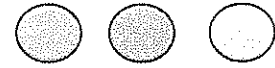


# Make A Difference



RSVP of Etowah & Cherokee County

July-September, 2024 Volume 24 Issue 3



## AmeriCorps Seniors

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### Statistics:

New Volunteers: 9  
Total Volunteers: 179  
Total Stations: 40  
Volunteer Hours: 3,111  
Value of Hours: \$88,787.94

(According to federal guidelines, the value of a volunteer's time \$28.54)

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 Etowah County Commission and federally by the Corporation for National & Community Service (CNCS)

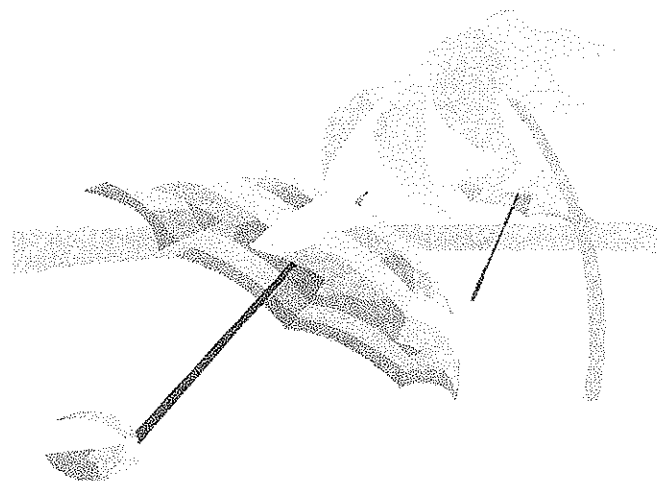
## Director's Corner

It's summer! Do you have plans for a beach trip or a lake trip or a theme park trip? Do you have plans to stay inside an air conditioned space and read 100 books? Do you have plans to keep all of your grandchildren and great-grandchildren and let your imaginations run wild?

Whatever your plans, we hope you all have the best summer ever. These memories will last forever. Just remember to take care of yourselves in the process—use sunscreen and wear sunglasses, rest a little bit and drink plenty of water! We know you're used to taking care of everyone else.

RSVP is renewing efforts to recruit more volunteers, there are so many places that need help—it's hard for us to keep up! Tell your friends & neighbors; let us know if we can come talk to a group you're in.

AND—we will have some RSVP t-shirts soon, let us know if you want one!



## In the News

Our tax volunteers have outdone themselves once again. We had a wonderful crew this year—38 volunteers! These people interviewed clients, prepared and filed 2,428 federal tax returns in 11 different locations all over Etowah County, in Cherokee County and Dekalb County. Counting all of the dependents on these returns, 3,298 people were helped this year and they received federal refunds of \$2,389,974!

There are 3 main focuses of this program: low-income, elderly, and rural citizens. BUT, we will help anyone who comes in regardless of age or income. The only thing that prevents us from preparing a tax return is if it is a complicated return (if that person owns a business, has rental income or a farm are some examples) that would require a paid professional.

## Volunteer Opportunities

- \* **George Wallace & H.D. Buttram Senior Center**  
In need of volunteers to help in the kitchen, one or two days a week.
- \* **Etowah County Baptist Mission Center**  
In need of volunteers to help in these areas: office receptionist, food bank, sorting donations, and in the clothing closet .
- \* **Manna**  
In need of volunteers to delivery meals to home bound individuals.
- \* **Humane Society of Gadsden**  
In need of volunteers in numerous areas around the center from walking dogs, and cleaning kennels, to spending time with the animals.

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

## Volunteer Recognition

### On-time Timesheet Winner

The winners of our on-time timesheet drawing are Claude and Vivian Burnett. They volunteer at the Central-Carver Museum. Claude joined RSVP in 2013, and Vivian joined in 2015. Between the two of them, they have a total of 2,289 lifetime hours. Congratulations, and thank you for everything you do!

### Volunteer Highlight

This quarter, we would like to recognize Janice Brown. Ms. Brown has been volunteering with RSVP since 2020 and is part of the Gadsden Quilters Guild. During the COVID pandemic, she made and donated 900 masks for individuals. "Give this lady some fabric or even a few scraps, and amazingly, a baby or laptop quilt will appear at our meeting in a week or two. Janice loves to quilt. She is very creative and has made many quilts for donations to various organizations. She is a joy to be with and always willing to be helpful to any member needing a helping hand with a project." (Submitted by Kathy Blattel, President of the Gadsden Quilters Guild).

*Gadsden Quilter's Guild meets on the second and fourth Thursday of each month from 10am-2pm. Thru the years, members have made and donated hundreds of baby and lap quilts to various facilities.*

*Thank  
You*

# Upcoming Events

July 4<sup>th</sup> - Independence Day  
 (RSVP office will be closed the 4th & 5th)

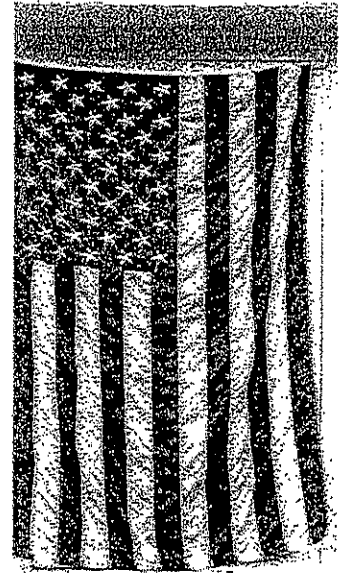
July 17<sup>th</sup> - Wills for Seniors 10am - 3pm  
 Cherokee Village Assisted Living Facility.  
 If interested call our office @ 256.549.8147,  
 to reserve your space.

July 24<sup>th</sup> - Volunteer Recognition Luncheon

September 2<sup>nd</sup> - Labor Day  
 (RSVP office will be closed)

September 11<sup>th</sup> - Patriot Day

September 22<sup>nd</sup> - First day of Autumn



## Sudoku -

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

## RSVP

AARP – COOSA VALLEY  
CHAPTER #3337

BIG BROTHERS/BIG SISTERS

CENTRAL-CARVER  
FOUNDATION, INC.

CHEROKEE COUNTY  
HEALTH & REHAB.

CHEROKEE VILLIAGE  
ASSISTED LIVING

CITY OF GADSDEN

COUNCIL ON AGING

ETOWAH BAPTIST  
MISSION CENTER

ETOWAH COUNTY  
COURTHOUSE INFORMATION  
DESK

ETOWAH COUNTY  
EXTENSION OFFICE

## VOLUNTEER

ETOWAH COUNTY  
PREGNANCY TESTING  
CENTER

ETOWAH FREE COMMUNITY  
CLINIC

ETOWAH HISTORICAL  
SOCIETY

EXTENDED FAMILY

FREEDOM CENTER OF  
GADSDEN

GADSDEN PUBLIC LIBRARY

GADSDEN QUILTERS GUILD

GADSDEN REGIONAL  
MEDICAL CENTER

GREATER GADSDEN AREA  
TOURISM

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

## STATIONS

HEAD START

HUMANE SOCIETY OF  
GADSDEN

MANNA

READING BUDDIES

RIVERVIEW REGIONAL  
MEDICAL CENTER

RSVP ADVISORY BOARD

RSVP COMMUNITY SERVICE  
VOLUNTEERS

SALVATION ARMY

SENIOR NUTRITION CENTERS

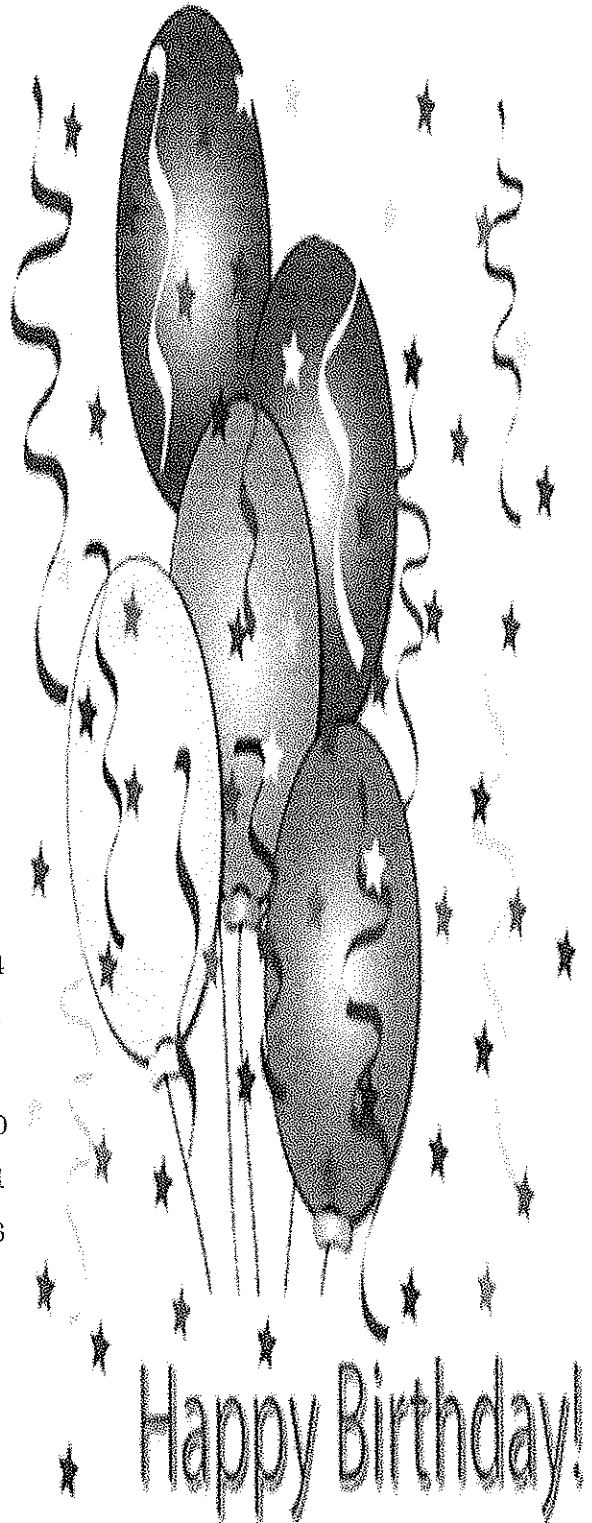
TAX COUNSELING PROGRAM

UNITED WAY OF ETOWAH  
COUNTY



# Volunteer Birthdays

Janice Brown	07/01	Sandy Grant	08/22
Kathy Kendrick	07/01	Spence Adcock	08/24
Hope Craft	07/03	Roselene Jenkins	08/24
Pat Griffith	07/03	Donna Morgan	08/24
Lisa Pointer	07/04	Dot Phipps	08/25
Pearl Spanks	07/06	Jennie Garner	08/30
Nettie Hooks	07/06	Patricia Harper	09/01
Mary Campbell	07/07	Jill Vincent	09/02
Betsy Portwood	07/07	Carolyn Nichols	09/04
Dianne Knowles	07/14	Valerie Reynolds	09/04
Johnny Farmer	07/16	Wayne Rhodes	09/06
Theresa Frye	07/16	Louise Blackwell	09/08
Maryum Lane	07/18	Felecia Heard	09/09
Deborah Lanford	07/18	Ruth Mims	09/09
Jane Bishop	07/24	Cathy Struntz	09/10
Vicki Cash	07/30	Vivian Burnett	09/11
Doris Carpenter	07/31	Patsy Lee	09/12
Iva Patty	08/02	Betty Sue Nelson	09/13
Mike Slezak	08/02	Debbie Brown	09/14
Vicky Griffin	08/06	Durwood Johns	09/15
Annie Dixon	08/09	Arthur Fitterer	09/17
Shirley Dupont	08/10	Roger Compton	09/20
Johnnie Harris	08/15	Angelis Faye Russell	09/21
Joanna Ross	08/19	Tony Brothers	09/26
Jennifer Long	08/21		



**RSVP**

800 Forrest Avenue  
Room 221  
Gadsden Al 35901

**PHONE NUMBER**

256.549.8147

**EMAIL:**

tpondick@etowahcounty.org

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

**SEE US AT:**

www.etowahcounty.org/rsvp

*RSVP Staff*

**Director** – Traci Pondick

**Administrative Assistant** – Rachel Wood

*RSVP ADVISORY COUNCIL*

**President:**

Kenneth Hudson

**Treasurer :**

Jill Vincent

Amelia Millie Cartrett

Theresa Frye

Jenifer Grace

Ellie Higgins

Pat Hill

Carol Hudson

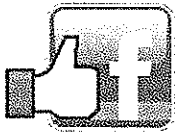
Jeff Little

Craig Scott

Delma Smith

Cynthia Toles

**FRIEND US ON FACEBOOK**



@etowahrsvp

**FOLLOW US ON TWITTER!**

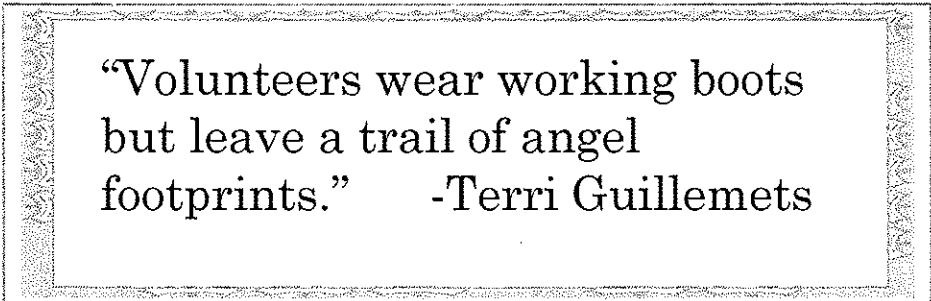


twitter.com/etowahrsvp

**ADD US ON INSTAGRAM!**



http://www.instagram.com/  
volunteers\_of\_etowah/



Please Shop at these Local Businesses 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

OBSERVER OFFICE SUPPLIES

O'REILLY AUTO PARTS

PUBLIX

REB LOBSTER

RIVERBEND DENTISTRY

SAM BOSWELL HONDA

SILVER LAKE ASST. LIVING

SMITH AND BAILEY DENTAL

SOUTHERN SKIES DERMATOLOGY

SPORT MANIA

SUPER BEEDISCOUNT RX

SUTTON BRIDGE FULL SERVICE

THE COFFEE BAR

THE HEALING TREE

THE WRITTEN WORD

TIGERS FOR TOMORROW

VIVA HEALTH

WILLOW TREE