



RSVP News

RSVP – Responding to a Call to Serve

Winter 2009

FROM THE RSVP PROJECT DIRECTOR

Dear RSVP Volunteer:

This winter has brought many water main breaks throughout the county, some far more serious than others. Back in June we experienced a very large water main break which could have adversely affected the quality of the drinking water in a variety of different locations throughout the County. Several County buildings and restaurants were closed as a result, and there was some confusion over exactly who was affected and where there were boil water alerts. In an effort to stem the confusion, the Montgomery County Health Department opened a telephone hotline at the Dennis Avenue Health Clinic to address questions from residents and provide the most current and accurate information relating to this emergency. Volunteers were needed to staff this hotline, so the call went out to our Emergency Action Team and SWAT Team. I am proud to say that the response was great. With RSVP and CERT (Citizen Emergency Response Team) volunteers, the hotline was staffed for 3 days! Once again, RSVP volunteers stepped up to fill the need and I would like to thank you all.

Kathleen and I attended the annual Points of Light and Corporation for National Service Conference held in Atlanta. This is always a great opportunity to meet with fellow RSVP Directors and Coordinators, share our successes, and learn from each other. There was much emphasis on using volunteers in times of disaster and taking advantage of retiring boomers. Montgomery County RSVP has long been on the cutting edge of these issues with our EAT and SWAT Teams and our Pro Bono Consulting Program. I believe that is because of the experience, compassion, and willing attitude of the seniors in Montgomery County. We are so proud to work with such a wonderful group of volunteers.

Sincerely,

Ann B. Evans

PRESIDENT'S VOLUNTEER SERVICE AWARD



Established in 2003, the President's Volunteer Service Award program is a prestigious national honor offered in recognition of sustained volunteer service. The program recognizes individuals who have achieved a

certain standard measured by the number of hours served over a 12-month period or cumulative hours earned over the course of a lifetime.

Criteria for Awards (based on hours on record for 2007)

<i>Gold</i>	<i>Lifetime</i>
500+	4,000+ hours

President's Call to Service Lifetime Award is for 4,000 or more hours in a lifetime (well, "lifetime" as defined by our current database dating back to 10/1/1998). We are so proud of the five RSVP members who earned this lifetime award. Congratulations and heartfelt thanks to:

Allen Farrar	4,000 hours
Feng-Xian Hu	5,012
Nancy Little	4,275
Alfred Rhode	4,000
Lian-Chen Yin	4,000

Chuck Short, Special Assistant to County Executive Isiah Leggett, presented their *President's Call to Service* awards at the RSVP Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon on December 9, 2009. We regret Allen Farrar and Nancy Little were unable to join us; they received their awards at a later date.

These dedicated volunteers join our past lifetime award winners: *Quinta Augustine, Dorothy Bakhshi, Julia Baez, Adela Balderamma, Vera Buice, Marilyn Burdett, Mary Rose Casey, Kuang Feng Chang, Ling Cheung, Miriam Daen, Doris Denoyer, Virginia Edinger, Lee Etzel, Frank Gardner, C. Joanie Gault, Rose Glaser, Emily Gooding, Feng-Xian Hu, Fay Lehrer, M.K. Lee, Ned Li, John Lopes, Frances Loveless, Dorothy Nelson, Virginia Sacco, Esther Schiff, Helen Schmidt, Roseann Vasco Schneider, Florence Severe, Juana Ventura, and Casimira Wolman.*

MORE AWARD WINNERS ...

We are also proud of our 57 Gold award winners who had 500 or more volunteer hours on record for 2007. We mailed the awards to those who weren't present at the luncheon to receive them. Congratulations to:

Jean Alexander, Dorothy Bakhshi, Mary Rose Casey, Yean-Hsi Chang, Yun-Hsien Chang, Al Ling Chen, Dajun Chen, Bill Cheng, Ling Cheung, Rosemary Chisarick, Miriam Daen, Mildred Day, Doris Denoyer, Virginia Edinger, Lee Etzel, Stanley Favin, Rose Lewis Glaser, Teresa Harn, Vivien Hsueh, Jing Huang, Pearl Isenberg, Esther Karlin, Lauri Kasiaras, Yvonne Koo, M.K. Lee, Chuan Zu Li, Lin Li, Ned Li, Zhongen Liu, Ruth Longchamps, John Lopes, Frances Loveless, Homa Mahvi, Ann Miller, Anne Mitchell, Anna Narasimham, Dorothy Nelson, Ansuya Passi, Siegbert Poritzky, Ann Rebois, Marion Richardson, Nancy Grace Roman, Virginia Sacco, Helen Schmidt, Roseann Vasco Schneider, Shirley Soliman, Judy Stilwell, Bi Juan Tan, Tsou-liang Tang, Bernard Tolin, Celia Turner, Charles Wang, Ying Wang, Barbara Winston, Casimira Wolman, Pauline Chen Yang, and Zheng-Yi Zhang.

We had almost 300 volunteers at the Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon held at New Fortune Restaurant. A highlight (in addition to the wonderful food and delightful entertainment by the CASSA chorus!) was the presentation of a "super-sized" check (like Publisher's Clearing House!) representing the dollar value of 123,365 RSVP volunteer hours in 2007. This "check" for \$2,406,865.70 was presented by Ginny Gilbert, an RSVP member who brought the Bone Builders program to this area. Chuck Short gratefully accepted the check on behalf of the County. It's now proudly on display in the County Executive's office. Thanks to the 577 RSVP volunteers who made this happen.

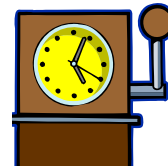


Chuck Short, Special Assistant to the County Executive, accepts the super-sized check from RSVP volunteer Ginny Gilbert on behalf of RSVP of Montgomery County.

Photo by Laura Aceituno

Time to Talk about Hours

Awards are based on hours reported and recorded in our RSVP database.



Who reports the hours to us?

1. RSVP "stations" (groups)
2. Individual Volunteers

Heartfelt thanks to the following stations who currently (and faithfully!) report hours for their RSVP volunteers:

Abused Persons Program, American Red Cross, Bedford Court, Brooke Grove Retirement Village, Brookside Gardens, Consumer Protection, Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA), Chinese American Senior Services Association (CASSA), Chinese Culture & Community Center (CCACC), Emergency Action Team (EAT), Hebrew Home, Helping Hands at Rockville Senior Center, Holiday Park Workshop, Holy Cross Hospital, Interages, Jewish Community Center (JCC), Jewish Council for the Aging, Literacy Council, Long Term Care Ombudsman, Meals on Wheels –Takoma Park, Meals on Wheels – Wheaton, Metropolitan Washington Ear, OASIS, Pro Bono Consulting Program, Revitz House, Ring House, Sandy Spring Museum, Schweinhaut Yarners, Senior Connection, Shady Grove Adventist Hospital, States Attorney, Stop the Violence, Tax-Aide Program, University Towers Workshop, Washington Adventist Hospital, Widowed Persons Service, and Youth for Understanding USA.

Schools that currently report their RSVP volunteer hours are: Col. E. Brooke Lee MS, Rolling Terrace ES and Strathmore ES.

If you volunteer with any of the organizations above, they report your hours for you (as long as you are recording your hours with them, of course).

If you volunteer for an RSVP station not listed above, you are probably (I hope!) reporting your hours directly to us by phone (**RSVP call-in line is 240-777-2616**), fax, U.S. mail, or email. Then there are those who do at-home crafts who must self-report hours. Many of you report like clockwork every month; you have a system and it works for you ... and for us, too!

Please note we are required to submit RSVP reports biannually for the periods of January-June and July-December so hours twice a year are fine with us. Our goal is to make it as easy as possible to accurately capture your hours.

If you have any questions about reporting hours, please contact Kathleen Meaney Stobie at **240-777-2611** or kathleen.stobie@montgomerycountymd.gov

"The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others."

~Mahatma Gandhi

Senior Leadership Montgomery

Application Deadline: Friday, May 1, 2009

In search of an inspired group of men and women, ages 55 and older, to participate in the 2009-2010 class of Senior Leadership Montgomery (SLM). If you, or people you know, are looking for new opportunities to share your wisdom and talent, give back to the community, and meet like-minded people, then come to an information session to learn about the program or check out our website: www.leadershipmontgomerymd.org

As one participant said, "I applied for the program because now I am using my time to zero in on the things that mean the most to me."

INFORMATION SESSIONS

Thursday, March 26th 2:00 pm – 3:30 pm

Holiday Park Senior Center

3950 Ferrara Drive, Wheaton, MD

hosted by Helen Abrahams (SLM '09) and the '09 class

Wednesday, April 15th 6:00 pm – 7:30 pm

Greater B-CC Chamber Of Commerce

7910 Woodmont Avenue, Suite 1204, Bethesda, MD

To attend, please call **301-881-3333** or email esther.newman@leadermont.org

JOIN THE AMBASSADOR TEAM!

The Volunteer Center is looking for enthusiastic individuals to be a part of a new volunteer group, the Ambassador Team. As representatives of the Center, Ambassadors would be helping the staff to better spread their mission and resources to the community. Volunteers within this team would share different tasks, including helping prospective volunteers find service opportunities, reaching out to area nonprofits, and occasionally staffing a table at different events. Applicants with expertise in volunteer management or career counseling are welcome. This position requires a commitment of 10-20 hours of service per month.

For more information, email Laura Aceituno at laura.aceituno@montgomerycountymd.gov or call 240-777-2622.

RSVP News is published quarterly.

Our Spring issue will be out on April 1, 2009 (no fooling!). The deadline for articles will be Wednesday, March 11, 2009.

Your input and story ideas are always appreciated!

After the Spring issue, we will return to our regular publication schedule: June, September, December, and March.

*Kathleen Meaney Stobie, RSVP Coordinator
phone: 240-777-2611 fax: 240-777-2601
email: kathleen.stobie@montgomerycountymd.gov*

Help Save the Trees, Please!

Here are two great reasons to get outdoors in March. To sign up and get all the details, call **301-949-0223** or email Lynette.Scaffidi@montgomeryparks.org

Saturday, March 7, 2009 10:00 am – noon

Meadowbrook Park by Rock Creek Stream Valley

Join Montgomery County Parks Certified Weed Warriors and Montgomery County Sierra Club to manually remove invasive vines from the mature and reforestation trees along Rock Creek.

Saturday, March 14, 2009 10:00 am – noon

Underground Railroad Trail at Woodlawn Mansion

Join Montgomery County Parks Certified Weed Warriors and Montgomery County Sierra Club to remove invasive vines from along the Underground RR Trail.

Celebrate Earth Day this April!

The Montgomery County Volunteer Center supports and celebrates **Earth Day** throughout the month of April. Volunteers can make a difference



by participating in projects with parks, nonprofit agencies, community groups, local government, or in your neighborhood! Take this opportunity to serve with your local school, family, neighbors, and/or businesses to give back to the community while helping the environment at the same time.

Find an Existing Earth Day Project in April

Begin by learning what's already being planned throughout the County: Check the Volunteer Center website to view the latest listing of planned events and to look for contacts and organizers in your area. Check back regularly as this list can change daily.

Plan Your Own Project

Is your civic association, church or club coordinating a neighborhood cleanup? Go to the Earth Day page on our website to find the form to describe your project. We want to know what your group is doing, who you're serving, and how many volunteers will be participating on that day so we can recognize your efforts.

Find Out More - Earth Day Resources

The Montgomery County Volunteer Center has information on how to set up your own group/community project, along with tips on project planning.

Montgomery County Volunteer Center Website

www.MontgomeryCountyMD.gov/Volunteer

Phone: **240-777- 2600**



Montgomery County Volunteer Center
 RSVP – Responding to a Call to Serve
 401 Hungerford Drive, 1st Floor
 Rockville, Maryland 20850

► **RSVP CALL-IN HOURS LINE 240-777-2616 ... it's 24/7!** ◀

RSVP News is now on the Montgomery County website:

<http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/mcgtmpl.asp?url=/Content/Volunteer/RSVP.asp>

VOLUNTEER TO LEAD BONE FITNESS CLASSES

Build muscle strength and increase bone density by participating in a Bone *Builders* class twice a week. The free *Bone Builders* exercise class is designed to prevent falls and fractures caused by osteoporosis. The Montgomery County RSVP program partners with the Area Agency on Aging to offer these classes at several locations in the County.



No experience is needed! Volunteer Trainers become qualified by participating in existing classes and then attending a free all-day workshop. Most trainers work in pairs when they lead classes. The next training session is planned for **March 3, 2009**. We currently need leaders who are available two mornings a week in **Takoma Park, Bethesda/Chevy Chase and Potomac**. If you or someone you know is interested in becoming a volunteer trainer or wants information about taking the classes, contact Shawn Brennan at 240-777-1350 or shawn.brennan@montgomerycountymd.gov



The RSVP/AARP/IRS Tax-Aide Program is in full swing with over 100 RSVP volunteers scheduling appointments, preparing taxes and handling many other important duties essential to this program's success. Last year, volunteers logged over 9,200 hours and prepared over 4,000 returns! Thanks to all the RSVP volunteers who make this program possible.

FREE INCOME TAX PREPARATION

For Seniors and other Montgomery County Citizens with Low-to Moderate Income

Offered by Trained Volunteers at Sites throughout The County

Call for an appointment during the scheduling hours of 9:00 am - 3:00 pm, Monday – Friday

240-777-2577