

Make A Difference



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 the Corporation for National & Community Service (CNCS).

Director’s Corner

In the News

- Recognition Luncheon
- Quarterly Workshop

Recently a friend of mine posed the question “What is your favorite thing about summer?” It took a while for me to list everything I love about this season – eating watermelon, going to the pool, growing my own tomatoes, the fact that it stays daylight forever!

I also like the fact that volunteering changes ever so slightly during the summer. Tax season is over (for a while), kids are out of school (for a while) &

summer programs for the children are just beginning. We shift gears and want to do different things, or the same things in different ways.

There are a couple of different volunteer jobs that we would like to offer, but we need your opinion first. A RSVP in a different state has a pen pal program, where volunteers are paired with students. The volunteers & students don’t know each other until the

end of the school year when they get to meet, after having written to each other for the past few months.

Another program is a national initiative where volunteers would serve as “Navigators” to help people choose health care plans after the new health care law goes into effect.

So, what do you think of these ideas - and what is your favorite thing about summer?

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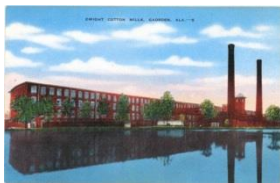
News

Did you enjoy our Recognition Luncheon this year? We really do appreciate everything that you do every day, and this is the best way that we are able to show you that! Hats off to all of you who attended, and especially to those who wore hats and to our volunteers who were in our skit – Tammy Harris, John Parks, Geneva Cole, Joe Neal, Deborah Lankford, Joanna Ross & Ronda Duke! We hope you enjoyed a good meal and some good fellowship!

Our quarterly workshop in April was something we had never done before – we had a spring fashion show! Revenue Commissioner Linda Barrett-Vaughan, and Etowah County Commissioners Carolyn Parker and Tim Choate modeled some of the latest styles for our group, and JC Penney’s manager Cassandra Harris gave us some great info on what is in style right now & how to accessorize!

The next quarterly

workshop, which is planned for July 18th also promises to be very informative. Emily Campbell, Alabama Cooperative Extension Service Agent, will be speaking about food safety. That is an important matter especially during these hot summer months with so many outdoor activities going on. The Extension Service is one of our partners, & they are a wealth of information on many topics, from 4H to financial literacy!



Dwight Cotton Mill

"Every summer has a story!"
~ Unknown

STATISTICS

- New volunteers – 6
- Total volunteers – 371
- Total stations – 50
- Volunteer Hours – 9,645
- Value of Hours – \$170,716.50

(According to federal guidelines, the value of a volunteer's time is \$17.70 per hour)



Gadsden Health & Rehab would like to thank the RSVP Friendly Nursing Home Visitors for all of their help with activities!

Success Story

As you know, RSVP provides a free income tax preparation service every year from late January through mid-April. This year was extremely active! We had 25 volunteers, who helped almost 1,600 clients and prepared 1,419 tax returns! That is just counting the federal tax returns – not including state returns.

Our volunteers worked in eight different locations,

Monday through Friday, to make it as convenient & easy as possible for anyone who needed help to get it. Volunteers even made special appointments when necessary, and visited assisted living homes, a high school, and other agencies to help people with their tax returns. All of our tax volunteers say that the reason they do this is because clients are so appreciative!

Because of all this hard work by our volunteers, these clients got back over \$1.4 million in refunds – and because this service was free, all of that money went into their pockets! They did not have to pay someone to prepare their return or to get information.

So if you know one of our wonderful tax volunteers, remember to congratulate them on a job well done!

Volunteer Opportunities

- **DAV Van Drivers** – people are needed to drive veterans from the VA Clinic in Rainbow City to the VA hospital in Birmingham one day each week.
- **Road to Recovery** – the American Cancer Society needs volunteers to help with transportation for cancer patients to & from chemo appointments.
- **Did you work at the Cotton Mill?** – The Gadsden Public Library needs volunteers to key records from the Cotton Mill into a database that can be used by everyone!
- **Courthouse Information Desk** – we need volunteers to man the information desk & help give directions!
- **Etowah Historical Society** – volunteers are needed to greet visitors & inform them about the exhibits.
- **For these & other volunteer opportunities, call RSVP @ 256-549-8147!**

Volunteer Recognition

Here is what Volunteer Coordinator Faye Russell has to say about volunteer Wilma Odom: One of the 1st thoughts that come to mind about Ms. Odom is 'wisdom'. Many days as Ms. Odom steps onto the RSVP van with the other Friendly Nursing Home Visitors she has a word to say about her experience in life. And in

spite of the fact that mobility is a challenge for her, she has dedicated herself to making a difference in the lives of the nursing home residents she comes in contact with. Wilma Odom is an individual that not only inspires, but someone that we all admire!

The winner of our On-Time Time Sheet drawing for this quarter is Ms. Mary Sue Grissom! Ms. Grissom volunteers at the Northeast Etowah Community Center. She has been volunteering with RSVP since November of 2005, and has 4,379 hours on record! Congratulations Ms. Grissom!

Upcoming Events

Local Farmer’s Markets are open for the summer!

July 4 – Independence Day, Etowah County Courthouse will be closed.

July 16 – AARP Driver’s Safety Class, 9 AM – 4 PM, at Regency Pointe in Rainbow City. Call the Council on Aging @ 256-543-3616 to register.

July 18 – RSVP quarterly workshop, 10:00 AM, Etowah County

Courthouse Room 205. Speaker will be Emily Campbell from Alabama Extension Service speaking on food safety.

July 30 – AARP Driver’s Safety Class, 9 AM – 4 PM, Cherokee County Chamber of Commerce, Centre. Call RSVP @ 256-549-8147 to register.

August 17 – 2nd Annual Dragon Boat Festival benefitting Habitat for Humanity will be on the Coosa River @ the Boardwalk – free to

attend!

September – is Disaster Preparedness Month. Call RSVP or Red Cross or EMA for info on how to create your own plan and kit – just in case!

September 2 – Labor Day, Etowah County Courthouse will be closed.



"Summer, after all, is a time when wonderful things can happen to quiet people. For those few months, you're not required to be who everyone thinks you are, and that cut-grass smell in the air and the chance to dive into the deep end of a pool give you a courage you don't have the rest of the year. You can be grateful and easy, with no eyes on you and no past. Summer just opens the door and lets you out."

~ Deb Caletti

Sudoku

6				5	9			
	9	2	1				4	
			2			6	8	
						4	3	
			5					
		6	7		8	1		
5	6	3		4			2	7
						8		
		4		9				3

RSVP Volunteer Stations



***Ask us how you can
volunteer at these
places!***

AARP – COOSA VALLEY CHAPTER #3337	ETOWAH COUNTY COURTHOUSE	NORTHEAST ETOWAH COMMUNITY CENTER
ALABAMA COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE	ETOWAH COUNTY DEPT. OF HUMAN RESOURCES	PILOT CLUB
AMERICAN RED CROSS – ETOWAH & CHEROKEE CHAPTERS	ETOWAH COUNTY PREGNANCY TESTING CENTER	RIVERVIEW REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER
BIG BROTHERS/BIG SISTERS	ETOWAH HISTORICAL SOCIETY	ROC-1 ST BAPTIST CHURCH OF CENTRE
CATHOLIC CENTER OF CONCERN	EVEN START	RSVP ADVISORY BOARD
CENTRAL-CARVER FOUNDATION, INC.	EXTENDED FAMILY	RSVP COMMUNITY SERVICE VOLUNTEERS
CHEROKEE COUNTY HEALTH & REHAB.	FAMILY SUCCESS CENTER	RSVP DISASTER VOLUNTEERS
CHEROKEE COUNTY HISTORICAL MUSEUM	FIRST CALL FOR HELP	RX HELP
CHEROKEE MEDICAL CENTER	FRIENDLY NURSING HOME VISITORS	SALVATION ARMY
CIRCUIT CLERK’S OFFICE OF ETOWAH COUNTY	GADSDEN MUSEUM OF ART	SENIOR NUTRITION CENTERS
CITY OF GADSDEN	GADSDEN PUBLIC LIBRARY	SUMMER ENRICHMENT PROGRAM
COMMUNITY ACTION	GADSDEN QUILTERS GUILD	SWAT
COUNCIL ON AGING	GADSDEN REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER	TAX COUNSELING PROGRAM
CULTURAL ARTS CENTER	HABITAT FOR HUMANITY	TELE-CHEK
EL SENOR CLUB	HEAD START	THE CHAMBER
ETOWAH BAPTIST MISSION CENTER	MANNA	UNITED WAY OF ETOWAH COUNTY
	MOUNTAIN VIEW HOSPITAL	VETERANS AFFAIRS

Birthdays This Quarter

Sybil Glenn	07/01	Hellice White	07/28	Donna Patterson	08/28
Betty McElroy	07/01	Earnest Elrod	08/01	Betsy Norton	08/29
Norman Pondick	07/02	Eileen Gray	08/01	Larry Reeves	08/29
Wanda Fox	07/03	Pat Herrod	08/01	Sandra Davis	09/01
Therese Henderson	7/03	Patricia Meier	08/01	Barbara Kines	09/01
Nettie Hooks	07/06	Iva Patty	08/02	Ronda Duke	09/04
Connie Martin	07/06	Joe Neal	08/03	Carolyn Nichols	09/04
Edna Gunnells	07/07	Vicki Chambers	08/05	Thelma Edgar	09/05
John O'Neal	07/07	Hilda Moody	08/06	Brenda Garrard	09/05
Shirley Gillilan	07/08	JoAnn McCarley	08/07	Mary Lamparty	09/06
Dot Bentley	07/09	Ruby Nuss	08/07	Wayne Rhodes	09/06
Garfield Lambert	07/09	Arenia Stansil	08/07	Barbara Beshears	09/07
Gary Beck	07/10	Shirley Dupont	08/10	Taylor Knowles III	09/07
Roberta Harville	07/10	Mary Lipham	08/10	Louise Blackwell	09/08
Doris Armstead	07/12	Frances Bearden	08/11	CiCi Whiteside	09/08
Shirley Hufstetler	07/12	Joyce Neighbors	08/11	Ruth Mims	09/09
Luteshia Thomas	07/12	Hazel Oliver	08/11	Doris Sheeler	09/09
Aaron Turner	07/12	Joyce Stephens	08/11	Joyce Farrell	09/10
Nancy Harrison	07/14	Mable Boatwright	08/13	Patsy Lee	09/12
Bobby Gillilan	07/15	Aris Mayo	08/13	Dot Woodward	09/12
Johnny Farmer	07/16	Emma Crayton	08/14	Betty Sue Nelson	09/13
Theresa Frye	07/16	Willie Mae Jordan	08/15	Durwood Johns	09/15
Brenda Headrick	07/16	Faye Shelton	08/15	Barbara Lee	09/15
James Starling	07/16	Linda Kindon	08/17	Gertie Lowe	09/17
Sandra Jackson	07/17	Patricia McGee	08/17	Sharyon Ramsey	09/17
Johnnie Morgan	07/17	Gail Reeves	08/17	Bob Wilbanks	09/17
Ruth O'Donnell	07/17	Joanna Ross	08/19	Betty Wicker	09/19
Deborah Lankford	7/18	Judie Walauskis	08/19	John Vanek	09/20
Jane Wilson	07/18	Nell Gober	08/20	Chuck Keith	09/21
Brenda Emery	07/20	Viola Franklin	08/22	Mariam Thompson	09/21
Norman Hindman	07/20	Sandy Grant	08/22	Jim Bryan	09/22
Ernestine Coats	07/21	Rosa Owens	08/22	Dalton Bradley	09/24
Robert Malone	07/21	David Coffey	08/23	Faye Hooker	09/24
Barbara Morgan	07/23	Charline Webb	08/23	Reba Mathis	09/24
Gerald Smith	07/24	Susie Davis	08/24	John Bentley	09/25
Lurene Kerley	07/25	Roselene Jenkins	08/24	Joy Ann Smith	09/26
Mary Spinks	07/25	Beverly O'Hara	08/24	Brenda Dunning	09/27
James McGuire	07/26	Dot Phipps	08/25	Adelle Morris	09/27
Maxine Mintz	07/27	Charles Brown	08/26	Geneva Cole	09/28
Barbara Nix	07/28	Patsy Duck	08/27	Doma Wheeling	09/29



*"Age is strictly a case of
mind over matter. If you
don't mind, it doesn't
matter." ~ Jack Benny*

**CONTACT US AT:
RSVP**

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We're on the Web!



See us at:
www.etowahcounty.org

Friend us on Facebook!



www.facebook.com/etowahrsvp

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www.twitter.com/etowahrsvp

RSVP Staff

Director – Traci Pondick

Van Driver/Volunteer
Coordinator – Faye
Russell

Secretary/Bookkeeper –
Samantha Harrison

RSVP
Lead With Experience

RSVP Advisory Council

Chairperson - Jane
Brittain
Vice Chairperson – Joyce
Farrell
Treasurer – Deborah
Lankford
Secretary – Wanda Neal

Millie Cartrett
Lisa Dobbins
Thelma Edgar
Juanita Elrod
Jennifer Harold
Jerre McNeal

Joe Neal
Jean Pettis
Nettie Robinson
Craig Scott
Doralynn Thomas
Ila Mae Wright
CiCi Whiteside

Please shop at these local businesses & say "Thank You!" for supporting RSVP!

Advance Auto Parts	Hick's Shoes	Pruett's BBQ
Attalla Florist	Hindsman Davis	Red Lobster
Belk's	Hokes Bluff Drugs	Regions Bank
Boomer's Spa	Illegally Blonde	Regis Hair Salon
The Choice	Johnson's Food	RSVP Advisory
Discount Pest Control	Keystone Bank	Shear Class Salon
Downtown Deli	Linda Barrett-Vaughn	Sports Mania
Etowah Foot Spec.	Live, Laugh & Love	Stevie B's Pizza
Family Savings Credit	Master Cuts Salon	Sutton Bridge Exxon
First Equity Home Loan	McClellan Chiropractic	Taming of the Ewe
Flipside Café	Once Written	Things of Desire
Gadsden Eye Assoc.	Pack's Nursery	Tre Ragazzi's
Generations Bank	Papa John's	Uncle Sam's BBQ
Gold's Gym	Physician's Home Health	Wells Fargo Advisors