

RSVP

Lead With Experience

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

October/November 2011

Volume 11, Issue 4

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- Call 783-4155 for an appointment at the RSVP Center in Fort Smith for assistance in choosing a Medicare Part C or Part plan. Open Enrollment starts October 15th and ends December 7th

9/11 Day of Remembrance & Tribute

September 11, 2001, although a terrible tragedy, also demonstrated the remarkable goodness and compassion that exists in the hearts and souls of most human beings.

One of the important ways we observe 9/11 is by doing good deeds in the spirit of unity and compassion

in tribute to the victims of 9/11 and the many who rose in service in response to the attacks.

This year WestArk RSVP took part in two special tributes: a reading project and a volunteer fair. The state-wide reading project involved over 1,100 volunteers read-

ing to nearly 31,000 school children. WestArk RSVP members read to each of the 16 classrooms at Sutton Elementary.

Read more about the Volunteer Fair at the Rogers Adult Wellness Center on page 3. Facebook fans can search for "WestArk RSVP" to see photos.



Ann Lee reads, *Fireboat, the Heroic Adventures of the John J. Harvey* to kindergartners at Sutton Elementary School on Friday, September 9th.

New RSVP Members

With the cut in federal funding, recruitment efforts have slowed and most of the Northwest Arkansas members who have chosen to continue with WestArk RSVP have signed-up. For the first time in a year the number of new members is modest. Please welcome the newest members of WestArk RSVP:

- Elaine Roberson**
- Cassandra Sneed**
- Sallie Stucky**
- Elizabeth Tinsley**
- Sue Walker**
- Peggy Williams**
- June Wren**



- Sandy Carroll**
- Kenneth Coleman**
- Gloria Conner**
- Steve Conner**
- Sharon Cunningham**
- Andrew Dobbs**
- B.J. Johannsen**
- Pat Latham**
- Andrea LeFerre**
- Shirley Poe**
- Gail Ragsdale**

Welcome!



Rogers Volunteer Recruitment Fair

The Adult Wellness Center in Rogers, Arkansas hosted a two day Volunteer Recruitment Fair co-sponsored by WestArk RSVP. The event took place on Friday, Sept. 9th and Saturday, Sept. 10th. The Volunteer Fair was a tribute event in honor of the 10th anniversary of 9/11/2001.

In addition to the co-sponsors, participating in the Volunteer Fair were 16 local non-profit organizations:

- AAA—Ombudsman Program
- Arkansas Visitation & Exchange Centers
- CASA of Northwest Arkansas
- Faith in Action
- First Tee of Northwest Arkansas
- Friends of Hobbs State Park
- Hope Cancer Resources
- Horses for Healing
- Literacy Council of Benton County
- Mercy Medical Center
- Northwest Arkansas Rape Crisis Center
- Northwest Arkansas Women's Shelter
- Rogers Historical Museum
- Village House
- Washington Regional Cancer Support House
- Western Arkansas Child Development, Inc.



October Birthdays

1 Glenda Hood	13 Beverly Rogers	24 Delois Spoon
1 Ann Williams	14 Dorothy Slay	25 Tricia Davis
2 Carl Kastenbaum	14 Nancy Tierney	25 Fred E. Goerke
2 Bob Laser	14 Nickolas Trubov	25 Darla Horn
2 Phil Linder	15 George Beattie	25 Daphne Wissman
3 Mary L. Holler	15 Fred Borchert	26 Sharon Cunningham
3 Betty McLendon	15 Bob Pennington	26 Ruth Morrison
4 Maria DeGidts	15 Edward Wofford	26 Cheryl Scheele
4 Shirley Freeman	16 Jim Edwards, Jr.	27 Amy Aston
4 Mary Kelly	16 Mary Gruber	27 Sammye Green
4 Mary Jo Rozumalski	16 Charles Hamilton	27 Ebba Jarvis
4 Janet M. Tracy	16 Sharon Hult	28 Don Rusterholz
5 Wanda Daniels	17 Gordon Chitwood	28 Dorothy Sullivan
5 Clarence Dewitt	17 Norma Stoudt	29 Emma Guidani
5 Donald Schroeder	18 Vyril Nelms	29 Lillian Pingel
5 James Sweeney	18 Thomas Barnhardt	29 Mary G. Smith
5 Sylvia Varnadore	19 JoAnn Flocks	29 Joyce Wolf
6 George Fritz	19 Judith Holmes	29 Carol Youngblood
6 Trev Howard	19 Jane Long	31 Vera Martin
7 Ruth Moser	19 Robert Neufell	31 Jody Wilson
7 Susan Nelson	20 Ursula Raney	31 Nancy Zornes
7 Byrdine Pickart	20 Jean Shub	
7 Johnnie White	20 Norma H. Staley	
8 Brenda Blue	21 Katsie Gibson	
8 Kay Keehler	21 Nancy Peacock	
9 Jeff Cates	21 Mary Smith	
9 Geri Hoerner	22 Sandra Bugner	
10 Cecil Greene	22 Rose Lyons	
10 Ruth Wyatt	22 Wanda Meadors	
11 Denise Kaestner	22 Kenneth Coleman	
11 Retha Williams	23 Linda Bradley	
12 Betty Eidam	23 John Gibbins	
12 Robert Heffron	23 Mamie Mann	
12 Joyce Klein	23 Nancy A. Steel	
12 Sallie Stucky	24 Steve Huffman	
13 Barbara Hays	24 Lolly Leaky	



First Anniversary of Expanded WestArk RSVP

WestArk RSVP expanded to include Benton, Carroll and Madison counties on August 1st of last year. Implementation followed in November when grant funds became available. With the expansion we were able to hire two wonderful Volunteer Coordinators: Bridget Schmidt and Cyndi Najar.

During the past year we have opened and closed (due to a 20% federal grant reduction) an RSVP office in Rogers. Fortunately, Cyndi Najar is still serving RSVP members in Benton, Carroll and Madison by being available by phone and frequent visits to volunteer stations.

Currently we have 1,039 volunteers and 87 volunteer stations. At the end of August

RSVP members had volunteered 107,193 hours. Twelve percent of our members are Boomers (under age 65), 65-74 year olds are 40%, 75-84 year olds are 39% and 10% of our members are 85 years of age or older.



November Birthdays

- | | | | |
|----------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|
| 1 Genell Graham | 8 Wanda Carlton | 16 Faye Camp | 23 Susan Chaney |
| 1 Grace James | 9 Maizie Jones | 16 Doris Johnson | 24 Betty McSwain |
| 1 Dorothy Sage | 10 Ruthie Martin | 16 Cecelia Kramer | 24 Iyla Stranahan |
| 1 Bettye Squyres | 10 Kay Pope | 16 Patricia Larimore | 24 Katherine Tookey |
| 1 Diana Strickland | 10 Pam Weiler | 16 Charles Loucks | 25 Shirlene Booth |
| 2 Norma Bolinger | 11 Jane Johnson | 16 Colene Parker | 25 Smokey McPhail |
| 2 William Craig | 11 Leon Lauber | 16 Chester Sautter | 25 Freda Smelley |
| 2 JoAnn Jackson | 11 Reginald Moore | 17 Ruth McConnell | 26 Patricia Fellner |
| 3 JoAnn Brinkman | 12 John Brown | 17 Sandra Thompson | 27 Marcene Blatt |
| 3 Jerry Keehler | 12 Bernadine Haydon | 18 Wilma Bessent | 27 Helen Jetton-Mantooth |
| 3 Nancy Vaughn | 12 Mike Lyons | 18 Wanda Jeffcoat | 28 Tom Carroll |
| 4 Raymond Ticknor | 12 Sue Yancey | 18 Mardell McClurkin | 28 Sue Frey |
| 5 Betty Etkorn | 13 Audrey Clemons | 18 Myra Jane Parish | 28 Tara Kifer |
| 5 Eugene Mladucky | 13 Rheta Counts | 19 Mildred Deal | 28 Irene Michael |
| 5 Pamela June Sutton | 13 Don Stapp | 19 Patricia Gunselman | 28 Joyce Reid |
| 6 Marianne Goga | 14 Bill Brown | 21 Rose Marie Duffy | 28 Richard Sherbondy |
| 6 Jim Swicegood | 15 Donna J. Allen | 21 Jerry Lofts | 30 Betty Bowlin |
| 7 Carl Grizzle | 15 Eugene Fewell | 22 Larry Brisco | 30 Berna Dean Inklebarger |
| 7 Charlene Kalmer | 15 Lucy Fry | 22 Pat Foster | |
| 7 Elaine West | 15 Margaret Hines | 22 Lynda Fulmer | |
| 8 Sandy Boyer | 15 Bradley Martin | 22 Fred Stecher | |

Breakfast of Champions



The Breakfast of Champions” for the River Valley members of WestArk was held at Golden Corral in Fort Smith on Tuesday, August 30th. This annual event recognizes the members of WestArk RSVP who have volunteered 48 or more hours in the previous year. This year invitations were extended to 447 RSVP members.

Nearly 300 members attended the 7:00-9:30 a.m. event. Golden Corral was only open for RSVP members and they put out quite a spread to show off their recently renovated restaurant. Several RSVP members topped off their breakfast with an ice cream cone or cotton candy!

The Northwest Arkansas members of WestArk RSVP will be recognized when a year’s worth of data has been compiled.





News Reehl by Susan Peacock Reehl

Thank you to Kendall Price for sponsoring this edition of the RSVP Newsletter. Mr. Price was instrumental in WestArk RSVP receiving the sponsorship from Humana for our 2011 Volunteer recognition. His support of our organization is greatly appreciated.

For those of you who have the option of choosing a Medicare Part C or D plan please take advantage of the assistance offered by our SHIIP (Senior Health Insurance Information Program) trained volunteers at the RSVP Center. There are changes to the Medicare insurance plans available every year and it is wise to re-view your coverage.

Also, please remember Medicare Open Enrollment will start October 15th (a month earlier than usual) and end December 7th (24 days earlier than usual). If you would help spread the word about our service to other Medicare recipients it would be appreciated. We are making appointments now, just call (479) 783-

4155. SHIIP is a program of the Arkansas Insurance Department.

This is the time of year that is hard on my nerves. We will soon have the decisions about all of those grant applications I spent most of the summer writing. While I'm sure we won't get the entire \$138,464 we requested, what we do receive will determine the focus of our year.

Still no word on what to expect for our FY 2012 federal funding or if there is even going to be any 2012 federal funding for RSVP. The federal government's fiscal year starts October 1st. Last year's budget was approved in late March.

Before you know it the holidays will be upon us. The RSVP Center will be closed on Wednesday, November 23rd through Sunday, November 27th for Thanksgiving. We will also close from Monday, December 19th through Monday, January 2nd. Since we have so many new members it is probably worth reminding everyone that we are wimps



where bad weather is concerned and the RSVP Center is always closed if the Fort Smith Public Schools are closed for inclement weather.

Trish Walker, Volunteer Manager asked me to express her appreciation for all of the cards and notes she received following the death of her mother. Your sympathy and kindness were greatly appreciated.

Thank you for volunteering. Your efforts are greatly appreciated. Thank you for regularly giving of your time, talent and energy. You make a difference in our community!

Happy Thanksgiving!

This edition of the WestArk Newsletter was generously sponsored by Kendall Price.



"Thanks to all the volunteers for all the work you do for so many people. It is not unnoticed and certainly appreciated by many even beyond the specific persons you help. Thank you for the difference you make in so many lives.

Remember this year the time frame for Annual Enrollment Period is different. It is October 15th thru Dec 7th."

Kendall Price

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WestArk RSVP

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Hours of Operation

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

RSVP

Getting Things Done.