



Making a Difference

July-Sept., 2010

Vol. VIII Issue 3

Retired & Senior Volunteer Program of Etowah & Cherokee Counties
800 Forrest Avenue, Room 219, Gadsden, AL 35901 (256) 549-8147

In The News:

Results of Tax Season

SOD quarterly workshop

"If you think you are too small to be effective, you have never been in bed with a mosquito"
~ Betty Reese

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Director's Corner

As soon as Spring got here it left & now Summer has come roaring in!

As hot as it is, there is always something happening, in both Etowah and Cherokee Counties. It's easy to get involved in *something*.

With that thought in mind, I would like to go over a few of our ground rules, maybe to clear up some misconceptions.

News

Tax Season has come and gone once again, and all of the volunteers involved in the RSVP Free Tax Program are taking some well deserved vacations! This season they completed 1,158 returns, which resulted in \$897,041.00 in refunds to our clients! Since this is a free service, all of that money goes directly

The *mission* of RSVP is to help people age 55 & over find volunteer opportunities in their home communities. We want to match you with an opportunity that you will enjoy doing. The *goal* of RSVP is to document what, where, when, why & how often you volunteer. Even if you do something that is not affiliated with one of our Volunteer Stations, we still want to know about it so that

into their pockets. Remember to tell all of your friends, neighbors and co-workers about this valuable service. Also, we are beginning to get ready for next year, so let us know if you would like to volunteer with this program! Our most recent quarterly meeting was educational and fun! Teresa & Gary from



we can tell our City, County, State & Federal governments what seniors are accomplishing right here! Everyone knows that you have the experience & knowledge to get things done, RSVP wants to document & monetize your efforts so people can appreciate exactly how much you achieve. So, let us know about EVERYTHING that you are doing!

Absolute Fitness talked to our group about the importance of physical fitness, especially as we age. Exercise doesn't have to be hard or time consuming, and the benefits you reap from activity help to keep you strong, healthy and living! Absolute Fitness, like most fitness centers in our area, has an active seniors program that offers a good variety of services and instructors.



STATISTICS

*New volunteers this
Quarter - 10
Resigned volunteers
This quarter -16*

*Total volunteers –
454*

*Hours produced –
19,358*

*Value of hours –
\$145,185.00*

*“Those who bring
sunshine to the lives of
others cannot keep it from
themselves” –
James Matthew Barrie*

Success Story

Well what did you think of our Volunteer Recognition Luncheon? I don't like to brag (yes I do!) but everything turned out beautifully! The RSVP staff and advisory board did a wonderful job of coordinating this event. Faye Russell, our Volunteer Coordinator & Van Driver, made all the decorations (did you see the big soup can?),

Donna Patterson, our Administrative Secretary, garnered tons of door prizes, our Advisory Board members set everything up and helped with all of the details that go along with any event, and our entertainment was terrific! Jan Kelley wrote a fantastic script, using our theme of 'RSVP Volunteers are Mm,

Mm Good'. She has a way with words that few people have mastered. Our volunteer performers also put their true selves into their roles – A.C. Boyd, Joyce Hilburn, Millie Cartrett, Gerrie Parker & Beverly Keel. Judy Clough is an amazing performer & a true Queen! And don't forget Morgan House catering for our wonderful meal & Job Corps for serving us!

Volunteer Opportunities

- Habitat for Humanity – volunteers are needed Wednesdays & Saturdays. Come share your time & talents, & make new friends. Lots of “Grey Tigers” are out there having fun together! Call 256-543-1898 or email gehabitat@comcast.net for volunteer forms.
- Head Start – volunteers are needed at the main Head Start campus to help monitor visitors. All visitors need to be signed in & out and issued a name tag while they are in the building.
- Extended Family – volunteers are needed to crochet or knit comfort covers for children who complete the Extended Family for Kids course. These children often have to travel long distances to visit relatives who are in prison, & their own personal blanket is very special to them!
- Did you volunteer at Riverfest? Let us know if you did!
- For more information on these and other volunteer opportunities, call RSVP at (256)549-8147.

Volunteer Recognition

Ms. Elsie Watters has been a faithful RSVP volunteer since 2005, volunteering wherever she is needed at places such as the American Red Cross, the RSVP Advisory Council, Juvenile Probation and Etowah County Community Services. In June Ms. Watters won the Jeff Smith Distinguished Service

Award from the Etowah County Chapter of the American Red Cross. According to the award presentation, “Ms. Elsie's bright smile and affectionate greetings are well-known at the office and by many clients.” Ms. Watters has had some bad health issues recently, but she is always in our thoughts and prayers.

The winner of our on time – time sheet drawing is Ms. Ruth Mims, who volunteers with the RSVP Tele-Chek Program and DHR. Ms. Mims has volunteered with RSVP since 2005 & has 1440 hours on record. Congratulations Ms. Mims!



Upcoming Events

- **July 4** - Independence Day. Most government offices will be closed Monday, June 5th.
- **July – September** – Courtyard Concerts are back at the Hardin Center courtyard every Friday & Saturday night this summer. Call 256-543-2787 for more information.
- **September 6** – Labor Day. Etowah County Courthouse closed.
- **September 23** – Walnut Grove Health Fair, from 8 – 11.
- **August 1** – The Gadsden Art Association juried show will be at the Gadsden Museum of Art from Aug. 1st through Sept. 11th.
- **3rd Wednesdays** – senior citizens meetings at the Northeast Etowah Community Center. Lots of fun & good food! Call 256-543-3550 for more information.

Summer Sudoku

Fill in the pictures in the grid, so that every row, column & section contains only one of each picture.

TIDBITS

- ❖ Rx Help is open on Wednesdays and Thursdays from 1 – 4 and can help anyone (not just senior citizens) having trouble with their prescription medicine expenses. Call 549-8147 for an appointment.
- ❖ American Red Cross offices in Gadsden and Centre are offering many classes for volunteers, from CPR to babysitting. Call 927-3797 or 547-8667 for more information.
- ❖ Volunteers are also needed with our Free Tax Assistance Program. If you or anyone you know is interested in this opportunity, please tell us. Because this is an IRS program, volunteers do not have to be 55 or older, they can be any age.
- ❖ If you would like to help with the Gulf Coast oil spill, call 211/First Call for Help. First Call for Help is the primary source for information and referral in Alabama. You can simply dial 211 from any phone to get information and updates, or sign up to volunteer.



Summer Fun Sudoku

Fill in the pictures below, so that every row, column and section contains only one of each.

?	Kite	Sailboat	?	?	Campfire
Sailboat	Ice cream	?	Campfire	Sun	?
Sunglasses	?	Sun	Kite	?	Ice cream
Kite	Sun	Campfire	Sunglasses	?	?
Ice cream	?	?	Sailboat	Campfire	Sun
?	Sailboat	Ice cream	?	Kite	Sunglasses

RSVP Staff

Director – Traci Pondick
 Van Driver/Volunteer
 Coordinator – Faye Russell
 Secretary/Bookkeeper –
 Donna Patterson



*Be not concerned, nor be
 surprised
 if what you do is
 criticized.*

*There are always folks
 who usually can
 find some fault with every
 plan.*

*Mistakes are made, we
 can't deny
 but only made by folks
 who try.*

RSVP Advisory Board

<i>Chairperson</i> – Pat Hill	Thelma Edgar	Joe Neal
<i>Vice Chairperson</i> – Joyce Cox	Juanita Elrod	Wanda Neal
<i>Treasurer</i> – Jane Brittain	Perry Gwin	Sharon Simmons
<i>Secretary</i> – Millie Cartrett	Joyce Farrell	Elsie Watters
	Deborah Henderson	Ila Mae Wright
	Jerre McNeal	CiCi Whiteside

Local Merchants who Support RSVP

*Visit these local
 merchants and say
 “Thank you for
 supporting RSVP”!*

Absolute Fitness	Exchange Bank	Lawley Drugs	Rep. Craig Ford
Academy Sports	Flipside Grill	Merle Norman	Samson & Delilah
Applebee's	Gadsden Eye Assoc.	Observer Office	Sheriff Todd Entrekin
B&B Pawn	Gadsden Foot Clinic	Performance Chiropractic	Shoney's
Beauty Outlet	Gadsden Variety Store	Physician's Home Store	Sports Mania
Belk's	Gifts On Wings	Popeye's	Stevie B's Pizza
Beyond Beauty	Gold's Gym	Premiere Cinema	Superior Bank
Books a Million	Hick's Shoes	Professional Opticians	Sutton Bridge Exxon
Brown's Framing	Ideal Flowers	Pruett's BBQ	Things of Desire
Bubbles Car Wash	J Bradley & Brayden	Rainbow Auction	WGAD Radio Station
Chic-Fil-A	JC Penny Salon	Red Lobster	
Chili's	Joy's Flowers	Regions Bank	
Cothran's Bakery	Kyuka Water	Regis Hair Salon	

