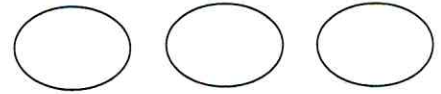


# Make A Difference



RSVP of Etowah & Cherokee County

October-December, 2024 Volume 24 Issue 4



## AmeriCorps Seniors

### *In the News:*

Shred Day  
Senior Angel Tree

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**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.**

## Director's Corner

The weather is changing, days are shorter, leaves are falling. Summer will always be my favorite season, but by this time of year I am ready for cooler weather (and football!).

Autumn is a time to slow down, take stock of what is going on in the world, in our neighborhood and in ourselves—and reassess how we handle everything. RSVP is evaluating our Reading Buddy program to see where we stand with schools and volunteers; we're getting ready for the upcoming tax season; plus we are helping our partner agencies with their current needs.

What are your plans for the next few months? Remember to take some time to relax and think about everything you have achieved so far, and what you will do next!

### **Statistics:**

New Volunteers: 7

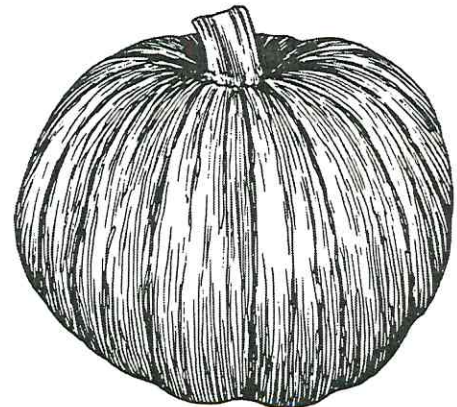
Total Volunteers: 177

Number of Station: 31

Volunteer producing hours: 2588

Value of Hours: \$73,861

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



## In the News

Our Shred/Drug Take Back Day this year will be Saturday, October 26th from 10:00 am - 2:00 pm in the parking lot of the Etowah County Courthouse. A Shred It truck will be available to shred all of your papers you need to get rid of and the Etowah Sheriff's Drug Enforcement Unit will be here to collect old or unused meds to safely dispose of them.

Beginning late November we will have our Senior Angel Tree available for everyone to adopt a senior citizen for Christmas. Information for these seniors come from MANNA and DHR because we know these are some seniors who most need a little help for the holidays!

## Volunteer Opportunities

### Etowah Baptist Mission Center & Freedom Center

Looking for help in the following areas: office receptionist, food bank, sorting donations, and helping in the clothes closet.

### Extended Family

Looking for volunteers to help Extended Family for Kids mentoring sessions in local schools.

### George Wallace & H.D. Buttram Senior Center

In need of volunteers to help in the kitchen, one or two days a week. Also looking for help on van to deliver meals to homebound individuals.

### Manna

Looking for volunteers to help deliver meals to homebound individuals. (office and pick up food location is located at Riverview Medical Center).

### Reading Buddies

In need of volunteers to help elementary age students become better readers and comprehend what they read

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

## Volunteer Recognition

### On-time Timesheet Winner

The winner of our on-time timesheet drawing is Louise Blackwell. Ms. Blackwell has been volunteering with RSVP for 18 years and has 1,348 life time service hours. Congratulations and thank you for everything you do!

### Volunteer Highlight

This quarter we would like to recognize Lisa Pointer. Ms. Pointer has been volunteering with RSVP since 2022, with 618 lifetime hours. Christy Mayo at Riverview Medical Center, had this to say about her. "Lisa does an excellent job with our patients at Riverview Regional Medical Center. Making sure they are receiving excellent care, getting them special things they might need or helping out wherever needed in the hospital. One day while visiting patients, she ran into a patient that she had known for many years. The patient was ready to be discharged to a rehabilitation center but didn't have a ride. Her family were unable to come take her, and she didn't qualify for ambulance transport. Lisa volunteered to take her to the rehab center in her vehicle, saving the patient an extra night in the hospital. She has a servant's heart and truly makes an impact on the patients she visits at the hospital".



# Upcoming Events

**October 2nd-** Council on Aging/ Physicians Who Care Heathy Harvest Fall Health and Resource Fair.  
Downtown Civic Center from 9:00 am - 11:00 am.

**October 15th-December 7th**  
Medicare open enrollment. Call Council on Aging at 256.543.3616 to make sure you have the best plan available!

**October 26th-** Shred/Drug Take Back Day  
Etowah County Courthouse 10 am till 2 pm.

**November 3rd-** Daylight Saving ends

**November 11th—**Veteran’s Day  
Thank you to all who served!  
(RSVP office will be closed)

**November 28th-** Thanksgiving  
(RSVP office will be closed the 28th and 29th)

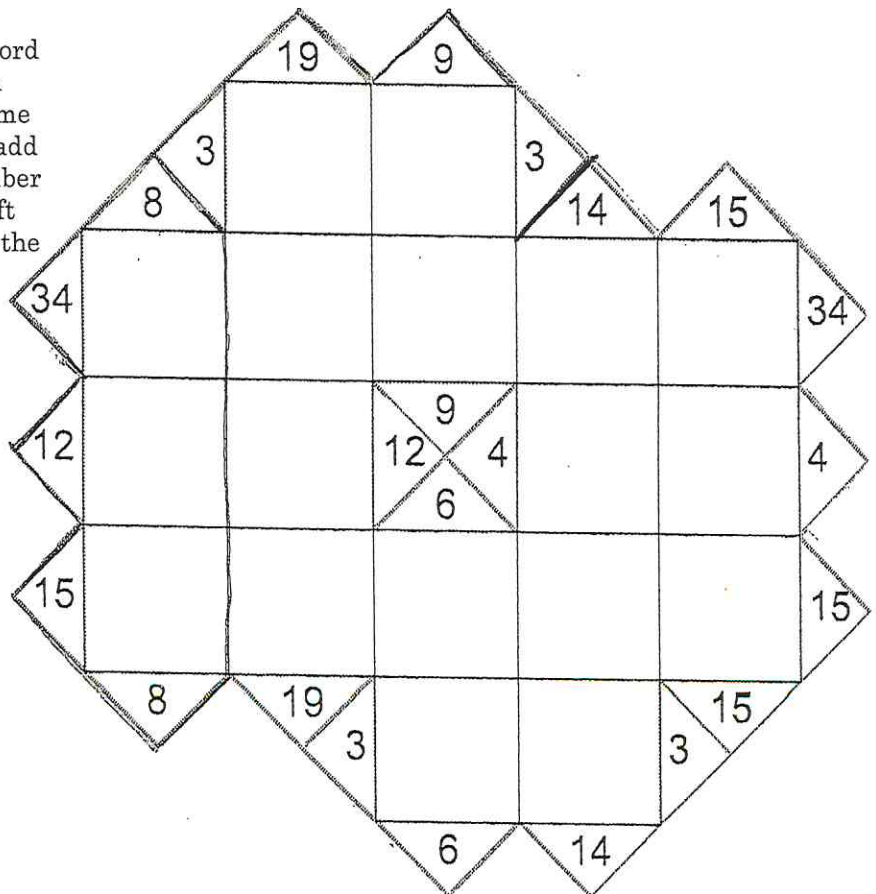
**December 25th-** Christmas  
(RSVP office will be closed from 24th-25th)

**December 31st -** New Year’s Eve



# Kakuro

Kakuro puzzles are a cross between a crossword and a Sudoku Puzzle. Instead of letters, each block contains the digits 1 through 9. The same digit will never repeat within a word. If you add the digits in a word, the sum will be the number shown in the clue. Clues are shown on the left and right sides of the “across” words, and on the top and bottom sides of “down” words.



# RSVP VOLUNTEER STATIONS

AARP – COOSA VALLEY  
CHAPTER #3337

ALABAMA COOPERATIVE  
EXTENSION SERVICE

BIG BROTHERS/BIG SISTERS  
of NEAL

CENTRAL-CARVER  
FOUNDATION, INC.

CHEROKEE COUNTY  
HEALTH & REHAB.

CHEROKEE COUNTY  
HISTORICAL MUSEUM

CHEROKEE VILLAGE  
ASSISTED LIVING

CITY OF GADSDEN

COUNCIL ON AGING

COMPASSUS HOSPICE

ETOWAH BAPTIST MISSION  
CENTER

ETOWAH COUNTY  
COURTHOUSE INFORMATION  
DESK

ETOWAH COUNTY  
PREGNANCY TESTING  
CENTER

ETOWAH FREE COMMUNITY  
CLINIC

EXTENDED FAMILY

FAMILY SUCCESS CENTER

FREEDOM CENTER OF  
GADSDEN

GADSDEN PUBLIC LIBRARY

GADSDEN REGIONAL  
MEDICAL CENTER

GADSDEN QUILTEERS GUILD

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

HEAD START

HUMANE SOCIETY OF  
GADSDEN

MANNA

READING BUDDIES

RIVERVIEW REGIONAL  
MEDICAL CENTER

RSVP ADVISORY BOARD

RSVP COMMUNITY SERVICE  
VOLUNTEERS

SENIOR NUTRITION  
CENTERS

TAX COUNSELING PROGRAM

UNITED WAY OF ETOWAH  
COUNTY



**VOLUNTEER BIRTHDAYS**

JENTZEN, CAROLYN	10/02	GALLMAN, JEANETTE	11/26
MATHIS, ELIZABETH	10/03	LEONARD, JIMMIE	11/29
HARRIS, LUCILE	10/04	WENINEGAR, ANN	11/29
HOWELL, LIZ	10/08	HILLEKE, REBECCA	11/30
WOLFORD, SUSAN	10/10	KELLEN, KAY	12/01
GREEN, GRACIE	10/13	MYERS, SUE	12/01
TOLES, CYNTHIA	10/13	SANDERS, JULIE	12/04
PARRISH, DORIS	10/20	BLATTEL, KATHY	12/05
CHILDS, BONNIE B.	10/22	TURK, ELOISE	12/07
HART, IVETTE	10/25	LEMONS, DONNA	12/16
PHILLIPS, DANNY	10/26	TENERANI, NINA	12/17
BAUER, LORRAINE	10/28	LATRONICO, MAUREEN	12/18
ST. JOHN, RAY	11/04	SMITH, JERRIE	12/20
MCGINNIS, SHERRE	11/11	WESTCOTT, EVELYN	12/21
RUTHLEDGE, CATHY	11/13	MEANS, KENNETH	12/22
RUNNER, JIM	11/15	SCHARFENBURG, STEPHAN	12/26
DUNN, BOBBIE	11/18	ELLISON, LINDA	12/28
MYRICH, ROBERT	11/20	HILL, PATRICIA	12/28
SPELCE, TREASIA	11/24	LASSETER, JESSICA	12/29
CARTRETT, MILLIE	11/26	JACKSON, LISA	12/31

**Happy Birthday**



**RSVP:**

800 Forrest Avenue  
Room 221  
Gadsden Al 35901

**PHONE NUMBER:**

256.549.8147

**Email:**

tpondick@etowahcounty.org

**RSVP Staff**

**Director –** Traci Pondick

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

**RSVP ADVISORY COUNCIL**

<b>President:</b>	<i>Amelia Millie Cartrett</i>	<i>Jeff Little</i>
	<i>Theresa Frye</i>	<i>Craig Scott</i>
	<i>Jenifer Grace</i>	<i>Delma Smith</i>
<b>Treasurer:</b>	<i>Ellie Higgins</i>	<i>Cynthia Toles</i>
	<i>Pat Hill</i>	<i>Carol Hudson</i>
	<i>Jill Vincent</i>	

“Volunteerism is the voice of the people put into action. These actions shape and mold the present into a future of which we can all be proud.” -Helen Dyer

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

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



**FRIEND US ON FACEBOOK**



**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/)

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

- |                             |                               |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Absolute Respiratory        | Life Insurance Co. of Alabama |
| Advance Auto Parts          | Mapco                         |
| Auto Zone                   | O'Reilly's Auto Parts         |
| Aveanna Home Health         | Physicians Apothecary         |
| Aveanna Hospice             | Publix                        |
| Barones Pizza Buffet        | Riverbend Family Dentistry    |
| Capeside Fish Company       | Salads 2 Go                   |
| City of Gadsden             | Silver Lakes Assisted Living  |
| Cothrans Bakery             | Ski World                     |
| Dusty Things Antiques       | Smith & Bailey Dental         |
| Exchange Bank               | Sutton Bridge Full Service    |
| Family Savings Credit Union | The Dog House Perfect Pucker  |
| Fresh Value                 | Top O The River               |
| Home Instead                | Viva Health                   |
| Jacks Hamburgers            | Winn Dixie                    |
| Jefferson's                 | Win South Credit Union        |
| Keith's Auto Trim           |                               |