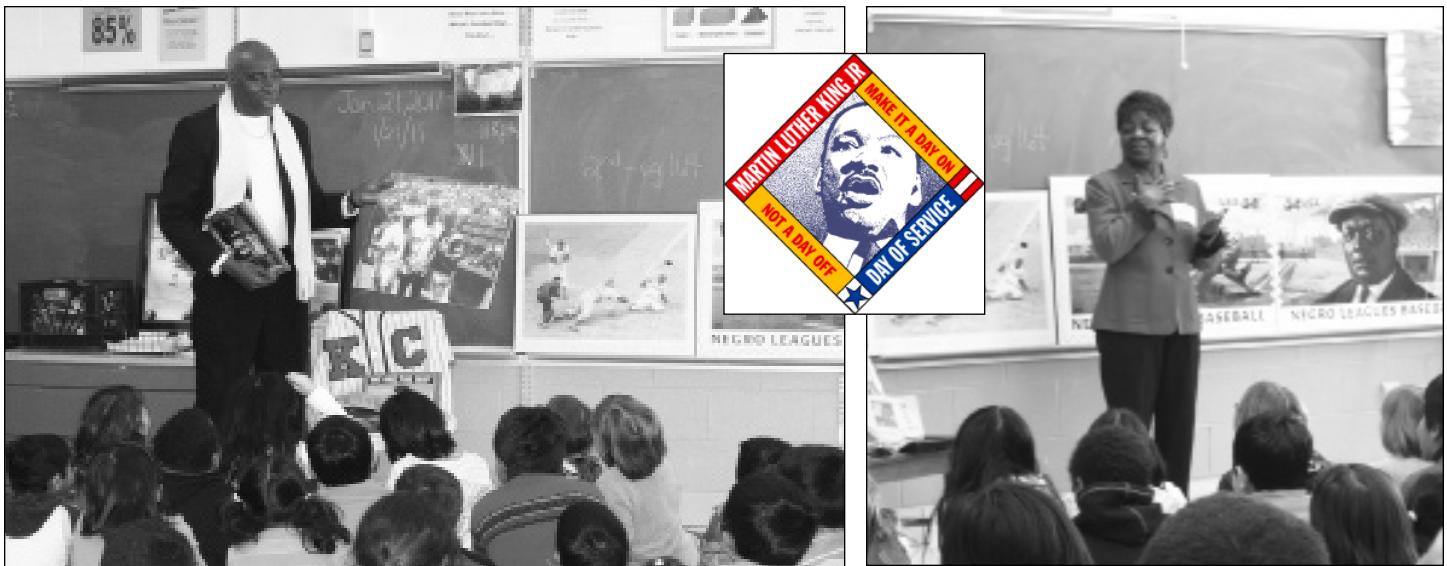


# Volunteer Connection

March-April 2011

## Seniors Talk Black History with Kids



On Friday, January 21, three seniors spoke to a group of students at Garden Hills Elementary School about Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., the Civil Rights Movement, and how life used to be for African Americans in Central Illinois. This project correlated with the Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service and was planned by the RSVP Advisory Council. Ruth Latham spoke about Dr. King's message—how he said the people “shall overcome” if they fought for their equal rights. Bernice Harrington (right photo) reminisced about when the Champaign schools were first integrated, and she encouraged the children

to have pride in themselves. Also in attendance was Ernest Westfield (left photo), who spoke about playing in the Negro Baseball League and how perseverance helped him break through racial barriers. This experience was well-received and the children were taught an important message: to be proud of who you are and to treat others as equals. RSVP would like to thank all of our speakers for helping spread Dr. King's message by keeping it active in the minds of today's youth.



## National Volunteer Week is April 10-16, 2011

This year's theme for National Volunteer Week is “Celebrating People in Action”. It is a time when we sit up and take extra special notice of you, our RSVP volunteers, for the tremendous impact you make on your communities every day. Your tireless efforts and commitment inspire us because you truly are “people in action”—over 130,000 hours of action last year!

Many of you volunteer regularly for more than one organization—from driving seniors to medical appointments with Family Service Senior Transportation or with Faith in Action, mentoring children through your local schools or Generations of

Hope, to collecting or distributing food at Daily Bread, The Times Center, Peace Meals, Meals on Wheels and Food for Seniors—and so much more! And, let's not forget our Bulk Mailing Team volunteers!

We want you to know how much we (and all of the agencies and organizations that you serve) value and appreciate you every day. We host our annual volunteer recognition luncheon each year, but we are only able to honor a small number of you at that time. But, that doesn't mean that everyone else's efforts go unnoticed—we all celebrate you in many quiet ways all throughout the year.

*Happy National Volunteer Week from the RSVP Staff!!*

## ITEMS OF INTEREST

### From the Director's Desk

Is it Spring yet? Warmer and less snowy weather cannot come soon enough for me. If you are like many of our volunteers who became ice or snowbound in January and February, I'm sure you are anxious to get back to your volunteer jobs and back to the agency directors and volunteer coordinators who need you!

I know that I sometimes sound like a broken record, but PLEASE remember to send us your volunteer hours. Our funding depends upon it! You may email your hours to Robbie at [rsvpcomp@gmail.com](mailto:rsvpcomp@gmail.com), submit the form included with this newsletter, call us, or download a form from our website at [www.famservcc.org](http://www.famservcc.org). If you are not sure if the coordinator at the station where you volunteer is submitting hours for you, please be sure to ask him or her.

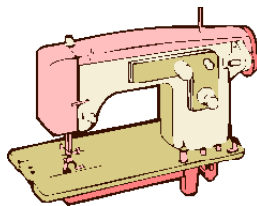
We have a few changes here at RSVP that you should know about. Richard Nohmer has decided to "retire" as the coordinator of the Food for Seniors Program. Rest assured, however, that he plans to continue to volunteer there on a regular basis. In addition to her RSVP responsibilities, Robbie Edwards is taking over Richard's role as coordinator for the program. I won't say good-bye to Richard, just "see you around!"

*Think Spring!*

*Karen Bodnar*


### NEW – Sewing Corner at Stevick Senior Center!

Some of our agencies need volunteers to do some light sewing or mending, but we understand that many of you who enjoy sewing no longer have sewing machines. So, we have set up the Stevick Sewing Corner here for you to use anytime during our regular office hours — Monday through Friday, 8am-4pm. We have one donated sewing machine that you may use for doing volunteer work or some personal mending that you've been meaning to get to. Organizations that could use your sewing/mending help include The Champaign County Forest Preserve District, Crisis Nursery, and more. (See "Community Involvement Opportunities" in this newsletter.)



*p.s. Does anyone have a pair of pinking shears that they could donate to our Sewing Corner?*

*Celebrating a Century of Care*  
1911-2011

 **Family Service**  
*Enriching lives across the generations*

*RSVP volunteers are part of the Family Service team, and together we make our communities better.*

Family Service RSVP celebrates a lot of people with impressive birthdays at the Stevick Senior Center. This year we will celebrate our own birthday as we thank the community for a century of partnership in Champaign County.

In 1911, a group of concerned citizens addressed the need for coordinated community solutions to common social needs. They created the United Charities (now known as Family Service) with an original charter "to relieve and prevent poverty, to restore the distressed to economic independence . . . to increase the material and social welfare . . . and to promote effective cooperation among the various organizations and agencies."

Today, Family Service has grown from a staff of one and an annual budget of \$2,000 to an organization with nine programs, 70 staff, and an annual budget of \$1.7 million. Despite the obvious expansion over the years, we are struck by how little has changed in our purpose.

Family Service is very grateful for your partnership as an RSVP volunteer. Each of you is an ambassador of goodwill to our community and one of the ways that Family Service still increases the social welfare and promotes effective cooperation among various organizations and agencies today.

Thank you for your generous service—we simply could not serve the community without you. Please stay tuned to future newsletters for details of our centennial celebration. We hope you will plan to join the fun!

### Senior Police Academy

Learn about Elder Abuse, Identity Theft, Crime Stoppers, Senior Finances, Scams & Fraud, METCAD 911 and more at educational sessions targeting seniors, April 7 through June 2, at the Mahomet Methodist Church at 1302 E. South Mahomet Road. The Thursday morning classes, 9:30-11:45, will be split into two 45-minute sessions with a break between. There is no charge to attend, but a one-time fee of \$5 is welcome to help cover expenses. Plenty of free parking is available. For information, contact LaVerna Harper at 688-2807 or [lharper43@gmail.com](mailto:lharper43@gmail.com).



## COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT OPPORTUNITIES

### Spotlight on a Site: 4-H of Champaign County

4-H of Champaign County is looking for a variety of volunteers to help with upcoming spring events. Volunteers interested in a leadership role are needed to be General Superintendents or "Supers" in charge of specific project areas at 4-H events. Volunteers are also needed to act as contest judges, check-in assistants, score recorders, photographers, and to be used as miscellaneous staff. Volunteer dates and opportunities are as follows:

April 18	4-H Public Speaking Contest
April 27	4-H Food Demonstrations
June 21	4-H Horse Show
June 29	4-H Clothing/Textiles Fashion Revue
July 12-14	4-H Expo: A Celebration of Mastery
July 15	4-H Dog Show

Anyone interested in volunteering for any of these shows listed may contact Kathy at the Extension Office, 217-333-7672 for more information and to schedule a Superintendents Training.

### Champaign County Forest Preserve District

A sewing enthusiast is needed to mend tablecloth hems for the Champaign County Forest Preserve. Costume repair or some other light sewing work may be needed. Volunteers can work from home or use a sewing machine at the Stevick Center. To volunteer, please contact Kim Horbas at 493-7199 or [khorbas@ccfpd.org](mailto:khorbas@ccfpd.org).

### Guardianship & Advocacy Council

The Illinois Guardianship & Advocacy Commission protects the rights and promotes the welfare of persons with disabilities. They are currently in need of a receptionist to answer phones and to do some light clerical work on alternating Mondays and weekday afternoons. To volunteer, please contact Bill Scheidemantel at 278-5577.

### Mock Trials

Volunteers are needed to act as jury members during mock trials for University of Illinois Law Students. Trials will take place during March 7-11 and March 14-18, and times/days to volunteer are flexible. Please call 359-6500 and ask for Marsha or Jean for more information.

### WELCOME NEW VOLUNTEERS

James H. Hayes, Jr. • Lillian Hoyt • Kokila K. Joshi  
Carl Lorber • Sharon Lumsden • Sylvia Mandel • Sallie Miller  
Karen Rodgers • Dorothy M. Swan • Iris Swanson  
Harvey Tessler • Diane Van Matre • Paula Watson



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



## New Station Opportunities!!!!

### Big Brothers Big Sisters

Big Brothers Big Sisters works to make a positive influence in the lives of local youth. Big Brothers and Sisters act as youth mentors either in-school or on the weekends. The organization is also looking for outreach volunteers to spread the program's message to the community. Please contact Eric Batsie at 355-2227 for more information.

### Illinois Green Business Association

The Illinois Green Business Association is in need of an office assistant for ongoing file maintenance and some light clerical work. A relatively new organization, the Green Business Association's goal is to promote sustainable, ethical, and environmentally-friendly business practices in East Central Illinois. For more information, please contact Anthony Santarelli at 531-2179.

### Independent Media Center

The Independent Media Center is in need of volunteers who can staff their front desk for two-hour shifts, M-F 11AM-6PM. Volunteers will greet/direct guests, sort, file, and do light office work. Times/dates are flexible. Volunteers with backgrounds in Accounting, Legal, or Librarian fields of work are also needed for an assortment of tasks. Please contact Carol Ammons at 344-8820.

### Ludlow Food Pantry

Volunteer in Rantoul one night a month at the Ludlow Food Pantry. Volunteers will assist in the stocking, bagging, loading, and clean-up of the Food Pantry. Volunteers are also needed to assist patrons with their questions or specific needs. To get involved with the Pantry, please call Phyllis Ingleman at 840-8670.

### Wesley Evening Food Pantry

The Wesley Evening Food Pantry aids an average of 1,000 patrons/month. Pantry night is the third Thursday of each month, but volunteers are also needed several other nights to assist in Pantry preparation. Volunteers will be given training and have a multitude of tasks to choose from. Contact Erin Heath at 615-8631 or at [info@wesleypantry.org](mailto:info@wesleypantry.org).