

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).

In the News

Tax Program

Are we getting back to normal?

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Director’s Corner

Am I the only one who is so tired? Let’s blame this all on Covid-19. This virus has hurt us physically, mentally and emotionally. I can see that everywhere.

But you know what? Volunteers are special. Volunteers have a resilience and stamina that many others don’t. RSVP of Etowah County has a little over 250

active volunteers at any given time. In the past year, we have had one volunteer pass away directly due to Covid. One. Many that we know of have been sick, but all but one recovered. While I mourn that one loss I also think it says something about our people. Our people take care of their health; our people keep their minds

and bodies active; our people look out for other people.

Is it coincidence that 99.5% of our volunteers continue to volunteer during this pandemic as much as possible?

I think not. We may all be tired and frustrated and ready for this to be over – but we’re still here.

News

Our free income tax assistance program is going strong. While some of these locations are operating a little differently because of Covid, I have to give a lot of credit to our volunteers and clients for being patient and flexible in working around these new boundaries! We are operating in 8 locations, and through April 15th at our main location – call

our office if you need to file a return or if you have questions. This year has been a doozy for sure, and it’s not over yet!

Having said that, I do believe we can see the light at the end of the tunnel. Vaccines are finally becoming more available, restrictions & mandates are being slowly lifted, and it

seems that life is beginning to settle just a little. While this is something we hopefully will never experience again, there is something to be said about the fact that we DID live through it.



Success Story

The George Wallace Senior Center is so blessed to have so many volunteers to help us during good times and rough times. The pandemic that began a year ago has our volunteers busy helping to pack up the food on the van so our drivers can deliver food to our homebound clients and then helped serve our curbside

clients as they arrive to pick up their lunches. We have volunteer drivers, packers and runners every day to deliver. When we are fully open our volunteers are leading exercise classes, leading singing on Gospel singing Friday, playing the piano, leading low cardio exercise, leading line dancing and so

many more activities. So our hats are off to them and all the services they help us to provide to the seniors here. We THANK YOU FROM THE BOTTOM OF OUR HEART for all you do. We would not have the successful Senior Center we do without you. God Bless.
~ Pat Hill, Senior Center Manager

*"The first blooms of spring
always make my heart
sing."*

~ S. Brown

STATISTICS

New volunteers – 8
Total volunteers – 253
Total stations – 66
Volunteer Hours –2600.5
Value of Hours – \$56,794.02

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

Volunteer Opportunities

- **United Way** – The United Way office needs a volunteer receptionist (or two) Monday – Friday from 1:00-4:30. Call 256-547-2581 for details.
- **Etowah Baptist Missions Center** – the Missions Center needs volunteers in several capacities: clerical, interviewing, sorting clothes or food. Call 256-546-2980 for information.
- **MANNA** – volunteers are always needed to deliver meals to elderly and/or homebound people in Etowah County. Call 256-543-5876 to get started!
- **For these & other volunteer opportunities, call RSVP @ 256-549-8147!**

Volunteer Recognition

This quarter we are recognizing a volunteer who works with our Tax Assistance Program – Ms. Deborah Lankford. Ms. Lankford has been volunteering with our tax program since 2005 and is one of our most

valuable assets! Deborah also volunteers with on our Advisory Council, but the tax program is her true talent. If you have a tax question she is the person to ask – she can explain anything so that you can understand it!

The winner of our on-time time sheet drawing is Mr. Tom Bentley! Mr. (& Mrs.) Bentley have volunteered at the Etowah Pregnancy Testing Center and with Open Hands Ministry of Meadow Brook Baptist Church since 2007.

Upcoming Events

April 2 – Good Friday

April 3 - Physicians Who Care Annual 5k. Registration begins at 8 AM at 1 Commerce Square.

April 4 – Easter

April 15 – Last day to file tax returns! Call us @ 256-549-8147 to find out where preparers will be to help you!

April 21 – Council on Aging Health Fair at George Wallace Senior Center

April 24 – Etowah County Pig Squeal Show and Auction, 11-1 at the Sand Rock Livestock Pavilion.

May 9 – Mother’s Day

May 31 – Memorial Day

June 14 – Flag Day

June 20 – Father’s Day & 1st day of Summer!

HEAD START is accepting applications for 3-4 year olds. Children with special needs, homeless, & in foster families are given priority.

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY is accepting applications through April 15th for partner families who need a home. Visit

www.gadsdenhabitat.com or call 256-543-1898 for applications.

AL COOPERATIVE

EXTENSTION is offering Best Buy of the Month the 1st Monday each month and Tack Charge Tuesdays each month on Zoom. Visit www.aces.edu/go/takecharge Tuesdays or www.aces.edu/go/bestbuys to register

AARP is offering a ton of events online that anyone can take advantage of! If you’re interested, visit: <https://states.aarp.org/alabama/events-al>



Word Scramble

Forest Mix-Up Word Scramble
 The wind blew through the forest and scrambled the trees in all directions.
 Can you figure out the tree names by unscrambling the letters?

TTCNHUSE	_____	BBAABO	_____
RPJEINU	_____	HBCRI	_____
PLOPAR	_____	KEYUBCE	_____
BCEHE	_____	OIMMAS	_____
SAENP	_____	YROSMACE	_____
LIANAGOM	_____	LKOEMCH	_____
WDRDOEO	_____	TLUNWA	_____
YERPCSS	_____	ONGIGK	_____
PMLA	_____	ECUSRP	_____
OKA	_____	DAECR	_____
LLIWWO	_____	EALPM	_____
LIEVO	_____	CLIAL	_____

RSVP Volunteer Stations

"If you want to touch the past, touch a rock. If you want to touch the present, touch a flower. If you want to touch the future, touch a life." – Author Unknown

AARP – COOSA VALLEY CHAPTER #3337	ELLIOTT NUTRITION CENTER	HOKES BLUFF ELEMENTARY
ALABAMA COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE	EBMC ETOWAH BAPTIST MISSION CENTER	JOHN JONES ELEMENTARY MANNA
AMERICAN RED CROSS	ETOWAH COUNTY COURTHOUSE	MCGUFFEY HEALTH CARE MITCHELL ELEMENTARY
ATTALLA ELEMENTARY	ETOWAH COUNTY DEPT. OF HUMAN RESOURCES	MOUNTAIN COVE ASSISTED LIVING
BIG BROTHERS/BIG SISTERS	ETOWAH PREGNANCY TESTING CENTER	NORTHSIDE HEALTH CARE OSCAR ADAMS ELEMENTARY
BOYS & GIRLS CLUB	ETOWAH HISTORICAL SOCIETY	PADEN RIDGE ASSISTED LIVING
CARVER NUTRITION CENTER	EXTENDED FAMILY FAMILY SUCCESS CENTER	PHYSICIANS WHO CARE PILOT CLUB
CATHOLIC CENTER OF CONCERN	FIRST CALL FOR HELP & REHAB.	RIVERVIEW REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER
CENTRAL-CARVER FOUNDATION, INC.	FLOYD CHEROKEE MEDICAL CENTER	RSVP ADVISORY BOARD RSVP COMMUNITY SERVICE VOLUNTEERS
CHEROKEE COUNTY HEALTH & REHAB.	G.W. FLOYD ELEMENTARY GADSDEN HEALTH CARE	RX HELP SALVATION ARMY
CHEROKEE COUNTY HISTORICAL MUSEUM	GADSDEN PUBLIC LIBRARY GADSDEN QUILTERS GUILD	SOUTHSIDE ELEMENTARY TAX COUNSELING PROGRAM
CHEROKEE VILLAGE	GEORGE WALLACE NUTRITION CENTER	TELE-CHEK THE LOVE CENTER
CIRCUIT CLERK'S OFFICE OF ETOWAH COUNTY	H D BUTTRAM NUTRITION CENTER	UNITED WAY OF ETOWAH COUNTY
CITY OF GADSDEN	HABITAT FOR HUMANITY HEAD START	WEST END ELEMENTARY
COMMUNITY ACTION AGENCY		
COOSA VALLEY HEALTH CARE		
COUNCIL ON AGING		
DONEHOO ELEMENTARY		
EL SENOR CLUB		

VOLUNTEER BIRTHDAYS

Jeanette Reed 04/01	Craig Scott 05/01	Carol McPherson 06/02
Willis Estis 04/03	Daniel Levinson 05/03	Ann St. John 06/02
Judith Moon 04/04	Carolyn Sterling 05/03	Becky St. John 06/02
Carolyn Elkins 04/05	Robin Weston 05/03	Bill Steinka 06/02
Bonnie Link 04/13	Judy Edwards 05/04	Deborah Henderson 6/3
Loyd Watkins 04/13	Jean Foster 05/04	Sarah Spear 06/07
Carolyn Hammond 4/16	Shirley Pollard 05/05	Christine Woods 06/08
Georgia Henley 04/16	Eloise Ramer 05/06	Donna Freeman 06/09
Jean Pettis 04/17	Danny Wagnon 05/06	Claude Burnett 06/11
Ginger Goebbel 04/18	Rebecca Hart 05/08	Betty Roberts 06/12
Thelma Thornton 4/18	Cathy Bottoms 05/09	Betty Watkins 06/14
Gloria Hope 04/20	Jerry Howell 05/09	Delores Cerecke 06/18
Margaret Long 04/20	Mike Henderson 05/10	Rose Gray 06/21
Alice Hurst 04/24	June Maddox 05/11	Suzanne Scharfenberg 06/21
Jerry Wayne Lee 04/24	Sherrie Barclay 05/13	Ann Boatwright 06/22
Rose Hawkins 04/26	Jerry Skinner 05/14	John Leach 06/22
Nella Fay King 04/26	Donald Portwood 5/16	John Parks 06/24
Gerrie Jordan 04/27	Lisa Duke 05/20	Dorman Robinson 6/24
Mary Sue Grissom 4/28	Vicki Spelce 05/20	Becky Henson 06/29
Ping Pondick 04/28	Jan Kelley 05/21	Marilyn Wafler 06/30
	Joyce Wheeler 05/24	
	Pat Henry 05/28	



"In childhood, we yearn to be grown-ups. In old age, we yearn to be kids. It just seems that all would be wonderful if we didn't have to celebrate our birthdays in chronological order.

~Robert Brault

RSVP

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Room 219
Gadsden, AL 35901

Phone

256-549-8147

Fax

256-549-5351

E-mail

tpondick@etowahcounty.org

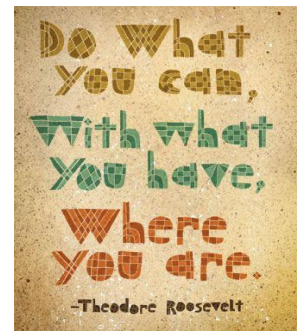
GETTING THINGS DONE.

RSVP Staff

Director – Traci Pondick

Van Driver/Volunteer
Coordinator – Faye
Russell

Administrative Asst. –
Darlene Jones



RSVP Advisory Council

<i>Chair</i> – Kenneth Hudson	Theresa Frye	Craig Scott
<i>Vice Chair</i> – Portia Foster	Carol Hudson	Cynthia Toles
<i>Treasurer</i> – Deborah Henderson	Judith Moon	Sarah Trammell
<i>Secretary</i> – Deborah Lankford	Jeff Little	Towanna Wilson

We're on the Web!

See us at:
www.etowahcounty.org

Friend us on Facebook!



[@etowahrsvp](https://www.facebook.com/etowahrsvp)

Follow us on Instagram!



[volunteers_of_etowah](https://www.instagram.com/volunteers_of_etowah)

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

**ADVANCE AUTO PARTS
ADVANCED CARDIO VASCULAR
AL TEACHERS CREDIT UNION
AMEDISYS HOME HEALTH
ATI PHYSICAL THERAPY
BARONE'S PIZZA
B&C TIRE CO.
CADENCE BANK
CITY OF ATTALLA
CITY OF GADSDEN
CITY OF GLENCOE
CITY OF HOKES BLUFF
CITY OF RAINBOW CITY
CITY OF WALNUT GROVE
CLINICAL UROLOGY ASSOC.
COLD CREEK HONEY
DISCOUNT PEST CONTROL
EXCHANGE BANK
FAMILY SAVINGS CREDIT UNION
FOOTE BROTHERS CARPET
GADSDEN DENTAL
GADSDEN FOOT CLINIC
GADSDEN LIGHTING SHOWROOM
JEFFERSON'S
JOHNSONS FOODS
KINGS OLIVE OIL
LEGACY DENTAL
LIFE INSURANCE OF ALABAMA
MARAELLA WINERY**

**NORTHEAST AL AUDIOLOGY
O'REILLY'S AUTO PARTS
PACK'S NURSERY
PEOPLES BANK
PEPPERMINT PONY
PHYSICIANS HOME HEALTH
PROFESSIONAL OPTICIANS
PUBLIX
RED LOBSTER
REGIONS BANK
ROCOCO FLORAL
SOUTHERN CARE HOSPICE
SPORTS MANIA
SUPER BEE PHARMACY
SUTTON BRIDGE FULL SERVICE
T. J. MAXX
TAMING OF THE EWE
THE CHOICE RESTAURANT
THE COFFEE BAR
THE MEADOWS ASSISTED LIVING
THE MYERS INSTITUTE
WAL-MART OF ATTALLA
WILLS CREEK VINYARD**