

# RSVP

## Lead With Experience

### of Madison County

# Volunteer Impact Newsletter

June 2010



### RSVP of Madison County

P.O. Box 1209, 100 Eaton Street, Morrisville, NY 13408

Phone: 315-684-3001

Mary Bartlett, ext. #103

Director

Fax: 315-684-9290

Eileen Augustyn, ext. #115

Coordinator

## Annual Volunteer Recognition Banquet – Shines a Light on Volunteering

On May 19<sup>th</sup> approximately 250 RSVP volunteers gathered at the Rusty Rail in Canastota for the traditional volunteer recognition banquet. Thanks to a generous donation from National Grid, we were able to give everyone who attended our volunteer recognition banquet a complimentary light bulb as a symbol of the shining work our volunteers accomplish each year.



*Hamilton SNACK Volunteer Olga North with Advisory Council Vice-Chair Barb Albrecht*

This year, festivities were led by EMCEE Matt Episcopo who kept the program moving along and left everyone with a smile. Also attending was Cheryl Hurd our representative from the Corporation for National and Community Service our Federal Funder. Awards were presented by our special guests New York State Senator David Valesky, Assemblyman William Magee and Madison County Board of Supervisors Chairman John Becker.

Eleven President's Volunteer Service Award winners for 2010 were presented. Grace Remis Jones and Barbara Schwitter received 'Lifetime Awards' for those who have logged over 4000 volunteer hours of service. Nine "Gold Awards" were presented for those serving over 500 hours in the past year. Recipients of Gold Awards included:

Yvonne Alexander, Mary Bavo, Leland Fanning, Gladys Romoli, Barbara Schwitter, Dorothy Stewart, Harold Chamberlain, Norma Fowler, and Harold Mellen.

This year's Program of Impact Award went to the nine food pantries in Madison County who use RSVP Volunteers. Ten Volunteers age 90 and over attended our dinner and received corsages and gift bags as members of our '90's Club' and honored guests.

Thanks goes out to National Grid, Price Chopper, Nice 'N Easy Grocery Shoppe, Holly's Garden, Morrisville State College, the Rusty Rail Staff, and Madison County Sheriff's Department for donations and support.

This year the door prizes were really terrific! The RSVP Advisory Council members came through as usual bringing beautiful hanging plants, gift certificates and baskets. Also this year door prizes were donated by non-profits having displays at the dinner. Thanks to Cornell Cooperative Extension Madison County 4-H, Head Start, Madison Bounty, Crouse Community Center, Cazenovia Senior Services, Office for the Aging, Community Action Partnership, Chittenango Landing Canal Boat Museum, PAC 99, Madison County READS Ahead, and BRIDGES for having displays and bringing prizes.



*Cheryl Hurd from the Corporation for National & Community Service talks with Christine Crandall, RSVP Marketing Rep with RSVP Volunteer Millie Kent*



*Walta Bush accepts '90's Club' gift recognition gift from Advisory Council member Barb Church*



*Food Pantry Representatives receive Program of Impact Award L-R Captain Susan Ramsey-Salvation Army, GiGi Redmond-CazCares Barbara Switter-Sullivan Food Pantry, Marcia Parker-Earville Food Cupboard, Joyce Sinesi-DeRuyter Food Pantry, Pat Caron-The Opportunity Shop, Terri Jones-Community Action Partnership*

## LTC OMBUDSMAN CORNER

We are very pleased to welcome Elaine Connelly to our Ombudsman team. Elaine recently completed the New York State 36-hour Certification training course to become a Long Term Care Ombudsman for Madison County. She received her training at the American Red Cross in Utica. She will join our other caring and capable advocates who help residents at all long term care facilities in our county.

If you would like to learn more about this advocacy program or need assistance from one of our long term care residents' advocates, please call RSVP.



*In this photo: Elaine Connelly, second from the right, is congratulated for completing the NY State Ombudsman Certification training by (from left) Jeff Parker, Oneida & Herkimer Co. Ombudsman Coordinator; Eileen Augustyn, Madison County Ombudsman Coordinator; and Gregory Novack, Assistant State Ombudsman.*

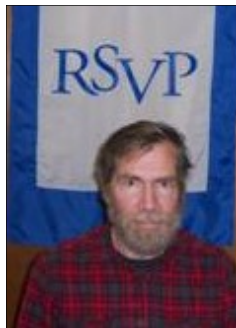
**We want to thank all the RSVP Volunteers for the great work you do and say how truly lucky we are here in Madison County to have such great community support!!**

**Thank You RSVP Volunteers!!**

You have contributed 10,576 hours from March to May 2010!!

## RSVP Volunteer Profile

*By Charlie Page,  
RSVP Volunteer  
Community Action  
Partnership Food  
Pantry*



I have lived in Morrisville since 1970. I was employed as a Group Leader at Bristol Myers Squibb in Syracuse in the Chemical Quality Control for 36 years. I have since retired.

I started volunteering for the Food Pantry in Morrisville two years ago because there was a need. Since I was available at the time, and I wanted to make a difference, I began volunteering after I was trained on the job. My job at the food pantry is to give out food to families in need and keep track of the paperwork. These families have been registered at The Community Action Program in Morrisville to enable them to use the food pantry.

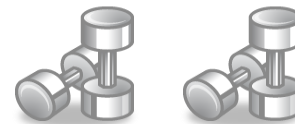
I have been on The Board of Trustees for The Chenango Canal Association for about one and a half years. I joined the board because I wanted to help open up the seven and a half mile walking trail. I also help to maintain this trail.

I recently worked on The Safe Pill Drop Off campaign held at the Madison County Landfill on Buyea Rd. in Wampsville on April 24. This was the second year it was held and we collected 380 pounds of medications for disposal... that's three times as many pounds as last year and 2.3 tons of paper to be shredded. This program will be offered again on September 25, 2010.

A few of the reasons I started volunteering is because I enjoy meeting new people and making a difference in my community. I believe the most rewarding aspect of volunteering is the community involvement the feeling you are helping to make your community a better place to live in. My advice to anyone thinking about becoming a volunteer would be to want to help people and want to be involved with their community at the same time.

Many thanks to the Central New York Community Foundation for a grant to sponsor the RSVP Volunteer Profiles.

## Bone Builders Buzz



**Many Thanks** exercise leaders for helping spread the word about the Safe Pill Drop Off (see the results in the Safe Pill article in this newsletter) and for all that you do to keep your exercise group going and growing ☺.

Bone Builders check out this site: **StrongWomen.com** - Your Virtual Trainer with Dr. Miriam Nelson.

Also, take a minute to Google the **CDC** (Center for Disease Control) website and check out their Physical Activity Guidelines & Bone Health sections = some good info that relates to our exercise efforts.

### Some Bone Builders notes:

- The DeRuyter group got restarted with a bang and is now meeting at the American Legion Hall on Tuesdays at 10 AM.
- The recently started Oneida Towers group is meeting at 10 AM on Tuesdays. They have openings for more participants.
- The popular Chittenango group continues to have a waiting list. Chittenango area residents can inquire about openings at the Bridgeport group which meets at 10:15 AM Thursdays at Bridgeport Methodist Church.
- The Brookfield group welcomes new participants and is searching for an additional helper for the group.

## Did You Get Your Taxes Done by RSVP??

If so, your were one of 800 people helped filed by our Volunteer Tax Counselors this season!

Over \$460,000 was refunded to Madison County seniors. KUDOS to our Tax Counselors for a job well-done. Our thirteen volunteer tax counselors logged over 900 hours this year.

## Featured Program...

### Madison County's Safe Pill Collection on April 24 was an overwhelming success

*Submitted by Sharon A. Driscoll, Recycling Coordinator Madison County Landfill*

Last September, county officials were pleased when 140 pounds of old and unused medication was collected during the first Safe Pill Collection; however, this year's tally of 380 pounds of medication more than surpassed everyone's expectations.

The increased numbers at this year's Safe Pill Collection may be in part due to a myriad of articles relating to the environmental problems caused by flushing old and unused medications.

"Those attending the April 24 event expressed gratitude to the County for affording them a safe means of disposal for unwanted and outdated medication," said Recycling Coordinator Sharon A. Driscoll.

The Madison County Landfill on Buyea Rd. was the site of the Safe Pill Collection, where approximately 120 families dropped off an estimated 380 pounds of pills for disposal.

"We received more than 3,026 prescriptions and over-the-counter medications and 188 controlled substances," said Solid Waste Director James A. Zecca. "These medications arrived in containers, packets, bottles and loose. An individual count of pills was not conducted, but containers ranged from only a few pills to full containers of 50 pills."

According to Zecca, RSVP Director Mary Bartlett did a fantastic job of marshaling volunteers to assist with the all aspects of the Safe Pill Collection.



"Last year, we did not have RSVP volunteers," Zecca said. "However, due to the additional participation at this year's event, we were glad to have RSVP assisting the Solid Waste Staff."

Madison County Sheriff's Office Deputy Josh Paul stood guard during the entire event, taking possession of the medications at the end of the day. Paul and STOP DWI Coordinator Stephen Goodfriend transported the cargo to the Oswego County Waste-to-Energy Facility in Fulton, which, according to the state Department of Environmental Conservation, is the best possible way to dispose of old medications.

Organizers were very pleased with the response from the Madison County community. Residents from across the county, representing 13 different zip codes, participated in the drop-off event, bringing their old and unused prescription medications, vitamins and over-the-counter medications by the bagful for disposal.

Organizers for the Safe Pill Collection decided to combine two events into one day, holding the free shredding event on April 24, also. The county collected 2.3 tons of paper.

The next Safe Pill Collection will be on Saturday, September 25 at the Buyea Rd. Landfill site, which is exactly three miles south from the traffic light on Rte 5 in Wampsville. Once again, we hope to combine this with our ever popular Free Shredding of confidential papers event, said Driscoll.

Organizers of the event were the Madison County's Promise Drug Free Task Force, RSVP, STOP-DWI, Bridges and the Madison County Department of Solid Waste and Sanitation.

## Like young people?? Have a little spare time??

**Community Action Partnership's** Youth Mentoring Program needs help with some upcoming programs. This is a short-term volunteer opportunity.

**Summer Picnic:** Mentoring Summer Picnic in Chittenango at Sullivan Park June 18<sup>th</sup> from 5-7:30pm We are looking for volunteers to face paint and help out at the picnic.

**Madison County Fair:** Make & Take Crafts and Games  
Saturday July 10<sup>th</sup> 10am-4pm Two hour shifts available to help out with crafts and games.

**Girls Night Out:** September 2<sup>nd</sup> 5:30-8:00pm Location to be announced. We are looking for volunteers to do nails, style hair or any other pampering for our young girls.

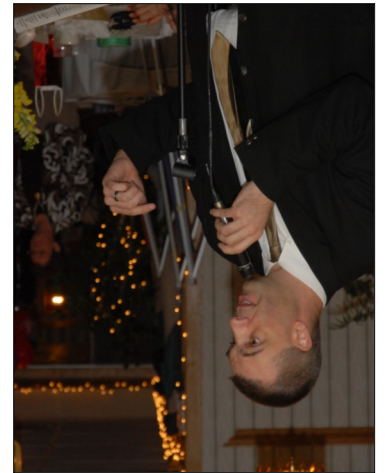
If you are interested in helping, please contact Joanne Morak at Community Action Partnership's Youth Mentoring Program, 697-3588 Ext. 11.



Fred Bailey  
Mary Bartlett  
Sharon Bodley  
Bonnie Bradstreet  
Sandra Christman  
Barbara Clark  
Jeanette Commisso  
Margaret Currier  
Mary David  
Sheila Dresser  
Pam Ellis  
Diane Finch  
Susan Gerling  
Harold Gestwick  
Joanne Gestwick  
Alan Glos  
Judith Goodfriend  
Steve Goodfriend  
Charles Hall

William Hall  
Jeannette Johnson  
Marie Knapp  
Thomas Lynch  
Linda Maynard  
Mary McCormick  
Marguerite Montross  
Diane Needham  
Sylvia Perrone  
Gerri Reed  
Dennis Sands  
Erwin Smith  
Sharon Stauty  
David Stevens  
Pamela Stratton  
Donna Tanney  
Evanell Thompson  
Elizabeth Warren  
Lou Anne Waterbury

**Annual Volunteer Recognition Banquet – Shines a Light on Volunteering**



*Master of Ceremonies Matt Episcopo kept the night rolling along!*



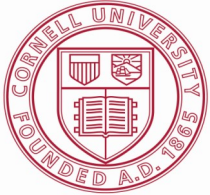
*Assemblyman Bill Magee & RSVP Director Mary Bartlett present the Program of Impact Award to Joyce Sines of DeRuyter Food Cupboard*



*RSVP Volunteer Gladys Komoli accepts President's Gold Award from*



**RSVP of Madison County** is part of the Senior Service Corps within the Corporation for National and Community Service, the federal domestic volunteer agency and is sponsored by Cornell Cooperative Extension of Madison County. Also supported by: NYSOFA, the United Way of Greater Oneida, and the Community Chests of Canastota, Hamilton, Town of Sullivan, and the United Community Chest of the Towns of Cazenovia, Fenner, & Nelson, The Central NY Community Foundation and other contributors.



**Cornell University**  
Cooperative Extension  
Madison County

**RSVP**

**Lead With Experience**

P.O. Box 1209, 100 Eaton Street  
Morrisville, NY 13408

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