

*Every day, in communities across Northeast Alabama, you are making a powerful and lasting impact through service: educating students, supporting individuals, families, and neighborhoods on the road to economic recovery; addressing the needs of veterans and military families; helping communities rebuild after natural disasters; strengthening the environment, and providing healthy futures.*

*So as you gather with your family and friends for the holidays, we hope you feel appreciation and gratitude for the work you do every day and know that we are grateful for our relationship with you. And as we count our blessings, let us also recommit to share our blessings with others through service.*

*RSVP*

We always have so much to be thankful for here at RSVP, that sometimes it's hard to limit our successes to this short column. Nonetheless I will talk about two of our most recent success stories.

Each year RSVP sponsors a Senior Angel Tree to help local seniors who are asking for assistance during the holiday season. This year our friends &

colleagues adopted 81 angels from our tree, buying gifts for them to make their holidays a little brighter! We didn't even have time to do much advertising before people were asking for angels!

Also, we recently have begun working on our free tax program, which will begin in late January. This year it looks like we will have at least 4 new

volunteers working with us – and they are so eager, willing and capable of this (sometimes overwhelming) task! These are the kind of things that really make us appreciate where we are, what we do, & the people we surround ourselves with!

## Volunteer Opportunities

- Extended Family – if you or someone you know has a loved one incarcerated, Extended Family is a support group for families of prisoners. They can help navigate this chapter of life. Call 256-927-7997 for more information.
- MANNA – volunteers are needed to deliver hot, nutritious meals to homebound seniors. Call 256-543-5876 for more info.
- Family Success Center – needs volunteers for child abuse prevention programs for kindergarten through high school students. Call Joan Henry @ 256-547-6888 for more information.
- Red Cross – volunteers are needed in Etowah & Cherokee County offices, and for the Disaster Services Teams. Call 256-547-8667 for more info.
- For more information on these and other volunteer opportunities, call RSVP at (256)549-8147.

## Volunteer Recognition

I'd like to nominate Patsy Duck for the volunteer recognition award. One of the things I appreciate about Patsy is that I know I can count on her; she's dependable. I've also noticed that she is willing to take on tasks that don't always fit within her "job description". Because she makes herself available, needs are met that otherwise may not have been. She is a special lady

and we appreciate her!  
*Submitted by Valerie Crosby, Etowah Baptist Mission Center*

The winner of our on time – time sheet drawing is Mr. Royce Chambers, who volunteers with MANNA. Mr. Chambers has volunteered with RSVP since August of 2006 & has 263 hours on record. Congratulations Mr. Chambers!

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*Peace on earth will come  
to stay,  
When we live Christmas  
every day.  
- Helen Steiner Rice*



## Upcoming Events

- **January 1** – New Year’s Day, Etowah County Courthouse closed.
- **January 10** – Seniors Outfitted for Defense meeting. Etowah County Courthouse Room #205. Lori Howell, local Yoga instructor, will be demonstrating simple Yoga. Call RSVP at 256-549-8147 to reserve a seat.
- **January 15** – Etowah County Council of Community Services meeting; 12:00 @ the Gadsden State Community College cafeteria.
- **January 21** – Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, Etowah County Courthouse closed.
- **January 25** – Earned Income Awareness Day, Gadsden Public Library, 9:00 – 3:00. Open to the public; join us to learn more about financial education programs in our area.
- **January 28** – Free income tax program opens across Etowah & Cherokee County. Call RSVP @ 256-549-8147 for schedules.
- **February 14** – Valentine’s Day.
- **February 19** – Etowah County Council of Community Services meeting; 12:00 @ the Gadsden State Community College cafeteria.
- **March 10** – Daylight Savings Time begins, set your clock forward 1 hour.
- **March 17** – St. Patrick’s Day.
- **March 19** – Etowah County Council of Community Services meeting; 12:00 @ the Gadsden State Community College cafeteria.
- **March 20** – 1<sup>st</sup> day of Spring.
- **March 29** – Good Friday, Etowah County Courthouse closed.
- **March 31** – Easter.



## DROP QUOTES

D	E	Y		R	E		R	I	H	G		W	I	R	L		G	D	
S	I	S	I	O	F	D	A	N	N	E	O	S	P	H	I	E	E	S	E
O	G	R		A	S		N	E	D	D	S	U	T	L	O	N	T	N	
W	I	T			N														
R	U	N																	

Drop Quotes are similar to cryptograms, in that the goal is for the solver to uncover a hidden quote. A black-and- white crossword-style grid is set up for each quote, with a number of letters "hovering" above each column. Your task is to "drop" each of those letters into the appropriate square in each column, until the entire quote is revealed. All punctuation (commas, periods, dashes, etc.) has been removed. Good luck!

*THE YEAR IN PICTURES*



The Sister Act performs at the Recognition



RSVP Volunteers at the Dragon Boat Festival



Volunteers working in our office



The RSVP Advisory Council conducting business



Retiring RSVP Secretary Jan Kelley, with new Secretary, Samantha Harrison



Our very own RSVP Volunteer Coordinator, Faye Russell, with the Grandparent Award