

# WestArk RSVP Newsletter

Volume 9, Issue 2 April/May/June 2009

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



## Special points of interest:

- Fort Smith Classic is June 18th—21st.
- WestArk RSVP celebrates its 35th Birthday!

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## Museum of History Docent/Volunteer Program

The Fort Smith Museum of History is proud to announce a new Docent/Volunteer program. An orientation day is set for Thursday, April 16, 2009, at 10:30 a. m. or 1:00 p. m. Volunteers are needed in

all areas including greeting visitors,



working in the old fashioned soda fountain or gift shop, guiding school and tour groups, maintenance work and fill-

ing research requests. The orientation will be held in the second floor meeting room. For more information, call 479-783-7841.

## Stimulus Payments for Social Security Recipients

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act provides for a one-time economic recovery payment of \$250 to individuals who receive Social Security, Supplemental Security Income (SSI), Railroad Retirement and certain Veterans benefits.

You should receive your one-time

payment by June 2009.

You don't need to do anything to receive this payment. If you receive your monthly benefit by check, you will receive your one-time payment by check. If you receive your benefits by direct deposit or Direct Express® debit card, you will receive the one-time payment the same way. Your one-

time economic recovery payment will be sent separately from your Social Security or SSI benefit; it will not be included with your monthly benefit payment.

Disabled adult children receiving Social Security or children receiving SSI payments will receive the one-time payment.

## New Members

Membership in WestArk

RSVP currently stands at 857 members.

Please welcome our newest members to

RSVP:

**Charline Kalmer**

**Earl Porter**

**Gay Loy**

**Judith Cline**

**Betty Ledbetter**

**Jeanette Daugherty**

**Ann Childs**

**Gerald Akins**

**Jim St. Amant**

**Evelyn St. Amant**

**Agatha Knittig**

**Sue Ferguson**

**Darla Horn**

**Jill Johnston**

**Ann Staton**

**Paula Warren**

**Ben Pearson**

**Sarah Smith**

**Alice King**

**John Furstenberg**

**Daniel Lakowski**



*“Breakfast of Champion, invitations will only be sent to RSVP members who have 48 reported hours of service in the preceding year.”*

## Reporting Volunteer Hours

RSVP members are asked to report their volunteer hours each month. If you are trying to catch up only 2009 hours can be reported.

RSVP members with questions about their

volunteer hours may contact Trish (783-4155) at the RSVP Center.

Hours may be reported by phone, in writing or by email. Service logs will no longer be mailed with the newsletter.

Beginning with the

2009 Breakfast of Champion, invitations will only be sent to RSVP members who have 48 reported hours of service in the preceding year (July 1, 2008—June 30, 2009)- an average of four hours per month.

## Ft. Smith Classic Needs Volunteers

Come out to the Fort Smith Classic, Arkansas’ only PGA TOUR event, June 13-21 at the Hardscrabble Country Club in Fort Smith, Arkansas.

In its twelfth year, the Fort Smith Classic presented by Stephens Inc., shines brightly as one of the best stops on the Nationwide Tour. Come

watch the pros play or sign up to be one of the 500 community volunteers who make this event possible!

Volunteer needs include Marshalls and Spotters (those folks waving the quiet signs on the golf course), Operations which includes Set-up and Tear-down (light carpentry, some painting and assembly). Volunteer opportunities start well in advance of

the tournament.

Proceeds from the Tournament benefit the Beth Koprovic Memorial Charities whose missions are to improve the lives of area children and **WestArk RSVP**. There is a \$30 volunteer fee that goes to the charities.

You can register to volunteer at the RSVP Center or online at [www.fortsmithclassic.com](http://www.fortsmithclassic.com)



## BIRTHDAYS! BIRTHDAYS! BIRTHDAYS!

### APRIL

1 Terry Upchurch  
 1 Jacqueline Ridling  
 1 Al Sass  
 2 Lillian Fougine  
 2 Yvonne Mizell  
 3 Doris Garner  
 4 Alice Buckley  
 4 Mildred Manuel  
 4 Ann Ritter  
 5 Judy Radlein  
 7 Betty McKinney  
 8 David Scherrey  
 8 Rose Hardcastle  
 8 Reba Kilgore  
 8 Neta Rice  
 9 Peggy Rohm  
 10 Claudine Lilly  
 10 Martha Bolling  
 11 Clifford Davis  
 12 James Nusser  
 12 Gypsy Actkinson  
 12 Virginia Burnett  
 13 June Free  
 13 Tommie Priest  
 13 Margaret Johnston  
 14 Ruth Felkner  
 15 Lewis Griffith  
 16 Betty Turnipseed  
 16 Elaine Watson  
 16 Danny Youngblood  
 16 Aleto Burge  
 16 Margaret Fimple  
 17 Bettye Fields  
 17 Jackie Garrett  
 19 Madeline Marquette  
 19 Reginald Saucier  
 19 Helen Easterwood  
 19 Terry Fant  
 20 Lola Lofts  
 21 Kadon Smith  
 21 Sylvia Timmons  
 22 Marianne Abshere  
 22 Rose Smith  
 23 Margot Adamson  
 25 Ruth Ditlevson  
 25 Betty Havens

26 JoAnn Bryan  
 26 Henry Varnadore  
 27 Lavonne Vearrier  
 28 Elaine Cale  
 29 Dianne Kitchen  
 30 Sue Rose  
 30 Pat Taff

### MAY

1 Karen Metz  
 1 Cecil Pierce  
 1 Cheryl Powell  
 1 Zona Williams  
 2 Fred Hander  
 3 John Dobbins  
 3 Martha Mizell  
 3 Harley Strang  
 4 Mary Willis  
 5 Jerry Farrar  
 5 Mary Velte  
 5 Anna Wilson  
 6 Bernice Morris  
 6 Arlene Price  
 6 David Norton Smith  
 6 Gene Wallis  
 6 Una Werntz  
 7 Mary McCollough  
 8 Marjorie Blake  
 8 Zella Coleman  
 8 Lorina Garner  
 8 Connie M. Woods  
 9 Margaret Hill  
 9 Shirley Schober  
 10 Clora Schriver  
 11 Melba Jetton  
 11 Ruth Kaundart  
 11 John Long  
 11 Carolyn Mosby  
 11 Emmett Smith  
 12 Don Hart  
 13 Linda Butler  
 13 Barbara Fitts  
 15 Sue Lewis  
 15 Jeffie Lindsey  
 16 Joe Knox  
 16 Drucille Morton  
 16 Mary Wilson

17 Charles Foley  
 17 Myrna Sue Lough  
 18 Johnie Roy Baggs  
 18 Jim Bryan  
 18 Paige Tyler  
 19 Marga Jennen  
 19 Lila Johnson- Pippen  
 19 Leo McKee  
 19 Betty Woods  
 20 Dorothy White  
 21 Sally Fiser  
 22 Bernice Mitchell  
 23 Zelma Cox  
 24 Monte Babitzke  
 24 Grace Brossman  
 24 Bill Cook  
 24 Marilyn Huie  
 25 Bobbie Bento  
 25 Carol Boen  
 25 Billy Craine  
 25 Charles Frey  
 25 Bernadette Gomez  
 26 Pauline Cole  
 26 Barbara Ketchum  
 27 Don James  
 28 Donald Ditlevson  
 28 Sister Elise Forst  
 28 Bettye Kline  
 29 Etta Jensen  
 29 Rod Peacock  
 30 Sherry Clennon  
 30 Mack Dyer  
 30 Oliver Mabry  
 30 Linn Riley  
 31 Ann Zrabkowski

### JUNE

2 Steve Tyler  
 3 Bernice Giddens  
 4 Robert Cockreham  
 5 Freda Pierce  
 5 Annie Porter  
 6 Mary Ann Jacobs  
 6 Paul Moser  
 7 Sue Baldwin  
 7 Marjorie Boer  
 7 E. Ray Fougine

7 Robbie Grim  
 7 Wilma Smoot  
 8 Ruth Ann Lucker  
 9 Ruth Haag  
 9 Jenney Sheffield  
 10 Charles Golden  
 10 Bonnie Huseman  
 10 John Roberts  
 10 Beverly Smith  
 11 Lola Brown  
 11 Beverly Watts  
 12 Ann Brady  
 12 Tracy Pennartz  
 13 Darcie David  
 13 Romelia Felker  
 13 Mattie Roberson  
 13 Ruby Wolf  
 15 Renee' Campbell  
 15 Marguerite Ditlevson  
 16 Barbara Brasvell  
 16 Jean Freeman  
 17 Joan Bryan  
 17 Phyllis Francis  
 17 William R. Johnston  
 17 Frances Wood  
 18 Jerry Ezell  
 18 Richard Taylor  
 19 Garland Conway  
 20 Michaelle Daniels  
 20 Allen Pruisner  
 21 Velda Armstrong  
 21 Linda Riley  
 21 Hallie Standard  
 22 Kathy Furstenberg  
 22 Shirley Shepherd  
 23 June Hardgrave  
 23 Laverne McCorkle  
 24 Riley Brown  
 25 Sarah Yada  
 26 Callie B. Dodson  
 26 Euba Harris-Winton  
 26 Erma Faye Hobbs  
 27 Marjorie Byrum  
 27 Kathryn Cooper  
 29 Franklin Rosson  
 30 Mary Jaye  
 30 Gordon Wilson

## Volunteer Needs

**F**or all of these volunteer opportunities (unless otherwise indicated) please contact Susie or Trish at the RSVP Center, 783-4155 if you are interested.

**F**ountain of Youth Adult Day Center is in need of a volunteer to help in the hair salon on Friday mornings with shampooing, etc. They also need a volunteer to provide weekly manicures (paint clients fingernails) once a week. Professional experience isn't required.

**S**utton Elementary School (our Partner in Education) is seeking volunteers to assist with the 6th grade Fishing Derby. The Fishing Derby is held on Wednesday, May 20th at the Arkansas Nature Center in Barling. Beginning at 8:30 a.m. volunteers will help the kids with the basics of fishing at Wells Lake (which will be stocked immediately before the event.) For most of the 6th graders this will be their first fishing trip. Lunch and snacks will

be provided.

Sutton Elementary School also needs volunteers for their Field Day, Friday, May 22nd. This end of the year activity is going to be a wet one—with lots of water activities. Volunteers are needed to help with set-up, refreshments and the activity stations.

**L**iteracy Council of Western Arkansas needs volunteer tutors. These volunteers will be tutoring adults in reading, math, English as a Second Language and US Citizenship.

No previous experience is required. Training and materials are provided. The schedule of volunteering will be individualized to meet the needs of the student and the availability of the tutor. Generally it involves from 1 to 4 hours per day; 1 or 2 days per week.

**G**olden Rule Clothes Closet needs a geek or at least a volunteer familiar with E-Bay to assist them in selling donated items not usable or

practical for their clients. This is an important fundraising effort for Golden Rule—especially in light of recent funding cuts and an increase in requests for assistance.

**S**t. Edward Mercy Hospice will start a series of training classes for new volunteers on April 23, 2009. Classes are each Thursday from 1-3:00 p.m. through June 11th. The training is held at the Reynolds Cancer Support House at 3324 South "M" Street (South side of Creekmore Park) in Fort Smith.

Mercy Hospice has a need for volunteers to sit with patients in their homes and to work in the In-Patient Unit at St. Edward Mercy Medical Center. Volunteers are an important member of the hospice care team.

Attending training does not obligate you to volunteer. Hospice volunteering is flexible. For more information or to register for the volunteer training contact Dianne at 314-1156 or (800)225-9743.



***"Golden Rule  
Clothes Closet  
needs a geek or  
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volunteer  
familiar with E-  
Bay.***



## Volunteer Hosts Needed for Classic Players

There is an opportunity for local families to host players for the Fort Smith Classic. Player housing is a fun and interesting way to meet a professional level golfer. You get to know this gentleman and you have an insider's look at the daily excitement of playing on a professional level golf tour.

What is asked of you? Provide a bed and a bathroom for the

golfer to take a shower and have a place to relax in the evening and a place to sleep. That is all. They will need to be able to access your home the week of June 15 – May 21. The times that they would be there could vary but it will mainly be in the evening just before bed.

You are not "required" to feed the players or entertain them in any way. If you choose to provide food

for them or extra courtesies that will be greatly appreciated – but is not expected.

If you are interested in hosting, please contact RSVP for an information sheet and fax it to 479-782-2269 or drop it off at the RSVP Center. If you have questions about housing a player contact Monica McKinney at 479-561-3045 for additional information.



*Some Southern hospitality is needed to welcome PGA players during their visit to our community.*

## Newest Volunteer Station—U.S. Marshalls Service

The U.S. Marshalls Service is in need of a volunteers to assist them at their office in the U.S. Federal Courthouse between the hours of 8 a.m. –4 p.m. Volunteers will work in

an open office with administrative staff. Duties will include greeting visitors, providing information, assisting in preparation of fugitive case files, and answering the telephone.

Since this position is

within a law enforcement agency all volunteers must submit to a criminal history check including fingerprinting. Free parking will be provided to volunteers.

*“Volunteering at the US Marshals Service might be of special interest to retired law enforcement professionals.”*

## Nature Center Volunteer Open House

The Janet Huckabee Arkansas River Valley Nature Center will be hosting a **Volunteer Open House on Saturday April 25th 2:30 pm - 4:00pm**. The Open House will be a wrap-up to National Volunteer

Week celebrations and a great way to introduce potential and current volunteers to all the different volunteer opportunities at the Nature Center.

So invite your family and friends, or anyone who might be

interested in donating their time to the nature center. The Nature Center has volunteer opportunities in many areas, ranging from front desk work, to photography, to programming.



## More Volunteer Needs



**H**abitat for Humanity is looking for volunteers to help out in the office. Duties would be to answer the phone, to help walk-ins to the office and general office work. Experience in data entry would be helpful but is not required. Shifts are available Monday, Thursday or Friday afternoons from 1 to 5 p.m.

**V**an Buren Visitor's Center and River Valley Museum located in the historic Frisco Depot on Main Street in downtown Van Buren needs volunteers. Volunteers will greet visitors to Van Buren and provide them with brochures and 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. Volun-

teers 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.

**T**he local chapter of the American Red Cross is seeking people who are willing to serve as disaster volunteers. This volunteer position requires some training. Ideally, volunteers would become a member of the "Disaster Action Team" and help local people after a house fire or other "single family disaster."

There is also a need for volunteer instructors for the CPR/AED, First Aid, Babysitting, and Infant/Child CPR Classes. This is a great volunteer position for retired teachers or nurses. The Red Cross can get you up to date on training and certifications.

**W**e Care Foundation needs volunteers to help on April 23/24/25 with a Garage

Sale. There are flexible hours for set up on April 23, with the sale April 24 and 25 from 7:30 a.m. until. 2:00 p.m..

The Garage Sale is to benefit Camp Dream Street at Dwight Mission on August 2nd-8th. Camp Dream Street volunteers will be needed to assist children with activities .

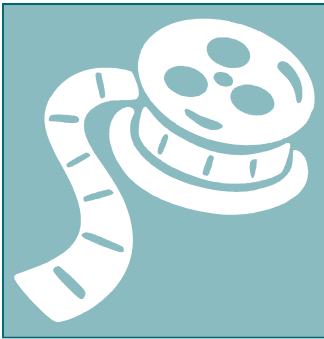
**A**bilities Unlimited is in need of volunteers at their Van Buren and Fort Smith Resale Stores hanging and tagging donated merchandise for sale. Hours are flexible—any time the stores are open, Monday through Friday.

Abilities Unlimited welcomes donation of furniture, household items and clothing which is in good condition.

**P**roject Compassion is going to need 4 to 6 volunteers for their September 21, 2009, Golf Tournament. Volunteers will receive free lunch and snacks. Volunteers are needed to assist with registration, serve as green watchers and staff the drink carts.

*"Station Master volunteer meetings feature discussion about upcoming events and a meal in recognition of volunteer efforts."*





## News Reehl by Susan Peacock Reehl

**W**estArk RSVP is celebrating its 35th anniversary as a community organization this spring and I will begin my 10th year as Program Director. Since I started my job June 1, 2000, RSVP members have contributed nearly 2 million hours of volunteer service to our community!

Many of you may not realize that WestArk RSVP is a program of Western Arkansas Counseling & Guidance Center or what that means. Trish Walker and I are employees of the Guidance Center and the RSVP Center is property of the Guidance Center.

The Guidance Center has sponsored RSVP since 1976—and they have been very good

sponsors. Unlike most small non-profit employees, Trish and I have access to employee benefits such as health insurance and retirement. The Guidance Center provides the 35% match to our federal RSVP grant.

Pete Kennemer has served as President/CEO of the Guidance Center for over 35 years and has been a huge supporter of RSVP. Pete recently experienced a stroke and is being treated in a local rehabilitation center. Please remember him in your prayers. Cards can be sent to him c/o WAC&GC, P.O. Box 11818, Fort Smith, AR 72917-1818.

I commend the TCE, VITA and Tax-Aide volunteers who have been diligently preparing taxes through this busy tax season. The WestArk RSVP VITA program received an exception from the IRS which allowed us to

prepare taxes for families who had members who were unemployed in 2008 or were currently unemployed. As the local unemployment rate rose we saw an increase in young families seeking tax assistance.

Part of that increase was as a result of better outreach to the community. Thanks to KFSM Channel 5 and anchor Daren Bobb who taped a Public Service Announcement about VITA. The *Times Record*, *Lincoln Echo* and *Entertainment Fort Smith* were very generous with the printed word and kept the community updated about the VITA services. This year for the first time stories appeared on all three television channels: KPOM Channel 40/29, KFSM and KFTA Fox 2, about the VITA program.

Just as soon as tax season is over we will jump right in to prepar-

ing for the Fort Smith Classic. We are fortunate to be one of the recipients of the proceeds of the Tournament.

RSVP, as a Classic charity, is responsible for providing at least 25 volunteers for a minimum of 250 hours of service which is very doable. The other requirements get a little trickier. RSVP will be responsible for selling 2,500 \$2 raffle tickets and getting donations for 15 silent auction items (probably baskets of items) with a combined worth of \$3,000. If fundraising or soliciting donations from local businesses is something you enjoy please contact me—I can use some help!

The RSVP Center will be closed Monday, June 15-19th as the RSVP staff will be volunteering at the Fort Smith Classic Tournament.



WestArk RSVP  
 401 North 13th Street  
 Fort Smith, AR 72901



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**WestArk RSVP**

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 Fort Smith, AR 72901  
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 Web site:  
[www.WestArkRSVP.org](http://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**

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 Fred Hander

Ginger Helton  
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 Dorothy McCartt  
 Kiel Norgard  
 Don Palmatary  
 Mary Lou Pointon  
 Beth Presley  
 Tim Randolph  
 Liz Robinson  
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 Mayor Ray Baker  
 Gary Luedloff