



**CLEARFIELD COUNTY AREA
AGENCY ON AGING, INC.**
Attn: Retired and Senior Volunteer Program
P.O. BOX 550
CLEARFIELD, PENNSYLVANIA 16830

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RSVPnews

A COMMUNITY OF TALENTS SERVING YOU

December 2011

Sponsored by:
Clearfield County Area
Agency on Aging, Inc.
P.O. Box 550
Clearfield, PA 16830
765-2226 or
Toll Free 1-800-225-8571



PROJECT DIRECTOR'S NOTE

Hi! Can you believe that summer is over? I guess fall is too! Time seems to go by so quickly we sometimes wonder where it went. Don't let the loss of time claim you as a victim. Otherwise months or years from now you'll say "How I wish I had become involved in doing something instead of sitting here at home!" I urge you to volunteer in the community and give of yourself to help others. We don't have to be wealthy in order to give time, talents and resources to someone less fortunate. We don't have to be in perfect health to serve others. We don't have to be a professional musician to have a song in our heart or to whistle a happy tune. We don't have to be a Miss America or a handsome movie star to brighten the lives of others by giving them some friendly words and a smile. Use what you have and share with others!

We have a lot of things happening soon. We are now handing out hats & mittens to help make a child's world warmer. I want to thank all the volunteers who made them. I am sure the children will be thrilled with them. Also, since the schools are back in session, we need to place volunteers to help with reading programs. A big project that is coming up is our annual food drive for Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. Please read the article about it in this Newsletter and consider how you could help. If you would like to find out more about any of these projects, just give us a call.

So, I wish you joy, happiness and good health this Holiday season and remember, our door is always open for you to stop in and say "Hi".

Donna

FIELD COORDINATOR'S NOTE

Greetings Everyone,

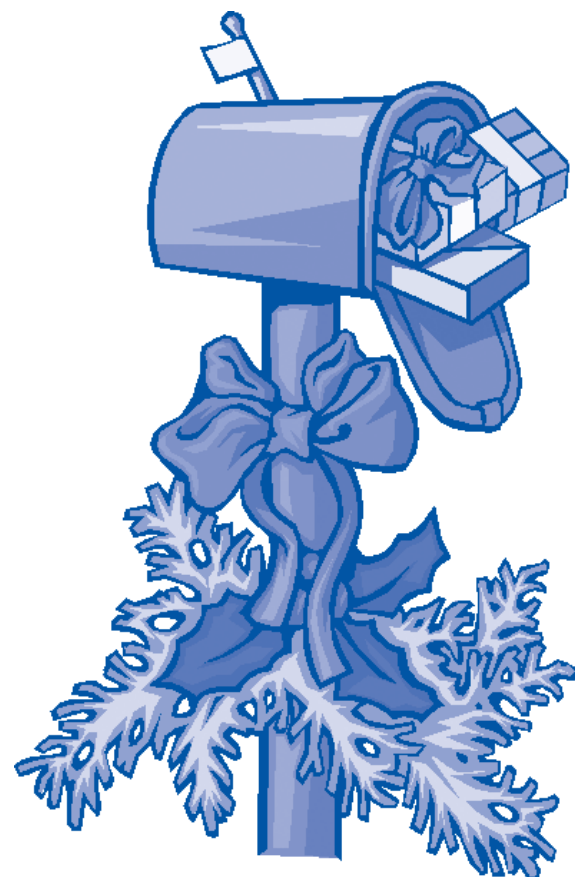
I am very impressed and amazed with the dedication, caring, and "fun" our RSVP volunteers have. It's very exciting to witness a large group like RSVP making such a huge difference in our community. Keep up the good work. It has been a very busy spring and summer for RSVP. It's hard to believe fall and winter are already here... summer sure seemed like it could have been longer this year!

With fall activities and holidays approaching, there are several stations in our community that request volunteers for one or two day holiday activities or fundraising volunteer opportunities. We'll also need volunteers to help with extra mentoring at the elementary schools for those children identified as needing help. If you would like to help make a difference in a child's quality of life, please contact Donna or myself. It would be an honor to give you the details on these very fulfilling volunteer opportunities.

A special thanks goes out to all the veterans who shared their stories with us for our Veterans book, which can be viewed on the CCAAA's website, www.ccaaa.net. We'd also like to thank all the people and businesses in our community that contributed to our "Sock It To Me" project.

Hope you all have a wonderful holiday season. I am looking forward to catching up with each and every one of you.

*Best of Providence,
Connie*



To Our Friends

At this Holiday Season, we would like to pause to express our sincere appreciation for the wonderful gift of your good will and spirit.

Thank you for brightening our world and helping us to help others. May you enjoy a wonderful Holiday Season and health and prosperity in the New Year!

Warmest regards,

*RSVP Staff
and Advisory Council*

MEMORIALS

A gift to the Retired and Senior Volunteer Program “in remembrance of” or “in honor of” someone is a special way to pay tribute to someone special while helping others. All memorials and contributions received by RSVP are directed to volunteer support. This enables us to recruit volunteers that are needed to address community needs in our county. Please consider supporting RSVP with a memorial or contribution.

A gift to RSVP in remembrance of or in honor of someone is a special way to pay tribute while helping others.

_____ In memory of _____ Amount enclosed _____
 or _____ In Honor of _____
Name of person to be remembered

Send my receipt to:

Name _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Send acknowledgement to:

Name _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____

**All checks payable to:
 RSVP - PO Box 550
 Clearfield, PA 16830**

Retired and Senior Volunteer Program Recent Memorial Fund Contributions	IN MEMORY OF	FROM
	Deceased Members Of The Clearfield Center For Active Living	Clearfield Center For Active Living

RSVP of Clearfield County History

While doing some housekeeping in our office, I found some very interesting history on Clearfield County RSVP. I thought you may like to read about it.

RSVP first began in 1969 by the United States Department of Health, Education and Welfare and became operational in July, 1971 when it became part of ACTION. RSVP grants are a result of President Nixon’s request to Congress following the 1971 White House Conference on Aging to expand opportunities for meaningful volunteer service for older Americans. At that time, persons age 60 or older were eligible to become RSVP volunteers. Eleven pilot projects were funded in 1971.

On February 6, 1973, the Clearfield County Board of Assistance sent a letter of intent and inquiry to the Department of Public Welfare to implement the program in Clearfield County.

A June 21, 1973 press release stated, “ACTION awards \$38, 590 to the Clearfield County Board of Assistance to operate a Retired Senior Volunteer Program.” By June, 1973 a total of 590 programs were funded, including Clearfield County.

The first project director for Clearfield County RSVP was Grace Garvey. According to our records, two of the very first

stations for RSVP were the Joseph and Elizabeth Shaw Public Library and the Clearfield Hospital.

In 1989, the Board of Assistance decided to relinquish their sponsorship of RSVP. The sponsorship opening was announced. Any organization that wanted to serve as sponsor could submit an application for consideration. The Clearfield County Area Agency on Aging, Inc. was the successful bidder and assumed the sponsorship later that year. John Kordish, the executive director of CCAAA, was no stranger to the RSVP program. In 1975, while with the Lutheran Social Services, Mr. Kordish participated in a seminar for retired persons, which was sponsored by RSVP. In the 1980’s (before the CCAAA held sponsorship) Mr. Kordish served on the RSVP Advisory Council.

Kordish, in reminiscing about RSVP, stated, “I have long believed in the mission of the program and the value it provides, both to the volunteers and to the community.”

So, here it is, just about 2012 and because of you, Clearfield County RSVP is still going strong. RSVP volunteers have made a difference in Clearfield County for just about 39 years! We are proud of what you have accomplished and give you many thanks!

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DAY

In order to make Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service, January 16, 2012, a “day on, not a day off”, RSVP of Clearfield County is organizing a food drive that will benefit food pantries throughout Clearfield County.

The King Day of Service is a way to transform this federal holiday into community service projects that help solve social problems. With so many individuals struggling with the economy, RSVP staff felt a food drive would be a good way to make a big difference. This is the fourth food drive for Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. Last year, over a ton and a half of food was collected and distributed to the food banks in Clearfield County. This year – more than ever – we need be as generous as possible to help those in need.

Participants collecting food will include Centers for Active Living, churches, schools, libraries, and businesses. Area restaurants will be asked to sell and display a cut out paper hand or “Helping Hand” for each \$1 donation they collect from patrons.

RSVP is still looking for individuals and groups who would like to be a part of the project. You could assist by organizing a food collection at your church, organization or neighborhood. Maybe you would like to help the RSVP office contact organizations, collect food from organizations, or distribute the food. All help is greatly appreciated. Why not join in this worthy cause? Call RSVP at (814) 765-2226 or 1-800-225-8571.

RSVP ADVISORY COUNCIL

A very important part of the RSVP program is the Advisory Council. The Council assists RSVP staff with planning special events, recognition luncheons, the yearly evaluation of the RSVP program for the Corporation for National and Community Service, public relations and fundraising.

Advisory Council terms are three years. Every June, some of the members’ terms expire. This year, there were two members who must take at least one year off before serving on the RSVP Advisory Council again. They are Penny Libreatori and Frank Yacabucci. RSVP staff would like to thank these members for their faithful service and their valuable input and support which has helped make RSVP stronger in Clearfield County. We will miss you.

At the beginning of Fiscal Year 2011-2012, we welcomed two new Advisory Council members. Beginning new terms are Barbara Bolam and Rose Okerlund. We look forward to working with them.

The RSVP Advisory Council meets the fourth Tuesday of every month at 10:00 a.m. The meetings are held at Trinity United Methodist Church on Second Street and are open to the public.

MAKE A DIFFERENCE WITH A CHILD

It is hard to believe that schools have started a new year. RSVP volunteers are needed throughout Clearfield County to work one-on-one with area school children in their own community.

Sometimes all it takes is a little special attention for a child to achieve their goals. Some activities that volunteers do are, paired reading, use of flash cards, echo reading, etc. Being a role model for children is an excellent way to have a positive influence on the future of your community.

RSVP volunteers are needed in the Clearfield, DuBois, Harmony, Philipsburg-Osceola, Moshannon Valley and West Branch School Districts. Scheduling is flexible and all training is provided. Please consider helping a child to become a better reader. Call the RSVP office for more information.

“SOCK IT TO ME”

RSVP of Clearfield County once again helped people put their best feet forward! As a Make a Difference Day Project, RSVP collected new socks to be distributed to human service organizations and shelters throughout Clearfield County.

There are some thrift stores in the Clearfield area that individuals can go to get good, affordable used clothing, but usually socks are not items given to thrift stores.

Last year, we collected over 1,000 pairs of new socks and gave them to the men’s and women’s shelters, The Sneaker Closet, and the Salvation Army. At the time of this writing, we are close to surpassing last year’s total of 1000 pairs, so it is quite possible by the time you read this, we will have exceeded that number!

RSVP NEWSLETTERS

You may have noticed that you didn’t receive an RSVP Newsletter in September. That’s because one of the ways we are dealing with the 20% budget cut from the Corporation for National and Community Service is to reduce the number of newsletters from four per year to two. We will still submit articles for the monthly Senior Page in The Progress and the Courier Express, so please take time to read them and see what fellow RSVP volunteers are doing.