

# Make A Difference

RSVP of Etowah & Cherokee County

October-December, 2023 Volume 22 Issue 4

## *In the News:*

Shred Day  
Senior Angel Tree

**The Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) is a federal program charged with leading efforts to expand the use of service and volunteering as key solutions that respond to our nation's most pressing challenges. Our mission is to improve lives, strengthen communities and foster civic engagement, through service and volunteering. RSVP is sponsored locally by the Etowah County Commission and federally by AmeriCorps.**

## **Contents:**

News	1
Success Story	2
Volunteer Opportunity	2
Volunteer Recognition	2
Upcoming Events	3
Puzzle	3
Volunteer Stations	4
Birthdays	5
Advisory Council	6
Staff	6
Merchants	6

## Director's Corner

All good things evolve. RSVP has evolved over the years, and continues to progress depending on what volunteers and our nonprofit partners need.

One more obvious change for us is a change of location. Our office is moving down the hall a little, from Room 219 to Room 221!

Fall is the perfect time for such a move—the change from summer into fall is always so pretty and the most colorful of the season changes; then we naturally go into a slower, shorter day season. Kind of a hibernation, if you will.

Always remember that just like the changes in seasons, all of the positive changes you make for others, even the small ones, also have positive impacts on your life. Volunteering is not only good for your physical health; it's also good for your emotional & spiritual health.

## In the News

## **Statistics:**

New Volunteers: 25  
Total Volunteers: 193  
Number of Station: 41  
Volunteer Hours: 1,801  
Value of Hours: \$51,401  
(According to federal guidelines, the value of a volunteer's time \$28.54)

Our annual Shred/Drug Take Back Day is scheduled for Saturday, October 28th this year. A Shred It truck will be in the parking lot of the Etowah County Courthouse from 9 AM until 1 PM, along with Drug Enforcement Unit agents, RSVP and our friends from Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority! All you have to do is drive through—we will unload your papers to be shredded and medicines to be disposed of. All of paper material is recycled and all of the unused medicine is destroyed in the most ecologically friendly manner, so nothing gets into our landfills or waterways. Win Win!

We are also planning our Senior Angel Tree this year. We get information on senior citizens who need a little extra help this holiday season, and ask our community members to 'adopt' them for Christmas. We get the seniors from MANNA and DHR, and even though we don't actually know who these seniors are, we do know that they could use some holiday spirit!

## Success Story

We had a great turn out for our groovy 70's Volunteer Recognition Luncheon July 26th, at the George Wallace Senior Center! We would like to give a huge Thank You to Ms. Pat Hill, her staff and the City of Glencoe for letting us use their center for our recognition event . Evan Tique sang and played the piano, our delicious meal was provide by Mr. Willie Sayles Catering and the Gadsden Job Corps culinary school students made us all feel like royalty!

## Volunteer Opportunities

\* **Gadsden /Riverview Regional Hospitals**

Volunteers are needed in various parts of the hospitals.

\* **Manna**

Volunteers needed to deliver meals to homebound individuals within our community.

\* **Conservator Monitoring**

Looking for volunteers willing to train/monitor court appointed conservators in money management.

\* **Extended Family**

Volunteers are needed to help with a variety of roles within a classroom setting.

\* **Tax Program**

RSVP tax assistance program will begin in January and volunteers are needed as tax preparers and greeters.

\* **Freedom Center**

Looking for volunteers to welcome patrons and help in either the laundry and food pantry areas,

*If you are interested in volunteering at any of these locations or others, please call our office at 256.549.8147.*

## Volunteer Recognition

Carol Hudson is our volunteer highlight this quarter. For a little over ten years Mrs. Hudson has been a valuable member of RSVP. She volunteers at numerous places within our community, including the City of Gadsden, Council on Aging, Elliott Senior Center, and our Tax Counseling Program.

Rose Gray from the City of Gadsden said, "She is willing to help anytime or anyone. She takes her volunteer job seriously and responsibly. If she is not available to help me out when I need her, she makes sure there is a replacement. She does an outstanding job no matter where I use her. She is positive and helpful to other volunteers. There are so many good things about her, but the very best is her smile.. She smiles with her eyes and lights up the room." Thank-you Carol !!!

The winner of our on-time timesheet drawing is Louise Blackwell. Ms. Blackwell has been volunteering with RSVP since 2006 as a Community Service Volunteer, and an avid Smarter Senior Workshop participant. Ms. Blackwell has 1,326 hours of service on record. Congratulations Louise and thank you for everything you do.



# Upcoming Events

October 4th- Fall Senior Health Fair  
 9 am-11 am Downtown Civic Center  
 623 Broad Street Gadsden  
 Sponsored by: Council on Aging &  
 Physician Who Care

October 15th- December 7th- Medicare open  
 Enrollment. Call Council of Aging  
 at 256.543.3616 to make an appointment

October 28th- Shred Day/Drug Take Back  
 Etowah County Courthouse Parking Lot  
 9am till 1 pm

November 5th - Daylight Savings Time Ends

November 10th- Veteran's Day (observed)  
 Thank-you to all that served!  
 (RSVP office will be closed)

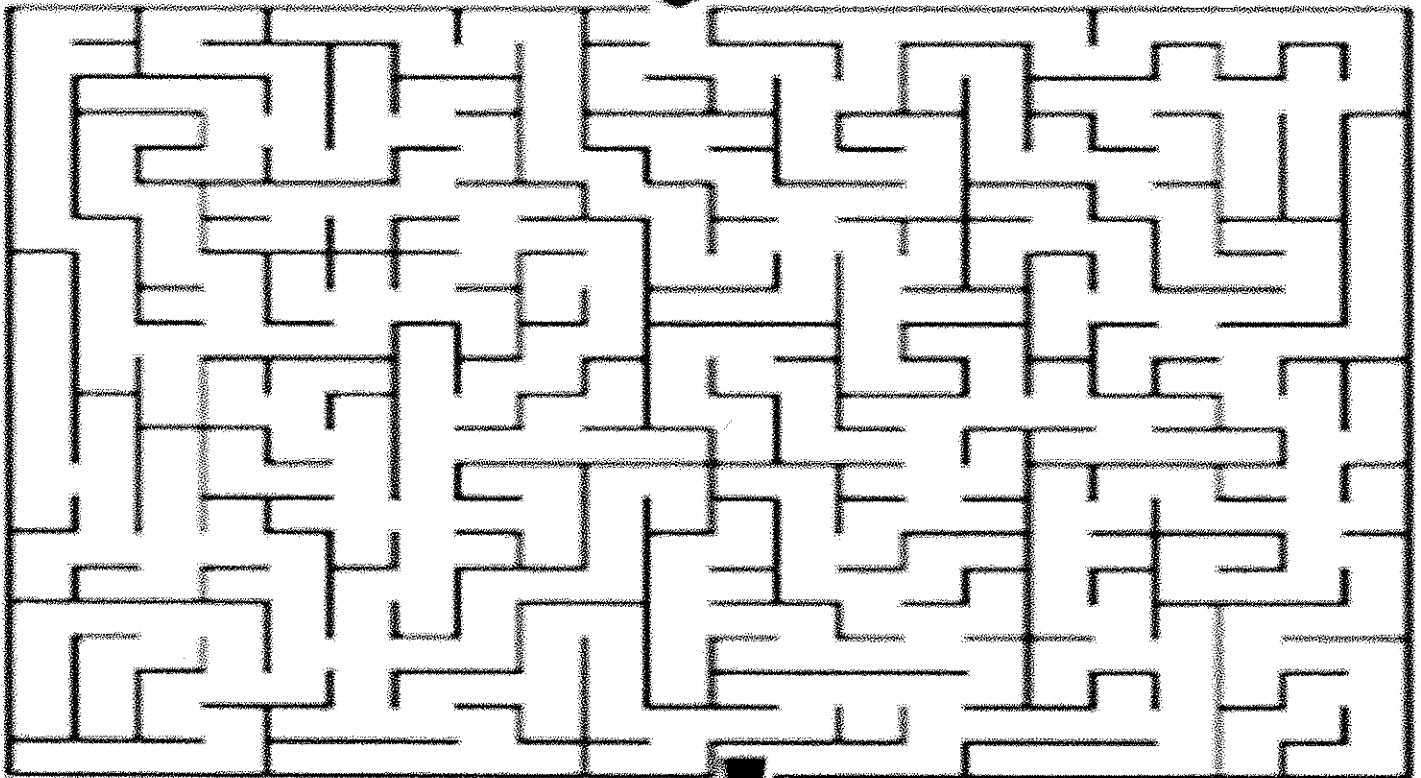
November 17th- Smarter Seniors Workshop

November 23rd- Thanksgiving  
 (RSVP office will be closed, 23rd-24th)

December 25th- Christmas  
 (RSVP office will be closed from 22nd- 25th)



## Maze



## RSVP

AARP – COOSA VALLEY  
CHAPTER #3337

BIG BROTHERS/BIG SISTERS  
of NEAL

BOYS & GIRLS CLUB OF  
GADSDEN/ETOWAH COUNTY

CENTRAL-CARVER  
FOUNDATION, INC.

CHEROKEE COUNTY  
HEALTH & REHAB.

CHEROKEE COUNTY  
HISTORICAL MUSEUM

CHEROKEE VILLAGE  
ASSISTED LIVING

CIRCUIT CLERK'S OFFICE  
OF ETOWAH COUNTY

CITY OF GADSDEN

COUNCIL ON AGING

ETOWAH BAPTIST  
MISSION CENTER

## VOLUNTEER

ETOWAH COUNTY CIRCUIT  
CLERK'S OFFICE

ETOWAH COUNTY  
EXTENSION OFFICE

ETOWAH COUNTY  
PREGNANCY TESTING  
CENTER

ETOWAH FREE COMMUNITY  
CLINIC

ETOWAH HISTORICAL  
SOCIETY

EXTENDED FAMILY

FLOYD CHEROKEE MEDICAL  
CENTER

FREEDOM CENTER OF  
GADSDEN

GADSDEN PUBLIC LIBRARY

GADSDEN QUILTERS GUILD

GADSDEN REGIONAL  
MEDICAL CENTER

## STATIONS

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

HEAD START

HUMANE SOCIETY OF  
GADSDEN

MANNA

READING BUDDIES

RIVERVIEW REGIONAL  
MEDICAL CENTER

RSVP ADVISORY COUCIL

RSVP COMMUNITY SERVICE  
VOLUNTEERS

SALVATION ARMY

SENIOR NUTRITION CENTERS

TAX COUNSELING PROGRAM

UNITED WAY OF ETOWAH  
COUNTY



## **VOLUNTEER**

JENTZEN, CAROLYN	10/02
WOODWARD, BETTY	10/03
HARRIS, LUCILE	10/04
HOWELL, LIZ	10/08
WOLFORD, SUSAN	10/10
STEAPLETON, SHILEY	10/12
GREEN, GRACIE	10/13
TOLES, CYNTHIA	10/13
WELLS, RICHARD	10/19
PARRISH, DORIS	10/20
CHILDS, BONNIE B.	10/22
BEVERLY, THERESA	10/25
PHILLIPS, DANNY	10/26
BAKER, LORRAINE	10/28
ELLIS, CHRISTINA	10/31
BEDDINGFIELD, ANN	11/03
ST.JOHN, RAY	11/04
MCGINNIS, SHERRE	11/11
RUTHLEDGE, CATHY	11/13
MYRICH, ROBERT	11/20
SPELCE, TREASIA	11/24
MUSKETT, EVELYN	11/25

## **BIRTHDAYS**

MAKARY, PAULETTE	11/25
CARTRETT, MILLIE	11/26
LEONARD, JIMMIE	11/29
HILLEKE, REBECCA	11/30
KELLEN, KAY	12/01
MYERS, SUE	12/01
THOMAS, DOLLY	12/02
BLATTEL, KATHY	12/05
TURK, ELOISE	12/07
PLUMMER, SANDRA	12/15
LEMONS, DONNA	12/16
TENERANI, NINA	12/17
LATRONICO, MAUREEN	12/18
WESTCOTT, EVELYN	12/21
MEANS, KENNETH	12/22
LIPSCOMB, FRANCES	12/25
SCHARFENBURG, STEPHAN	12/26
ELLISON, LINDA	12/28
HILL, PATRICIA	12/28
LASSETER, JESSICA	12/29
JACKSON, LISA	12/31

**Happy Birthday**

**RSVP:**

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Room 221  
Gadsden Al 35901

**PHONE NUMBER:**

256.549.8147

**Email:**

tpondick@etowahcounty.org

**RSVP Staff**

**Director** – Traci Pondick

**Administrative Secretary/ Volunteer Coordinator** – Rachel Wood

**Reading Buddies Coordinator** - Kristie Bearden

**RSVP ADVISORY COUNCIL**

**President:**

*Kenneth Hudson*

*Amelia Millie Cartrett*

*Carol Hudson*

*Theresa Frye*

*Jeff Little*

*Jenifer Grace*

*Craig Scott*

**Treasure:**

*Jill Vincent*

*Ellie Higgins*

*Delma Smith*

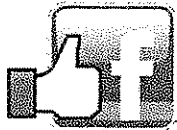
*Pat Hill*

*Cynthia Toles*

**WE'RE ON THE WEB!!!**

**SEE US**

[www.etowahcounty.org](http://www.etowahcounty.org)



**FRIEND US ON FACEBOOK**

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**FOLLOW US ON TWITTER!**

[Twitter.com/etowahrsvp](https://twitter.com/etowahrsvp)



**ADD US ON INSTAGRAM!**

[http://www.instagram.com/volunteers\\_of\\_etowah/](http://www.instagram.com/volunteers_of_etowah/)

“We make a living by what we get. We make a life by what we give.”

– Winston Churchill

**Please Shop at these Local Businesses and Say “Thank you” for Supporting RSVP!!!**

ABSOLUTE RESPIRATORY  
ADVANCE AUTO  
AL TEACHERS CREDIT UNION  
BARONE'S PIZZA  
COSMIC DEBRIS  
COTHRAN'S BAKERY  
EXCHANGE BANK  
FAMILY SAVINGS CREDIT UNION  
FOOTE BROTHERS CARPET  
FORD INSURANCE  
FRESH VALUE  
GADSDEN VARIETY  
HARP AND CLOVER  
JACKS  
JOHNSON FOODS  
JOY'S FLOWERS  
KEITH'S AUTO TRIM  
KINGS OLIVE OIL  
LAURA LEE'S ON BROAD  
LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY  
LOCAL JOE'S

MYERS INSTITUTE  
NOLA ON SECOND  
OBSERVER OFFICE  
O'REILLY AUTO PARTS  
PUBLIX  
RED LOBSTER  
RIVERBEND DENTISTRY  
SILVER LAKE ASST LIVING  
SMITH AND BAILEY DENTAL  
SOUTHERN SKIES DERMATOLOGY  
SPORT MANIA  
SUPER BEE DISCOUNT RX  
SUTTON BRIDGE FULL SERVICE  
TAMERON HONDA  
TAMING OF THE EWE  
THE COFFEE BAR  
THE HEALING TREE  
THE WRITTEN WORD  
TIGERS FOR TOMORROW  
VIVA HEALTH  
WILLOW TREE