



# Volunteer Impact Newsletter

March 2009



**RSVP of Madison County**  
 P.O. Box 1209, 100 Eaton Street, Morrisville, NY 13408  
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 Mary Bartlett, ext. #103      Eileen Augustyn, ext. #115  
 Director      Coordinator



## From our Director....

*Dear Volunteers and Volunteer Station leaders,*

I want to take this opportunity to say hello and introduce myself as the new Director of RSVP. I started February 2. My background in volunteerism is from Literacy Volunteers where I worked as a Program Director at the LVA National office and Director of Training for Literacy New York State since the year 2000. I also have worked in Madison County at BRIDGES managing programs and working in collaboration with some of our RSVP stations. I am thrilled to be a part of RSVP and to be back in Madison County full time.

I have to say I have 'hit the ground running' starting in February with our Corporation for National and Community Service grant report, Tax Counseling program and planning for the upcoming Annual Banquet to name just a few important aspects of RSVP. It's been a great way to get to know the overall program and what an active program it is!

I am amazed at the scope and number of stations and volunteers we have working in Madison County. In 2008, we had 1,117 total number of volunteers putting in 31,825 cumulative hours of service. As I write this, we have 58 stations and 342 active volunteers. I am awed by the commitment, talents and caring of you the volunteers and volunteer station leaders.

Your time, talent and service is needed in these tough times just as much as ever before. As President Obama reminded us in his Inaugural Address "... we have duties to ourselves, our nation, and the world, duties that we do not grudgingly accept but rather seize gladly." I have seen this dedication and commitment from RSVP since I began working in Madison County in 1982. I am honored to now be a part of this important work.

*Sincerely,  
 Mary Bartlett*

**RSVP Advisory Council Meeting** will be March 17, 2009 at 9:30 AM at CCE bldg.

RSVP Volunteers/ Hours Served !		
Month	Volunteers	Hours
September 2008	433	5479
October 2008	454	5938
November 2008	404	4349
December 2008	413	4681
January 2009	342	3442

*Welcome New Volunteers*

**RSVP is very happy to welcome 56 New Volunteers who have joined our ranks from August 2008 through February 2009.**  
**Thank you for your willingness to share your time and talents with others.**

- |                       |                   |                     |                   |
|-----------------------|-------------------|---------------------|-------------------|
| Suzanne Adams-LaLonde | Marianne Dygert   | Kathleen Izard      | Inez Relyea       |
| E. Ann. Beattie       | Nancy Edwards     | Claudia Jensen      | Elizabeth Sadlon  |
| Karen Beehm           | Janet Enders      | Janet Jones         | Bruce Selleck     |
| Robert Betz           | Frederick Farrar  | Jean Krause         | Donald Shephard   |
| George Brown          | Helen Fieser      | Elizabeth Luey      | Elizabeth Shupe   |
| Harry Brown           | Katherine Foster  | Charles W. Macaulay | Elizabeth Staring |
| Sylvia Brown          | Rose Fuller       | Adella McFadden     | Patricia Stedman  |
| Beverly Burleigh      | Norma Galbreath   | Sandra Merkle       | Gail Stockton     |
| Roger Carr            | Mary Anne Gardner | Virginia Noyes      | John Stockton     |
| Linda Chamberlain     | Frances Gargiulo  | Lynda Olmstead      | Joseph Thomas     |
| Frieda Curtis         | Cheryl Geiler     | Charles Page        | Lillian Townsend  |
| Judith Davenport      | Mildred Grossman  | Elinor Parker       | Ruth Urben        |
| Richard Davie         | Robert Haehl      | Joann Perkins       | Janet Weeks       |
|                       | Maxine Hunter     | Norene Prah         | Florence Williams |

## Free Income Tax Filing Assistance Available

For Madison County Residents aged 60+

RSVP Volunteers of Madison County are again providing free tax assistance for Madison County Seniors, 60 years and older, from February 2<sup>nd</sup> through April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2009. RSVP's certified Tax Counselors are available to assist seniors in preparing and submitting their Federal and NYS tax forms for the 2008 tax season. All eligible seniors are encouraged to take advantage of this free tax service. Please remember to bring proof of identity and social security cards, copy of last year's tax return, Star rebate information, copies of all W-2, 1098, 1099 forms and other income information, including, estimated tax payments. Also bring the amount of your **2008** Stimulus payment and real property tax figures. If you are requesting direct deposit, bring bank documents showing routing and account numbers.

There is a **Walk-In Site at the Oneida Library, Broad Street, Oneida, on Tuesdays from 9:30 to 11:30 AM.** All other sites are by appointment only and may be accessed at the numbers below:

Bridgeport Sullivan Library	633-2253
Brookfield SNACK site manager	899-3383
Canastota Public Library (Tax Counselor)	697-7098
Cazenovia Village Office & Caz Cares (RSVP Office)	684-3001
Chittenango-Town of Sullivan Pks & Rec Office	687-3471
DeRuyter Public Library (Librarian)	852-6262
Earlville Senior Center (Tax Counselor)	691-6515
Hamilton Public Library (Tax Counselor)	824-3361
Morrisville-RSVP Office	684-3001
Oneida Towers- office	363-8450

For more information call the RSVP office at (315) 684-3001.

**Donations to help support the Tax Assistance program are especially appreciated as RSVP did not receive TCE funding this year to support volunteer efforts.**

## Help Wanted

### Become a literacy volunteer tutor!

Madison County Reads Ahead tutors work one-on-one with adult students to improve reading and writing skills. Tutors serve Adult Basic, ESOL, and GED Prep learners. It's a very rewarding volunteer experience.

Tutor training is scheduled at: Sullivan Free (Chittenango) Public Library April 20, 27, 30 and May 4, 2009 from 6 to 9 PM, for more information call Morris Atwood at 761-2525 and say RSVP sent you.

### RSVP Needs Office Assistance!

Do you have experience working in an office? Want to help RSVP staff and volunteers?

#### Consider volunteering at the main RSVP office in Morrisville.

Some office tasks you could help with:

- Phone contacts with stations and volunteers
- Assist with mailings and surveys
- Computer data input

Hours flexible to fit your interests and schedule. Please give us a call at 684-3001 to learn more.

Ask for Mary Bartlett or Eileen Augustyn. We are hopeful you will 'RSVP'. ☺

### Hospice Volunteer Training in Oneida on 3/17/09

Volunteers play key roles throughout Hospice. Volunteers choose assignments that best suit their skills and interests and their available time. Some choose to work directly with patients and loved ones, while others support the work of Hospice indirectly because they value their mission. Volunteers often find that the emotional and spiritual rewards they receive far outweigh the efforts they contribute.

Hospice volunteer and author, Judith Viorst said "...being allowed to do the small things I do is an honor and a privilege, and no, not depressing." "I went to the hospice to give and I received." If you would like to learn more about Hospice or their upcoming training, contact Kate Doran, Volunteer Services Supervisor at 735-6487 ext 240 and say RSVP sent you.

## Bone Builders Program

There is a new addition to the Bone Builders exercise program. My name is Erica Ovitt and I am a senior at Morrisville State College. In May I will be graduating with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Human Performance and Health Promotion, and plan to continue my education in physical therapy. For my senior internship I have decided to come to encourage and support the leaders and members of the Bone Builders exercise groups throughout Madison County. If you have any words of advice or suggestions feel free to contact me by emailing me at e\_ovitt@yahoo.com.

### New Postal Regulations Taking Effect in 2009.

Please be sure to let us know if your mailing address has changed. Our local post office has told us that we must use either your **911 address** or a **P.O. Box**. You will want to be sure to use the correct method to receive **all** your mail by May 2009. Also, if you would like to receive our RSVP newsletter via email please send us your email address. *Thank You*

### Do Not Call List....

REMINDER... All cell phone numbers went public January 2009 & have been released to telemarketing companies and you may start to receive sale calls. **YOU WILL BE CHARGED FOR THESE CALLS.** To prevent this, call the following number from your cell phone: **888-382-1222**. It is the Attorney General National **DO NOT CALL** list. It will only take a minute of your time. It blocks your number for five years. You must call from the cell phone number you want to have blocked. You cannot call from a different phone number. **HELP OTHERS BY PASSING THIS ON TO ALL YOUR FRIENDS.** It takes about 20 seconds.

**Save The Date!  
Annual Volunteer  
Recognition Banquet Lunch  
May 20, 2009**

*RSVP always gratefully  
accepts donations.*