

RSVP

Lead With Experience

WestArk RSVP serving volunteers & the community in Benton, Carroll, Crawford, Madison and Sebastian counties.

August / September 2011

Volume 11, Issue 4

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- VITA (volunteer Income Tax Assistance) will be offered at the RSVP Center in Ft. Smith on Tuesday's from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m..

Humana Sponsorship Rescues Volunteer Recognition Events

In the last edition of the RSVP Newsletter it was announced that due to substantial federal funding cuts all future volunteer recognition events would depend on the availability of sponsorships. While the financial future of WestArk RSVP is still very much in question our most immediate needs are being met.

Humana, Inc., has generously stepped forward

and donated funds for two 2011 RSVP volunteer recognition events—the 'Breakfast of Champions' in Fort Smith for the River Valley members and an autumn recognition event to be held in Northwest Arkansas. With their substantial donation of \$5,000 Humana, Inc., has guaranteed the hard-working and generous members of WestArk RSVP will be recognized for

their contributions to our communities. The last two 2011 editions of the RSVP Newsletter have also received sponsors.

Sponsors are still needed for the calendars that each RSVP member has received as a gift each December, the Holiday Open House and for the six 2012 editions of the newsletter. Without sponsors the newsletter will only be published electronically.

River Valley Volunteers Needed

Sutton Elementary School (our Fort Smith partner in Education) - will be in need of volunteers for the first seven days of the school year to help with breakfast and/or lunch for the kinder-



es! I'm not good with numbers . . . Good grief- you want me to learn tax code?+

As intimidating as becoming a VITA volunteers may sound the reality is very different. We will be needing Screeners, as well as Tax Preparers and Tax Return Reviewers. VITA volunteers provide a much needed service to tax payers who may be struggling to support their families. All VITA volunteers will receive extensive training. Contact Trish Walker at 783-4155 or trishrsvp@ipa.net.

RSVP Community Outreach - Medicare Assistance

Additional volunteers are needed to join RSVP Community Outreach efforts to provide assistance to Medicare recipients. Training in preparation for the 2011 Medicare Open Enrollment will begin in September this year. Open enrollment is October 15th - December 7th. If interested please contact Susie or Chuck at 783-4155.

Volunteers needed for the first few days of school to aid kindergartners during meals in opening milk cartons and other mysteries of the cafeteria.

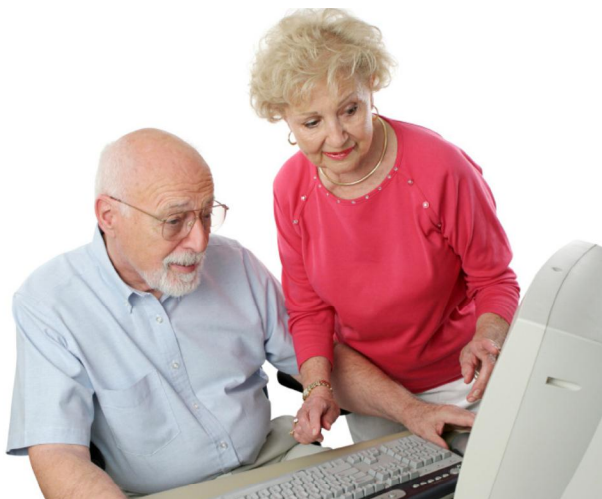
garten and first grade students. Kindergartners need help learning the cafeteria routine, how to open small milk cartons and that there is silverware hidden inside those rolled up napkins! Starting Wednesday, August 17th volunteers will be needed from 7:15 a.m. to 8 a.m. for breakfast and/or 10:45 to Noon for lunch. All volunteers must sign in at the school office. If you are willing to help with this short term volunteer job please contact Bridget at 783-4155.

RSVP Community Outreach - Tax Assistance

Frequently when we approach a RSVP member about becoming a VITA volunteer we hear: "I don't know anything about preparing tax-

Peachtree Hospice - Yard Work

Peachtree Hospice serves patients in towns all across the River Valley. Some patients occasionally need help with their overgrown lawns. Most patients are in their homes and in bed and many times their caregivers are unable to get away from taking care of



River Valley Volunteers Needed

the patient to keep up with daily chores. Some of these families own their lawn care equipment, but some do not.

Would you consider helping a hospice patient once or twice during the grass growing season? Please call Sarah Saulsbery, Volunteer Coordinator at 479-494-0100 or toll free 800-752-0444 to find out how you can get started.

Reynolds Cancer Support House - Staff Volunteer

To assist staff in helping survivors with programs and services they have available for them. Greet patients, assist in registering them, make phone calls, assist the staff in helping the patients. The only qualification they are looking for is a willingness to help others and to learn. Contact Wendy Lambkin 782-6302

City of Fort Smith Mayor's Office - Orchid Award winners Sign Placement Person

Pick up the signs at the Mayor's office at 623 Garrison Avenue, Room 315 from the Mayor's secretary, receive address and map with instructions, place sign in yard and take 2 pictures of the house and yard with your digital camera. E-mail the pictures to the Mayor's secretary. Pick up the signs one month later and return it to the Mayor's office. This year has been slow, but some years 40-60 nominations

some years 40-60 nominations will be called in. Qualifications Sought: Good driver, ability to use digital camera and email pictures to Mayor's Office Working as a team of 2 people is best, but not required. It interested contact Susan Petersen at 784-2437.



City of Fort Smith Mayor's Office - Clerical Worker

The Mayor's Office in Fort Smith occasionally needs help in placing labels on envelopes and stuffing envelopes. Bring a friend to help you and enjoy visiting while doing this work. If interested contact Susan at 784-2437.

Fort Smith Convention/Visitors Center - Ms. Laura's Visitors Center - Hostess

Provide tourism and general information assistance to visitors, convention delegates and other patrons. Responsible for docu-

inquiries for each work period. Assists with labeling and bundling of brochures for mailing, organizes and monitors brochure supply. Give tours to individuals and/or groups stopping by the Visitor Center. Training will be provided. Shifts are for 3 1/2 hours. Contact is Carolyn Joyce at 783-8888

St. Edward Mercy Hospice Volunteer

Volunteers are much needed in Fort Smith, as well as areas east of Fort Smith. Volunteers go into the homes of patients who have terminal medical conditions. They offer companionship, support, hope and caregiver respite. We are in particular need of gentlemen volunteers to visit with our gentlemen patients. The training runs for 8 weeks, meeting once each week for about an hour and a half. If you have the heart of a hospice volunteer, please contact: Natalie Turner, Volunteer Coordinator, 479-314-1156 (Fort Smith) or natalie.turner2@mercy.net

Sebastian County Sheriff's office is our newest RSVP volunteer station. With a new sheriff and tight budget due to economic conditions volunteers are needed in several areas to assist employees. Those interested in volunteering with the Sheriff's office should contact Trish Walker at 479-783-4155 for additional information.



August Birthdays

- | | | | |
|----------------------|----------------------|--------------------|------------------------|
| 1 Mary Lou Pointon | 12 Rod Tschetter | 18 Gary Hayes | 26 Raymond Atkinson |
| 1 Jimmy Rogers | 12 Ann Wagon | 18 Elaine Rooney | 26 Alice Orrick |
| 2 Dale Kesner | 12 Ray Ward | 18 Reba Smythe | 26 Jean Parker |
| 2 Jeanne McKim | 13 Charles Bean | 19 Carole Barger | 26 Bette Schernikau |
| 3 Sharon Comeaux | 13 Annella Brewer | 19 Eunice Dore | 26 Catherine Schraeder |
| 3 George Heflin | 13 Lois Byers | 19 Barbara Hartman | 28 Sandra Anderson |
| 4 Betty McCaffrey | 13 Margaret Carter | 19 Gwendolyn Long | 28 Ronald Clark |
| 5 Jerry Benjamin | 13 Barbara Keane | 19 Norma Watkins | 28 Doris Taff |
| 6 Kit Hart | 13 Diane Pfortmiller | 20 Elwyn Parks | 28 Jeanne Thompson |
| 6 Sandy Johnson | 13 Floyd Zornes | 20 Ben Pearson | 28 Sam Williams Sr. |
| 6 Bill Roddy | 14 Brenda Goins | 20 Betty Pryor | 29 Barbara Bradford |
| 7 Kathy Fritts | 14 Sue Smith | 20 Zeta Smith | 29 Kathryn Estep |
| 7 Glenda Heist | 15 Robert Clark | 21 Eddie Johnson | 29 Norma Griffith |
| 7 Celestine Sharum | 15 Joe Wasson | 21 Tom Leverette | 29 Sheree Miller |
| 7 Betty Stutts | 16 Dorothy Dolan | 22 Mary Edwards | 29 Norma Russell |
| 7 Louise White | 16 Shirley Havre | 22 Jack Wright | 29 Wilma Witte |
| 8 John Cornwell | 16 Drucille Morton | 24 Francine Clark | 30 Nan Benn |
| 8 Linda King | 17 CeCe Gitthens | 24 Milton Fronsoe | 30 Ula Biesterfeld |
| 8 Joan McCoy | 17 Kathy Luedloff | 24 Mary Weinsinger | 30 Jean Neill |
| 8 Peggy Theriault | 17 Joan Schroeder | 25 Jan Franklin | 30 Gary Peterson |
| 8 Mary Weddell | 17 Mary Wagner | 25 Betsy Smith | 31 Iris Hightower |
| 8 Robert West | 18 Betty Campbell | | |
| 9 Duane Gehring | | | |
| 9 Bonnie Parker | | | |
| 9 Lieu Smith | | | |
| 11 Laverne Neihouse | | | |
| 12 Claire Flynn | | | |
| 12 Richard Kutschall | | | |
| 12 Marcia McKenney | | | |



First Anniversary of Expanded WestArk RSVP

WestArk RSVP expanded to include Benton, Carroll and Madison counties on August 1st of last year. During the year we have opened and closed (due to a 20% grant reduction) an office in Rogers. With the ex-

pansion we have hired two wonderful Volunteer Coordinators: Bridget Schmidt and Cyndi Najar.

Currently we have 1,081 volunteers and 87 volunteer stations. Fourteen percent of our members are Boomers (under age 65), 65-74 year olds

are 39%, 75-84 year olds are 38% and 8% of our members are 85 years of age or older.

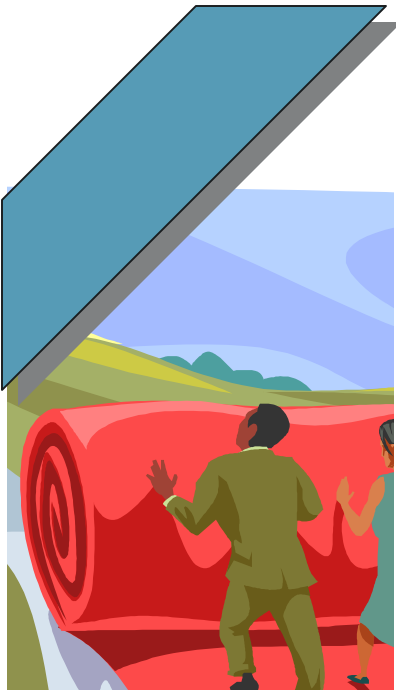
The average age of our members is 74 years. Men comprise 25% of our membership.



September Birthdays

1	Geraldine Burns	9	Kathleen Benjamin	14	Alfred Guidani	21	Jeanne Thomas
1	Lee Cross	9	Marie Emrick	14	Janetta Patterson	22	Allan Crump
1	Esther Meier	9	Sue Ferguson	14	Margie Rollins	23	Joyce Cokely
2	Pete Hieronimus	9	Ruth Oelrich	14	Linda Schluterman	23	Aggie Lensing
2	Ellen Karatzou	9	Lisa Richardson	15	Thomas Hatfield	25	Grace Dehart
2	Lillian Neckar	10	Lois Harris	15	Joyce Henderson	25	James Moore
3	Carol Gordon	11	Goldie Furgison	15	Gareld Johnson	25	Pearline Waren
3	Janette Mason	11	Liz Robinson	15	John Sterling	26	Betty Blenkin
4	Charles Learned	11	Joyce Van Roekel	16	Delmar Bullington	26	Alice Carroll
5	Lela Hawkins	11	Hilda Wallis	16	Audrey Davis	26	Joy Sternberg
5	Ruth McElroy	12	Jamie DeBates	16	Helen Shelt	27	Nelda Baber
5	Preston Swofford	12	Paula May	16	Charles Stearns	27	Larry Goss
6	Barbara Bond	12	Linda Morse	17	Sandy Cowan	28	Geri Felstul
6	Jan Carrothers	12	Ruth Anne Price	17	Irene Hogetvedt	28	Dave Galloway
6	Betty Yancey	12	Janel Stryker	17	Kathy McKee	28	Charlotte Hatwig
7	Nancy Barker	13	Frank Atkins	18	John Hood	28	Thelma Hill
7	Virginia Shaver	13	Joanne Carr	19	Lee Chadwick	28	James Prince
8	Louella Moore	13	Thelma Hunt	19	Glenford Joseph	28	Harry Rector
8	Jeannie Neely	13	Emma Leah Stone	19	Loretta Oxford	29	Linda Maienschein
8	Darrel Rise	13	Karen Watkins	20	Wanda Wear	30	Alice Lock
8	Norma Stockton	14	Dian Brisco	21	Cornelia Fleming		

New RSVP Members



Roll out the red carpet to welcome the newest members of WesArk RSVP. These new members are a wonderful addition to RSVP.

- Donna Allen
- Alan Anderson
- Elaine Arney
- Carlene Beam
- Effie Bell
- Maida Bennett
- Joe Benoit
- Wilma Bessent
- Marilyn Beveridge
- Martha Biddinger
- Ula Biesterfeld
- Rosemary Blackstock
- Carla Bock
- David Broom
- Miriam Brower

- Bill Brown
- Georgia Brown
- Linda Brown
- William Buchanan
- William Bugner
- Marty Cogan
- Geneva Crowley
- Donna DeBauche
- Betty Eidam
- Rose Engelken
- Susan Ferraro
- Loretta Gallagher
- Fred Goerke
- Mary Goerke
- Lyn Hacker
- Loyde Hardin
- Shirley Havre
- Pam Henderson
- Mary Holler
- Margaret Hoyt
- Sharon Hult
- Antoinette Johnson
- Jane Johnson
- Nancy Jones
- Barbara Keane
- Mary Kelly
- Doris Kelton
- Cherie Kerwell
- Dorleen Kessler
- Joe Kessler
- Mary Koch

- Lolly Leaky
- Phil Linder
- Gladys Magby
- Donna Martin
- Janette Mason
- Carolynn Masson
- Janet Matthews
- Joann Meadors
- Donna Michener
- Thomas Michener
- Jean Neill
- Ivy Owen
- Myra Jane Parish
- Linda Peoples
- Linda Peters
- Judith Pilling
- Bruce Portillo
- Joyce Reid
- Bruce Richardson
- Lillie Mae Riggerbach
- Linda Rogers
- Margie Rollins

- Elaine Rooney
- Louis Salokar
- Bette Schernikau
- Virginia Schiller
- Phyllis Shafer
- Johnnie Shaffer
- Don Stapp
- Janel Stryker
- Patricia Swessel
- Jim Swicegood
- Nancy Tierney
- Janet Tracy
- Nickolas Trubov
- Ann Villines
- Donna Wallace
- Karen Watkins
- Mary Weddell
- Karen Wenzel
- Linda West
- Joyce Whitley
- Wilma Whorton
- Daphne Wissman





News Reel by Susan Peacock Reehl

A big thank you to **Human, Inc.**, for donating the funds for our annual volunteer recognition events. We will host two events, one in Fort Smith on August 30th and another in Rogers later this year.

In the last edition of the newsletter I spoke of our plans to continue to do what we do best in the coming months- recruit, place and reward volunteers (until we have to turn off the lights) and we are doing just that. Trish and Cyndi are in the process of meeting with each of our partners to see about their current volunteer needs.

You may have noticed changes to our website. Open volunteer positions can be

found under the %olunteer Opportunities%tab on our website, www.WestArkRSVP.org. We hope to also connect those volunteer needs through the VolunteerMatch website soon.

We will also be hosting two Volunteer Recruitment Fairs- one in Fort Smith and one in Rogers on September 9th and 10th. These Fairs will be our September 11th National Day of Service and Remembrance events. We will also have volunteers reading to the children at Sutton Elementary School (our Partner in Education) about 9/11 heroes on Friday, September 9th.

Decisions have still not been made about the federal funding for RSVP for 2012. Not being able to plan is ex-



tremely difficult for an organization such as RSVP which partners with nearly 100 community organizations.

Some good news: 826 WestArk members donated over 86,000 hours of volunteer service during the first six months of 2011. That represents the equivalent of **84** full-time workers aiding our community partners. Thanks to RSVP members who make a difference with their service!

This edition of the Newsletter was sponsored by Western Arkansas Counseling & Guidance Center



The Guidance Center provides a comprehensive network of quality behavioral health care services and programs.

Western Arkansas Counseling & Guidance Center
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wacgc@wacgc.org

Serving Crawford, Franklin, Logan, Polk, Scott & Sebastian counties.



10th Anniversary of 9/11

National Day of Service and Remembrance



WestArk RSVP

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Hours of Operation

Monday—Friday
8:30 am—4:00 pm

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www.WestArkRSVP.org

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WestArk RSVP is sponsored by
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& Guidance Center, Inc.

RSVP

Getting Things Done.