

July, August
and September
2010

Volume 10, Issue 3

WestArk RSVP Newsletter

WestArk RSVP is a program of Western Arkansas Counseling & Guidance Center, Inc.

RSVP Awarded Expansion Grant

Inside this issue:

<i>New Members</i>	2
<i>Donating Goods</i>	3
<i>Birthdays</i>	4
<i>Training</i>	5
<i>Volunteer Jobs</i>	6
<i>News Reehl</i>	7

Special points of interest:

- Breakfast of Champions August 24th
- Discount to join local health club.
- Local charities want donations of furniture and household items.

As of August 1, 2010 WestArk RSVP will add Benton, Carroll and Madison counties to its' existing program which serves volunteers and community organizations in Sebastian and Crawford counties. This expansion will increase funding and membership by nearly 40%.

WestArk RSVP was awarded the additional three counties in a competitive grant process. The long-time sponsor—Office of Human Concern—voluntarily relinquish sponsorship of their RSVP program at the end of July.

RSVP activities for the three Northwest Arkansas counties will be directed from a satellite office at the Cen-

ter for Non-profits in Rogers. The Center for Non-profits is located in buildings which previously housed St. Mary's Hospital. Renovations of the office space for RSVP should be completed by early September.

A part-time Volunteer Coordinator will be hired for the Rogers office and another for the RSVP Center in Fort Smith. First job of the new Volunteer Coordinator will be to host an Open House and Reception to show off the new digs and introduce the members and partners to WestArk RSVP.

"Locating our new office in Rogers was a bit of a surprise," said Program Director Susan Reehl. "We had

planned on maintaining the RSVP office and staff which were located in Bella Vista. But the retirement of Nancy Mabry and the wonderful opportunity offered by the Center for Non-profits coincided to make the move from Bella Vista to Rogers our next logical step."

Reehl said, "The Center for Non-profits locates us more centrally and improves access to all three of the counties we will be serving. Our travel costs will be lower and the site is very accessible. Many of the organizations WestArk RSVP traditionally partner with are already located at the Center for Non-profits."

New RSVP Members

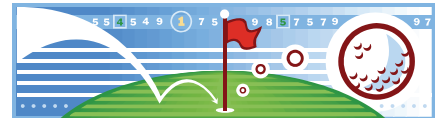


Please welcome the newest members of RSVP. These individuals have signed up to volunteer in their local communities:

Vihn Thach
Mae O'Donnell
Judith Stewart
Faye Weeks
Jean Darden
Sharon McMillan
Gary Wallace
Carolyn Clark
Alice McKown
Leschia Clements
Flora King

Roberto Goff
Geneveiva Heim
Hack Moore
Wanda Ramey
Rob Rowton
Barbara Peterson
Billie Johnson
Pete Hurlburt
Helen Morris
Freda Smelley
LaRue Woosley

Hot Time at the Fort Smith Classic!



At the 2010 Fort Smith Classic, over 700 community volunteers pitched in to make the event a success. Despite unseasonably hot and humid weather (isn't this why we moved the Tournament from August to June?) play went off without a hitch.

One of the highlights of the Tournament was the participation of John Daly. This legendary golfer, with ties to Arkansas, went out of his way to boost attendance and sponsorship of the Tournament.

The Cox Concert featuring Charlie Daniels on the first day of the

Tournament was an outstanding community event. The largest crowd ever seen at the Riverfront Park enjoyed hours of country music despite the very warm weather. Admission to the concert was free due to the generosity of Cox Communication.

Trish Walker, RSVP Volunteer Manager, served for the second year as the Volunteer Director for the Tournament. Trish moved her office out to the golf course before Memorial Day and worked every day in June through the end of the Tournament.

A big thank you to the 48 RSVP Members

who volunteered with the Ft. Smith Classic:

Paul Anderson
Roy Baggs
George Beattie
Kathleen Benjamin
Carol Bracken
Larry Brisco
Lola Brown,
Marsha Brown
Gordon Chitwood
Bob Cockreham
Lois Elledge
Margaret Fimple
Doug Fletcher
Chuck Foley
Mary Jo Gage
Chuck Gartner
Lewis & Norma Griffith
Fred Hander
Wanda Jeffcoat
Chuck Johnson
Ellen Karatzou

Dick Kutschall
A.J. & Ann Lee
Jeffie & Jesse Lindsey
Gay Loy
Ruth Ann Lucker
Carla Mays
Jeanne McKim
Reginald Moore
Jeff Nusbaum
Don Palmatary
Mary Lou Pointon
Tim Randolph
Charles Raney
Gene Rapley
Liz Robinson
Bill & Jean Ann Roddy
Jim Rose
Sharon Szgiel
Steve Tyler
June Vaughn
Elaine Watson
Barbara Williams
Joyce Wolf

Discount to Aid Partner in Education

During the month of August the Marvin Altman Fitness Center at Sparks Regional Medical Center will waive their registration fee (\$45-\$30) if you bring in \$15 of school supplies. The school supplies will be donated to our Partner in Education, Sutton Ele-

mentary School. Receipt is required.

Sutton School

Supply List:

- (1) Pair of Scissors
- (3) Glue sticks
- (2) Packages of Notebook Paper (wide ruled)
- (1) Package of Colored Pencils (12 Count)
- (2) Large Erasers
- (5) Small Erasers

- (1) Package of #2 Pencils
- (1) Box of Crayons (24 Count)
- (1) Box “Skinny” markers (10 Count)
- (2) Blue or Black Pens
- (1) 1 ½ inch 3 Ring Binder
- (2) Spiral Notebooks (wide rules)
- (1) Package of ruled Index Cards



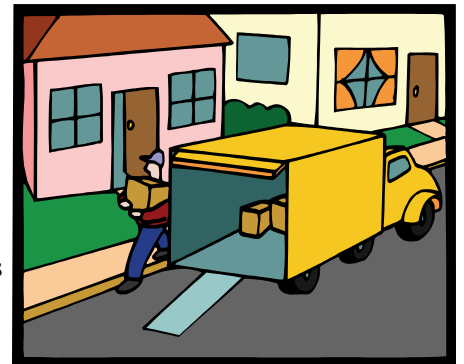
Donating Goods to Local Charities

Many of our partners would appreciate your donations of used furniture or household items. Because these local partners are non-profit organizations they can provide you with a receipt

for your charitable donation (*which is necessary if you choose to report your donation to the IRS on your income tax return*).

Three partner—Habitat for Humanity Restore (783-2766), Salvation Army Thrift Center

(783-2454) and Abilities Unlimited (471-5354) have trucks to pick up your donations. When you donate your unwanted items you support local charities.



Breakfast of Champions—August 24th

The Breakfast of Champions (BC) will be held on Tuesday, August 24th at the Golden Corral Restaurant in Fort Smith. All RSVP members who have reported at least 48 volunteer hours (prorated

for new members) during the last twelve months will receive an invitation no later than August 13th.

This event is an opportunity to say a big thank you to RSVP members for their generous volunteer service. The

doors open at 7 a.m. to accommodate members who are still employed or who have an early volunteer assignment. A ticket is required for admission.



July and August Birthdays

JULY

1 Carl Bruns
 1 Oga Grizzle
 1 Edna LaFontaine
 2 Marilyn Bell
 2 Shirley Hullauder
 2 Tim Randolph
 3 Treva Goodman
 3 Vicki Hurst
 3 Robert Leach
 4 Suzanne Karr
 4 Lori Oliver
 4 Deon Rollans
 4 Jessie Zanzeberg
 5 Bobby Abbott
 5 Peggy Lewis
 5 Louise Turner
 7 Ann Crow
 7 Alice Lewis
 7 Deanna Martin
 7 Edgar C. Newlin
 8 Carolyn Silva
 8 Mary Sue Warnock
 9 Harry Akers Jr.
 9 Flora King
 9 Richard King
 9 Lannie Ledbetter
 9 Dorothy McCartt
 9 Gladys Walz
 10 Kathleen Corbell
 11 Joseph Borden
 11 Kathy Sherrill
 12 Velma Farrar
 13 Bill Cameron
 13 Clyde Chaney
 13 Sue Row
 14 Floyd Barger
 14 Daisy Bruns
 14 Mary Jo Gage
 14 Richard Watt

14 Phanita Williams
 16 Robert Simmons
 16 Ronnie Wagner
 17 Cynthia Rains
 18 Dolores Bates
 18 Janalou Devers
 18 Roy Harris
 18 Irvin Sternberg
 19 Charles Klaus
 20 David Kerr
 20 Mary Sue Lowrimore
 20 Murl Nichols
 20 Peter Schutz
 20 Maureen Thames
 21 Anna Campbell
 21 Charles Raney
 21 Luanne Raynoha
 22 Jerry Akins
 22 Jeanette Belin
 22 Jimmie Griswold
 22 Drucilla Hughart
 24 Mary Bryant
 24 Herschel McClurkin,
 25 Faye Hicks
 25 A J Lee
 26 Helen Warren
 27 Boyd Clayton
 27 Pauline Smith
 28 Georgia Brasher
 28 Twyla Reinecker
 29 Anna Greve
 29 Anna Redden
 29 Peggy Shopfner
 29 Lynndon Sloan
 30 Alice McKown
 30 Sue Preston
 30 Maxine Taylor
 31 Jewell Cox
 31 Donna Currier
 31 Ann Lee

31 Kiel Norgard

AUGUST

1 Mary Lou Pointon
 1 Jimmy Rogers
 2 Dale Kesner
 2 Jeanne McKim
 3 George Heflin
 4 Betty McCaffrey
 5 Jerry Benjamin
 6 Kit Hart
 6 Sandy Johnson
 6 Bill Roddy
 7 Kathy Fritts
 7 Larry Ichniowski
 7 Celestine Sharum
 7 Betty Stutts
 7 Louise White
 8 Ron Hibbs
 8 Linda King
 8 Joan McCoy
 11 Laverne Neihouse
 12 Claire Flynn
 12 Richard Kutschall
 12 Rod Tschetter
 12 Ann Wagnon
 12 Ray Ward
 13 Annella Brewer
 13 Lois Byers
 13 Margaret Carter
 13 Wesley Warnock
 13 Darlene Worley
 13 Floyd Zornes
 14 Clara Lollis
 16 Dorothy Dolan
 16 Drucille Morton
 17 CeCe Gitthens
 17 Betty Hanna
 17 Kathy Luedloff
 17 Mary Wagner

18 Betty Campbell
 18 Gary Hayes
 18 Earl Martin
 19 Carole Barger
 19 Barbara Hartman
 19 Gwendolyn Long
 19 Wanda Ramey
 19 Norma Watkins
 20 Teddy Martin
 20 Elwyn Parks
 20 Ben Pearson
 20 Betty Pryor
 20 Zeta Smith
 21 Tom Leverette
 22 Mary Edwards
 22 Jack Wright
 23 Eileen Scott
 24 Mary Weinsinger
 26 Lois Moran
 26 Alice Orrick
 26 Jean Parker
 28 Janice Hamby
 28 Polly Oliver
 28 Sam Williams Sr.
 29 Norma Griffith
 30 Nan Benn
 30 Joan Harris
 31 Iris Hightower



September Birthdays

SEPTEMBER	
1 Lee Cross	9 Ruth Oelrich
1 Henry Oliver	9 Hope Reed
2 Ellen Karatzou	9 Lisa Richardson
2 Lillian Neckar	10 Lois Harris
3 Virginia Pankey	11 Liz Robinson
5 Gerald Cokely	11 Hilda Wallis
5 Rudy Jorgensen	11 Dr. Leon Woods
5 Preston Swofford	12 Jamie DeBates
6 Barbara Bond	12 Eugene Lovell
6 Sue Camfield	12 Linda Morse
6 Betty Yancey	12 Ruth Anne Price
7 Virginia Shaver	13 Judy Fraleigh
8 Louella Moore	13 Thelma Hunt
8 Jeannie Neely	14 Gerald Akins
8 Norma Stockton	14 Dian Brisco
9 Kathleen Benjamin	14 Alfred Guidani
	15 Joyce Henderson
	15 John Harvey Sterling
	15 Maggie Wolford
	16 Delmar Bullington
	16 Audrey Davis
	17 Nelda Glover
	17 Norma Reed
	17 Helen Robinson
	19 Lee Chadwick
	19 Sid Donaldson
	19 W.R. Knowles
	19 Kathryn Winfield
	21 Jeanne Thomas
	22 Allan Crump
	22 Nancy Patterson
	23 Joyce Cokely
	23 Aggie Lensing
	25 Grace Dehart
	25 John Furstenberg
	25 James Moore
	25 Pearline Waren
	26 Joy Sternberg
	27 Nelda Baber
	27 Larry Goss
	28 Dave Galloway
	28 Charlotte Hatwig
	29 Vinh Thach
	30 Inavee Reves



Training Offered to RSVP Partners

Training (and a great lunch) were offered to the staff of RSVP volunteer stations on four different days during the last week in August. Over 40 partners attended the training.

The training covered the changing focus of our RSVP grant (from an emphasis on counting volunteers and hours to reporting outcomes of volunteer activities) during the last ten years. Information was also provided

about two major changes:

- 1) All requests for volunteers must be made through the RSVP website as of August 1st.
- 2) Starting January 1st volunteer hours are to be reported by the volunteer stations rather than the RSVP members. (About a half of all volunteer hours are currently reported by the stations.)

Advantages of utilizing RSVP members as volunteers was explained along with information about the Memorandum

of Understanding and the volunteer insurance. Each partner was provided with a supply of RSVP Enrollment forms and examples of time sheets that could be generated by the software RSVP uses to maintain its' records. Training will be offered in September to partners unable to attend the August sessions.

"Starting January 1st volunteer hours are to be reported by the volunteer stations rather than the RSVP members."



Helping Hands are Needed!



Arkansas River Valley Nature Center is hosting a volunteer training on Thursday, August 19th from 9:30 a.m. until Noon for those interested in helping with their fall school groups. Every 5th grader in the Ft. Smith Public School will participate in studies at Wells Lake this fall.

Sutton Elementary School (our partner in Education) is in need of volunteers for the first seven days of the school year to help with breakfast and/or lunch for the kindergarten and first grade students. Kindergarteners need help learning the cafeteria routine, how to open small milk cartons and that there is silverware hidden inside those rolled up napkins! Starting Thursday, August 19th 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 Trish Walker at 783-4155.

Regular school volunteers will be needed after Labor Day for Sutton Elementary School (RSVP's Partner in Education) and every elementary school in the area. Assistance is needed to:

- Read a book to a class or to an individual

student;

- Tutor an individual student;
- Assist with class projects, assignments, field trips, and other activities;
- Share your career or hobby with a class;
- Practice vocabulary words with students.

Area Agency on Aging of Western Arkansas needs Respite Volunteers for AAA Hospice to provide companionship and assistance to the hospice patient so that the caregiver may leave the home for a few hours. Volunteers need to be honest, dependable, emphatic and caring individuals. Duties may include reading or sitting with patients, running errands or helping out in the hospice office. Training will be provided. Hospice volunteering is flexible.

Van Buren Visitor's Center and River Valley Museum located in the historic Frisco Depot on Main Street in down-

town Van Buren needs volunteer Station Masters. Volunteers will greet visitors, answer questions and provide information.

Volunteers are needed six days a week, Monday through Saturday. There are two shifts: 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 1 to 5 p.m. Volunteers are asked to work at least two 4 hour shifts a month.

Monthly Station Master volunteer meetings feature discussion about upcoming events and a meal in recognition of volunteer efforts. An annual overnight trip is also provided to the volunteers.

Additional volunteers are needed to join RSVP Community Outreach efforts to provide assistance to Medicare recipients. Training in preparation for the 2010 Medicare Open Enrollment will be offered on Monday, October 11th (Noon to 4 p.m.) and all day Tuesday, October 12th. If interested please contact Susie or Chuck at 783-4155.



News Reehl *by Susan Peacock Reehl*

Trish Walker and I returned from the National Conference on Volunteering and Service on July 1st. We brought back some new ideas and a lot of information on volunteer service. It was our first visit to New York City and we both thoroughly enjoyed being tourists!

Chuck Gartner who is volunteering as an AmeriCorps VISTA member signed up for another year in April. Euba Harris Winton who is also an AmeriCorps VISTA member will end her service the end of August. Euba has graciously agreed to continue to volunteer every Thursday to help with our tax services.

Congratulations to our Partner in Education and the RSVP members who regularly volunteer at Sutton Elementary School. Sutton has been on the school improvement list for the past five years. Results from testing last Spring showed that the school met standards and made growth. This is a testament to the

extraordinary dedication and effort by the teachers, staff and volunteers.

Big changes are in the works for all RSVP partners. Volunteer stations will now request additional RSVP members on-line using a tool provided on our website. This will allow us to receive requests which contain all the information needed to fill the volunteer job and to more quickly distribute information about available volunteer positions.

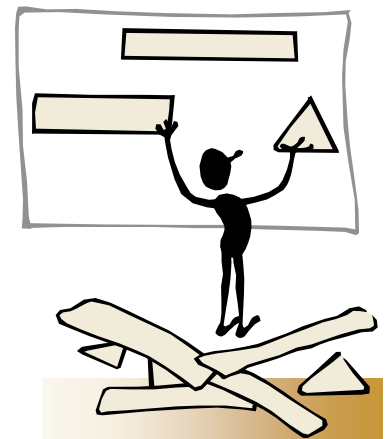
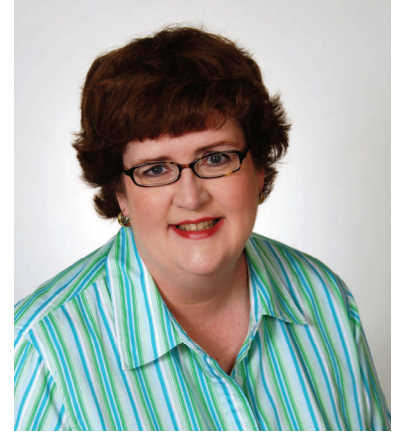
Starting January 1st all volunteer hours (with the exception of Independent Living) will be reported by the volunteer stations rather than by our members. About half of all volunteer hours are already being reported by our partners. This change will reduce a huge administrative burden from the RSVP staff and our volunteers. Instead of tracking thousands of time-sheets and emails and hounding volunteers every month, we will have less than 80 reports from volunteer stations.

This will improve the

accuracy of our record-keeping greatly. Most volunteers who self-report tend to under-report their volunteer efforts. At the end of June we had over 800 members—but less than 600 members reported hours. We are still trying to get reports from hundreds of RSVP members. This change will bring us into compliance with one of our grant requirements.

We anticipate that not every volunteer station with whom we currently partner will be willing to report volunteer hours for RSVP members. Every effort is being made to assist our partners in meeting this new requirement. However, it is likely that some volunteer stations will not be partnering with RSVP after the first of the year. RSVP members will be notified in writing of these choices.

If you have questions about these changes please contact me or Trish. I hope to see you at the Breakfast of Champions.



Recent changes will allow RSVP staff to spend more time on volunteer management and meet grant requirements.

WAC&GC

WestArk RSVP

P.O. Box 11818

401 North 13th Street

Fort Smith, AR 72901

NON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
FORT SMITH, ARK
PERMIT NO. 24

Return Service Requested



WestArk RSVP

401 North 13th Street
Fort Smith, AR 72901

Phone: **783-4155**

Fax: 782-2269

E-mail: rsvp@ipa.net

Web site:

www.WestArkRSVP.org

WestArk RSVP is sponsored by the
Western Arkansas Counseling &
Guidance Center, Inc.

Hours of Operation

Monday—Friday
8:30 am—4:00 pm

Staff

Susan Reehl

Program Director

rsvp@ipa.net

Trish Walker

Volunteer Manager

trishrsvp@ipa.net

Advisory Council

Larry Brisco

Marsha Brown

Zelma Cox

Fred Hander

Ginger Helton

Deborah Huizenga

Anita James

Chuck Johnson

Bill Johnston

Sandi Klein

Madeline Marquette,

Dorothy McCartt

Don Palmatary

Sandra Pearson

Mary Lou Pointon

Beth Presley

Tim Randolph

Liz Robinson

Mayor Ray Baker

Gary Luedloff

AmeriCorps VISTA

Chuck Gartner

chuckrsvp@ipa.net

Euba Harris Winton