

# RSVP

## Lead With Experience

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

October/November 2010

Volume 10, Issue 4

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- Medicare Open Enrollment Starts November 15th.
- VITA (*Volunteer Income Tax Assistance*) services have ended for the year.

## Open House and Reception Scheduled for November 11th

To celebrate the opening of the new RSVP office in Rogers, Arkansas an Open House and Reception will be held on Thursday, November 11th. All RSVP members and partners are urged to attend. The event will be open to the public.

From 1:00-6:00 p.m. a Reception will be held on the ground floor in the Main Banquet area of the Center for Nonprofits @ St. Mary's. Refreshments will be served and RSVP staff will have an opportunity to meet the current volunteers and

partners.

At the same time as the Reception an Open House will be hosted in our new office on the second floor of the Center for Nonprofits @ St. Mary's. The office (Suite #2301) is located on the North side of the building directly across the

hall from the Benton County Health Department.

Suite #2301 has two offices and provides workspace for a Receptionist, a Volunteer Coordinator and a Program Director. Office hours will be Monday through Thursday from 8:30 a.m. until 3 p.m.



## New RSVP Members



**P**lease welcome the newest members of WestArk RSVP. Autumn always sees the biggest increase in request for volunteers. These new volunteers are greatly needed and their willingness to donate their time and talent is appreciated.

Betty Blenkin  
Kim Byungmook  
Faye Camp  
Sharon Comeaux  
Ronald Esserman  
Donna Goldstein  
Joel Goldstein  
Lena Graves  
Carole Harris  
Thelma Hill  
Glenda Hood

John Hood  
Becky Keller  
Larry Keller  
Jerry Lofts  
Patti Logan  
Jerry Moore  
Jennifer Oliver  
Bridget Schmidt  
Carolyn Scott  
Doris Taff

Membership in WestArk RSVP is open to active adults who are 55 years of age or older. About a third of the current membership is employed.

## Breakfast of Champions

**W**estArk RSVP members were honored for their volunteer service of the past year at the "Breakfast of Champions" the morning of Tuesday, August 24th. Over 350 members and guests enjoyed the buffet from 7-9:30 a.m. at Golden Corral Restaurant in Fort Smith.

Beverage service was graciously provided by volunteer coordinators and non-profit directors including:

Kathy Smith (Kistler Center),  
Marian Conrad and Jaima Vance

(Girl Scouts),  
Kim Montague (SEMMC),  
Lisa Brashears (Habitat for Humanity),  
Monica McKinney (Girls, Inc.),  
Lori Williams (Fountain of Youth Adult Day Center),  
Fred Borchert (Barling Senior Center),

All returns are reviewed by another preparer prior to being given to the tax payer or submitted electronically. Wendy Lambkin (Reynolds Cancer Support House),

Helen Mantooth (Lavaca Senior Activity Center) and Deanna Rice (Sebastian County Retired Citizens Association).

All of these folks generously volunteered their time as servers to show their appreciation for the assistance RSVP members provide their agency.



# Breakfast of Champions





## Paperwork for Northwest Arkansas

Nobody likes paperwork but the change in sponsorship from the Office of Human Concern to WestArk RSVP will require members who have been volunteering in Benton, Carroll and Madison counties to fill out new

membership applications.

Every effort will be made to make this transition as painless as possible. A supply of new membership forms will be provided to all volunteer stations. Enrollment forms will also be available during the

RSVP Reception and Open House on November 11th at the Center for Nonprofits in Rogers.

Our goal is to have everything in place before the end of the year. Volunteer stations will also need to sign new Memorandum's of Understanding.

## October Birthdays

- |                      |                       |                       |                     |
|----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|
| 1 Glenda Hood        | 7 Johnnie White       | 15 Lou Moreland       | 24 Steve Huffman    |
| 1 Ann Williams       | 7 Byrdine Siek        | 15 Donna Prough       | 24 Delois Spoon     |
| 1 Sue Allen          | 8 Bobby Dean          | 15 Edward Wofford     | 24 Robert Greene    |
| 2 Carl Kastenbaum    | 8 Junetta McCoy       | 16 Jim Edwards, Jr.   | 24 Don Modica       |
| 2 Bob Laser          | 8 Brenda Blue         | 16 Mary Gruber        | 25 Tricia Davis     |
| 2 Jonnie Lindt       | 8 Evelyn Long         | 17 Gordon Chitwood    | 25 Darla Horn       |
| 3 Clarence Dewitt    | 8 Charles McChristian | 18 Thomas Barnhardt   | 25 Vester Hutchens  |
| 3 Betty McLendon     | 9 Jeff Cates          | 18 Vyrl Nelms         | 25 Nadine Mowris    |
| 3 Mr. Rob Rowton     | 10 Cecil Greene       | 18 Bob Sliger         | 25 Charlene Bauer   |
| 4 Shirley Freeman    | 10 L.A. Robinson      | 19 JoAnn Flocks       | 25 Fred Goerke      |
| 4 Charles Hearn      | 10 Eleanor Weir       | 19 Robert Neufell     | 25 Daphne Wissman   |
| 4 Miles Taylor       | 10 Joan Leaf          | 20 Ursula Raney       | 26 Ruth Morrison    |
| 4 Pauline Thomas     | 10 Ruth Wyatt         | 21 Carolyn Clark      | 27 Amy Aston        |
| 4 Mary Jo Rozumalski | 11 Retha Williams     | 21 Katsie Gibson      | 27 Ebba Jarvis      |
| 4 Nancy Tierney      | 11 Bea Zemansky       | 21 George Jensen      | 27 Forrest Slavens  |
| 5 Wanda Daniels      | 11 Forrest Borchardt  | 21 Judy Oliver        | 27 Sammye Green     |
| 5 Martha Parsons     | 11 Shirley Sheets     | 21 Nancy Peacock      | 28 Betty Blair      |
| 5 Sylvia Varnadore   | 12 Helen Duran        | 21 Mary Smith         | 28 Martha Jones     |
| 5 James Sweeney      | 12 Mel Santos         | 22 Rose Lyons         | 28 Dorothy Sullivan |
| 6 Trev Howard        | 12 Joyce Klein        | 22 Wanda Meadors      | 28 Don Rusterholz   |
| 6 Louise Nelson      | 12 Warner Kroona      | 22 Faye Weeks         | 29 Anne Danko       |
| 6 Joe Harner         | 13 Beverly Rogers     | 22 Betty Goolsby      | 29 Emma Guidani     |
| 7 Ruth Moser         | 13 Clemie Snow        | 23 Jeanette Daugherty | 29 Mary G. Smith    |
| 7 Susan Nelson       | 14 Gertrude Standley  | 23 John Gibbins       | 29 Joyce Wolf       |
| 7 Marcella Robertson | 14 Margaret Tull      | 23 Mamie Mann         | 29 Carol Youngblood |
| 7 David White        | 15 George Beattie     | 23 Linda Bradley      | 31 Nancy Zornes     |

## Holiday Open House Scheduled

**A** Holiday Open House will be held on Wednesday, December 8th and Thursday, December 9th at the RSVP Center in Fort Smith to honor RSVP members, volunteer stations and community friends. The Holiday Open House will last from 10 a.m. until 6 p.m. in the hope that

all volunteers (and their family and friends) will be able to drop-in at some time during the day.

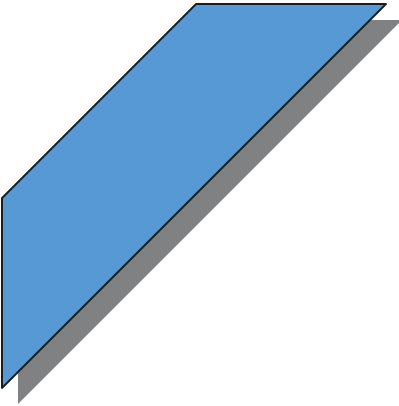
No one will leave the party hungry. Refreshments will be bountiful and include hot hors d'oeuvre, homemade baked goods, hot spiced cider, spinach dip and many other treats.

The 2011 calendars will be distributed to all RSVP volunteers and mailed the following day to those volunteers unable to attend the Open House. The calendar has been the traditional "thank you" gift given to the RSVP members at the Open House for more than ten years.



## November Birthdays

1 Genell Graham	7 C. Leon Wehmeyer	16 Cecelia Kramer	24 Betty McSwain
1 Grace James	8 Sandra L. Boyer	16 Charley Loucks	24 Iyla Stranahan
1 Steve McEntire	8 Wanda Carlton	16 Chester Sautter	24 Katherine Tookey
1 Bettye Squyres	9 Maizie Jones	17 Sandra Thompson	25 Shirlene Booth
2 William Craig	10 Ruthie Martin	18 Leschia Clements	25 Smokey McPhail
2 JoAnn Jackson	10 Kay Pope	18 Wanda Jeffcoat	25 Freda Smelley
2 Norma Bolinger	11 Reginald Moore	18 Mardell McClurkin	25 Warren Doty
2 Annamae Horstman	11 May Williams	18 Myra Jane Parish	26 Patricia Fellner
3 Paul Anderson	11 Jane Johnson	19 Mildred Deal	26 Jan O'Leary
3 Margie Evans	12 Ludema Anderson	19 Patricia Gunselman	26 Betty Williamson
3 JoAnn Brinkman	12 Kenneth Brisco	19 Joy Bailey	27 Laverne Fast
3 Dee Prellburg	12 John Brown	19 Jim Kitchen	27 Helen Jetton
4 Glenda Wofford	12 Sue Yancey	19 Leta Underwood	28 Donald Fast
4 Allen Masson	12 Bernadine Hayden	21 Wanda Cash	28 Sue Frey
4 Joyce Smith	12 Duane L. Miller	21 Rose Marie Duffy	28 Tara Kifer
5 Betty Etzkorn	13 Audrey Clemons	21 Dimple Johnson	28 Irene Michael
5 Pamela June Sutton	13 Mildred Morris	21 Jerry Lofts	28 Tom Carroll
6 Marianne Goga	15 Bradley Martin	22 Larry Brisco	28 Joyce Reid
7 Carl Grizzle	15 Donna Allen	22 Lynda Fulmer	30 Betty Bowlin
7 Charlene Kalmer	16 Faye Camp	22 Fred Stecher	30 Berna Dean Inklebarger
7 Nancy Richardson	16 Doris Johnson	23 Susan Chaney	30 Judy Bankhead



## Volunteers Needed for VITA

**F**requently when we approach a RSVP member about becoming a VITA volunteer we hear:

- “I don’t know anything about preparing taxes!”
- “I’m not good with numbers . . .
- “Good grief—you want me to learn tax code?”

As intimidating as becoming a VITA volunteer tax preparer may sound - the reality is very different. Most tax returns are fairly simple—a couple of W-2’s and \$11 in earned interest. VITA volunteers provide a much needed service

to tax payers who may be struggling to support their families.

All VITA volunteers receive training and can practice in the RSVP Computer lab prior to tax season. All VITA volunteers are tested yearly to determine the complexity of returns they are competent to prepare. All returns are reviewed by another preparer prior to being given to the tax payer or submitted electronically.

Training for new VITA volunteers and those with less than two years of volunteer experience with VITA will be held on

November 30th through December 3rd at the RSVP Center in Fort Smith.

**Anyone interested in joining this volunteer effort needs to contact Trish Walker, Volunteer Manager at 783-4155 or by email [trishrsvp@ipa.net](mailto:trishrsvp@ipa.net).**

During the 2009 tax season VITA volunteers prepared over 2,000 federal tax returns and put over \$1 million back into the community through Earned Income, Child and Education Tax Credits.



VITA training on November 30th -December 2nd for new volunteers and those with less than 2 years experience.

## Christmas Stockings

**O**nce again, RSVP has been asked to fill stockings for needy children. If you wish to participate you may pick up empty stockings at the RSVP Center in Fort Smith along with a list of suggested “stuffers” or just drop off your donation and we will

stuff the stockings for you.

Stuffed stockings and/or gifts need to be returned by **Thursday, December 9th.**

Feel free to share this project with your friends or Sunday School class. These stockings will be given to children age

0-12 whose families have qualified for assistance with the Salvation Army.

Over a 1,200 local children received Christmas stockings last year. Over 300 of those stockings were provided through the generosity of our RSVP members and friends.





# News Reehl

by Susan Peacock Reehl

**M**embers of the RSVP Advisory Council are the unsung heroes of our organization. They serve as my sounding board and provide assistance to ensure we meet our grant requirements and the needs of our volunteers and community.

It is with great sadness that I report the unexpected death of Anita James who had served as a RSVP Advisory Council member for the past 6 years. As the Executive Director of Crawford County Volunteers for Literacy Anita provided great leadership and expanded the reach of the program. Please keep her family and friends in your prayers.

After delays that have tested my patience, I believe that our office in Rogers will be open by November 1st. This additional office will serve RSVP members

in Benton, Carroll and Madison counties. Delays in construction and in the release of grant funds made our September planned opening impossible.

Several members have had questions about our recent expansion, which I would be glad to answer. We are not operating two RSVP grants. As of October 1st we have a single RSVP grant to serve members in five counties.

The Rogers RSVP office will be open Monday through Thursday, 26 hours weekly from 8:30—3 p.m. The Rogers RSVP office will be staffed with a Volunteer Coordinator and a Receptionist.

I will continue as the Program Director and I plan to spend on average one day a week in Rogers. I will be responsible for grant administration for the five counties. Trish Walker will continue as the Volun-

teer Manager. All volunteer record-keeping will take place in Fort Smith. A part-time Volunteer Coordinator will also be added to the Fort Smith office.

RSVP Center will be closed the last week in October so that Trish and I may attend the Aging Conference and the annual meeting of the Arkansas Senior Corps Directors. The Center will also be closed November 24th—28th for the Thanksgiving holiday.

Medicare Open Enrollment will begin November 15th. Through RSVP Community Outreach in Fort Smith trained SHIP volunteers will be available to assist Medicare recipients in choosing a Medicare Part D pharmacy drug plan or a Medicare Part C Advantage plan. Call 783-4155 after November 1st for an appointment.



Please let  
RSVP know your  
email address.  
If you are not  
currently  
receiving  
email messages  
monthly from  
RSVP, please  
contact us at  
[trishrsvp@ipa.net](mailto:trishrsvp@ipa.net).

Thanks!





## WestArk RSVP

### *Fort Smith Office:*

401 North 13th Street  
Fort Smith, AR 72901

Phone: **783-4155**

Fax: 782-2269

### Hours of Operation

Monday—Friday  
8:30 am—4:00 pm

### *Rogers Office:*

1200 West Walnut, Suite 2301

Rogers AR 72756

Phone: **636-0578**

Fax: 636-4218

### Hours of Operation

Monday—Thursday  
8:30 am—3:00 pm

### Web site:

[www.WestArkRSVP.org](http://www.WestArkRSVP.org)

## Staff

Susan Reehl

*Program Director*

[rsvp@ipa.net](mailto:rsvp@ipa.net)

Trish Walker

*Volunteer Manager*

[trishrsvp@ipa.net](mailto:trishrsvp@ipa.net)

## AmeriCorps VISTA

Chuck Gartner

[chuckrsvp@ipa.net](mailto:chuckrsvp@ipa.net)

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

## Advisory Council

Larry Brisco

Marsha Brown

Zelma Cox

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Ginger Helton

Deborah Huizenga

Chuck Johnson

Bill Johnston

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