

Make A Difference



RSVP of Etowah & Cherokee County

April – June, 2025 Volume 25 Issue 2



AmeriCorps Seniors

In the News:

Smarter Seniors

Project Homeless Connect

Master of Memory

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The Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) is a federal program charged with leading efforts to expand the use of service and volunteering as key solutions that respond to our nation's most pressing challenges. Our mission is to improve lives, strengthen communities and foster civic engagement, through service and volunteering. RSVP is sponsored locally by the Etowah County Commission and federally by AmeriCorps.

Director's Corner

Spring is a time of renewal and rebirth and hope. Flowers are blooming, birds are singing and it's getting warmer. This time of year feels like we are coming out of hibernation—it's time to get outside and be more active.

It's so easy to look around and see things that are wrong in our neighborhoods and cities. And you know it's up to people like us to make things better however we can. That's why I'm bringing up this season of renewal. It's time for all of us to take a deep breath, say a prayer, and get to work!

At RSVP we are looking forward to being more active, offering more activities, and using YOUR energy to benefit as many people and agencies as humanly possible.

"Despite the forecast, live like it's spring." ~ Lilly Pulitzer

Statistics:

New Volunteers: 6
Total Volunteers: 162
Number of Stations: 30
Volunteer hours: 4,410
Value of Hours: \$125,861
(According to federal guidelines, the value of a volunteer's time \$28.54)

In the News

RSVP has a few activities coming up that may be of interest to you or someone you know.

Our next Smarter Seniors workshop in May will be about family caregivers. Abbey Fowler will be offering tips and resources for people who are in this situation or may be in this situation in the future.

Also coming up in June is the annual Project Homeless Connect event. If you are interested in helping our homeless population let us know, there are a few agencies dealing with this.

And in July, RSVP is sponsoring a 6 session workshop called Master of Memory. The Alabama Cooperative Extension Service will be teaching us how to remember better!

Success Story

It's tax season! This year we have 38 volunteers preparing and filing tax returns in 11 places across Etowah, Cherokee and Dekalb Counties. So far (and tax season is just half over!) they have prepared over 1400 federal returns. Considering that the average cost of preparing a tax return in Alabama with a paid preparer is \$217, that means these 38 people have saved our citizens \$304,000 already ~ that's money that can be spent on groceries, rent, car repairs, even vacations!

Volunteer Opportunities

Compassus Hospice

Helping with arts and crafts, calling patients, running errands, and light cleaning for clients

Etowah Baptist Mission Center

Helping in both the food and clothing donation areas, in the office, and answer the telephone.

Etowah County Free Community Clinic

Helping in different areas of the clinic from answering phones to the medication room.

Gadsden Quilters Guild

Volunteering to make quilts for the Pregnancy Center and lap quilts for nursing homes

George Wallace & H.D. Buttram Senior Center

van drivers & runners and kitchen help are all needed.

Manna

Delivering meals to homebound individuals in the Gadsden and surrounding areas.

Volunteer Recognition

The winner of our on-time timesheet drawing is Patsy Lee. She has been with RSVP for 15 years, currently volunteers with the El Senor Club with her husband and has 1,736 lifetime service hours. Congratulations Patsy and thank you for everything you do!

Our Volunteer Spotlight this quarter was submitted by Laura Martin, MANNA Director. "Jeff and Cathea Poland are both compassionate and active members of our community. The Polands not only deliver about 2000 meals each year—they also deliver hope, friendship & help. Like the time Jeff fixed a client's siding that had come loose during bad weather (with more bad weather on the way) because he knew she was on a fixed income and could not have afforded that repair. The world needs more compassionate people like Jeff & Cathea Poland!"

P.S. Jeff and Cathea also volunteer with our income tax program and probably do tons of stuff we don't even know about!

Upcoming Events

April 16th—Council on Aging Senior Health & Resource Fair 9am - 11am @ George Wallace Senior Center in Glencoe.

April 18th—Good Friday (RSVP office will be Closed)

April 20th—Easter

May 7th—Smarter Seniors Workshop, we'll be talking about Family Caregivers. Call 256-549-8147 to reserve a seat.

May 12th—Mother's Day

May 26^h—Memorial Day (RSVP office will be Closed)

June 13th—United Way Day of Action - Call 256-547-2581 or visit www.uwoec.org/day-of-action for more information

June 16th—Father's Day

June 18th—Elder Abuse Summit sponsored by Council on Aging of Etowah County. Details TBA

June 19th—Juneteenth (RSVP office will be Closed)

Area libraries hold their summer reading program during the months of June and July, and have other events throughout the year. Stop by your local library and see what they have to offer.

Sudoku Puzzle

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | | | | | 2 |
| | | | | | 8 | | | 7 |
| | | | | | 5 | 9 | | |
| | | 8 | | 2 | | | | 4 |
| 5 | | | | | | 7 | | 1 |
| | 7 | 9 | | 6 | | | 2 | 8 |
| 1 | 4 | | | 7 | | | | |
| | 2 | | | | | | 3 | |
| | 3 | | 9 | | | | | |

#34584

Difficulty: moderate

Can't solve it? Check the solution at <https://sudoku.cba.si/>

RSVP

AARP – COOSA VALLEY
CHAPTER #3337

BIG BROTHERS/BIG SISTERS

CENTRAL-CARVER
FOUNDATION, INC.

CHEROKEE COUNTY
HEALTH & REHAB.

CHEROKEE VILLAGE
ASSISTED LIVING

CITY OF GADSDEN

COMPASSUS HOSPICE

COUNCIL ON AGING

ETOWAH BAPTIST
MISSION CENTER

ETOWAH COUNTY
EXTENSION OFFICE

VOLUNTEER

ETOWAH COUNTY
FREE COMMUNITY CLINIC

ETOWAH COUNTY COURT-
HOUSE INFORMATION DESK

ETOWAH COUNTY
PREGNANCY TESTING
CENTER

EXTENDED FAMILY

FREEDOM CENTER OF
GADSDEN

GADSDEN PUBLIC LIBRARY

GADSDEN QUILTERS GUILD

GADSDEN REGIONAL
MEDICAL CENTER

GREATER GADSDEN AREA
TOURISM

STATIONS

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

HEAD START

MANNA

READING BUDDIES

RIVERVIEW REGIONAL
MEDICAL CENTER

RSVP ADVISORY BOARD

RSVP COMMUNITY SERVICE
VOLUNTEERS

SALVATION ARMY

SENIOR NUTRITION CENTERS

TAX COUNSELING PROGRAM

UNITED WAY OF ETOWAH
COUNTY

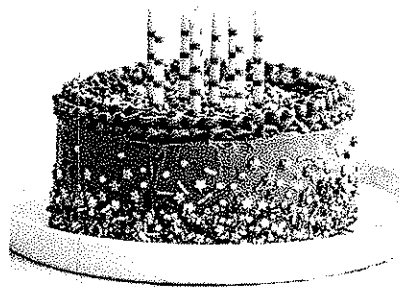


VOLUNTEER

| | |
|-------------------|-------|
| Jeanette Reed | 04/01 |
| Lori Lanier | 04/05 |
| Brenda Marshall | 04/06 |
| Denise Maddaloni | 04/09 |
| Matthew Gunter | 04/18 |
| Glenda Swinford | 04/21 |
| Alice Hurst | 04/24 |
| Russell Beam | 04/25 |
| David Garrett | 04/28 |
| Craig Scott | 05/01 |
| Daniel Levinson | 05/03 |
| Carolyn Sterling | 05/03 |
| Judy Edwards | 05/04 |
| Shirley Pollard | 05/05 |
| Danny Wagon | 05/06 |
| Jerry Howell | 05/09 |
| Michael Henderson | 05/10 |
| June Maddox | 05/11 |
| Mitchell Chastian | 05/16 |
| Donald Portwood | 05/16 |
| Lisa Dukes | 05/20 |
| Vicki Spelce | 05/20 |

BIRTHDAYS

| | |
|------------------------|-------|
| Gloria Kelley | 05/21 |
| Joyce Wheeler | 05/24 |
| Carla Carroll | 05/30 |
| Carol McPherson | 06/02 |
| Becky St. John | 06/02 |
| William "Bill" Steinka | 06/02 |
| Deborah Henderson | 06/03 |
| Susan Galloway | 06/05 |
| Sarah Spear | 06/07 |
| Suzan Anderson | 06/08 |
| Christine Woods | 06/08 |
| Patrick Duke | 06/10 |
| Lamar Parker | 06/10 |
| Claude Burnett | 06/11 |
| Betty Watkins | 06/14 |
| Scharfenburg, Suzanne | 06/21 |
| John Leach | 06/22 |
| Caldwell, Debbie | 06/23 |
| Parks, John | 06/24 |
| Robinson, Dorman | 06/24 |
| Doris Sweatt | 06/25 |
| Becky Henson | 06/29 |



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256.549.8147

Email:
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RSVP Staff

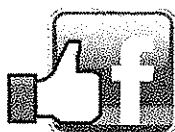
Director-- Traci Pondick

Administrative Assistant/ Volunteer Coordinator-- Rachel Wood

RSVP ADVISORY COUNCIL

| | | |
|-------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------|
| President: | <i>Amelia Millie Cartrett</i> | <i>Carol Hudson</i> |
| Kenneth Hudson | <i>Theresa Frye</i> | <i>Jeff Little</i> |
| | <i>Jenifer Grace</i> | <i>Craig Scott</i> |
| Treasurer: | <i>Ellie Higgins</i> | <i>Delma Smith</i> |
| Jill Vincent | <i>Pat Hill</i> | <i>Cynthia Toles</i> |

WE'RE ON THE WEB!!!
SEE US
www.etowahcounty.org



FRIEND US ON FACEBOOK



FOLLOW US ON TWITTER!
[Twitter.com/etowahrsvp](https://twitter.com/etowahrsvp)



ADD US ON INSTAGRAM!
http://www.instagram.com/volunteers_of_etowah/

**Please Shop at these Local Businesses and Say
"Thank you" for Supporting RSVP!!!**

| | |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------|
| Absolute Respiratory | Life Insurance Co of AL |
| Advance Auto Parts | Mapco |
| Aveanna Home Healthcare | O'Reilly's Auto Parts |
| Aveanna Hospice | Perfect Pucker Lemonade |
| Barone's Pizza Buffet | Physician's Apothecary |
| Capeside Fish Company | Publix |
| City of Gadsden | Riverbend Family Dentistry |
| Cothran's Bakery | Salads 2 Go |
| Dusty Things Antiques | Silver Lakes Assisted Living |
| Exchange Bank | Ski World |
| Family Savings Credit Union | Smith and Bailey Dental |
| Fresh Value | Sutton Bridge Full Service |
| Home Instead | Top of the River |
| Jacks | Viva Health |
| Jefferson's | Winn Dixie |
| Keith's Auto Trim | WinSouth Credit Union |