

RSVP Newsletter

Serving Benton, Boone, Carroll, Crawford, Madison, Marion, Sebastian and Washington counties.

July 2016
Volume 17, Issue 1



First Thursday Open House Recruitment

WestArk RSVP will be hosting Open Houses the First Thursday of the month at the RSVP Center in Fort Smith and the RSVP Office in Rogers beginning July 7th . Active adults, 55 years of age or older may drop by between 9 a.m. and Noon and discover a volunteer need they can fill.

- Information on volunteer jobs with over 50 local community non-profits will be available.
- Talk to RSVP members and volunteer coordinators about opportunities to give back to your community.
- Learn about the benefits of RSVP membership.

You can make a difference in our community with your volunteer service! This newsletter is full of volunteer jobs from community organizations who need some help. If you currently volunteer, you might want to extend yourself to another organization or encourage a friend or relative to join you in volunteering. Attend the July 7th Open House or contact a RSVP staff member about the jobs listed in this newsletter.

Open Houses are scheduled for July 7th, August 4th, and October 6th from 9 a.m.—Noon. All day Open Houses will be held September 8th at both RSVP locations and plans are in the works for a recruitment event in Washington County on the same day.

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Special points of interest

- How do you like our new logo (see above)?
- Open House July 7th to recruit volunteers.
- Check out our new website at www.westarkrsvp.org

Volunteers are Needed to Fill These Jobs—

Sebastian County – Fort Smith

Fort Smith Activity Center and Beckman Senior Activity Center –

Homebound Senior Meal Delivery: Delivering meals is a simple and rewarding way to help seniors and people with disabilities in need of hot meals and a daily visit from a friendly face! Volunteers bring a prepared and nutritious meal to each recipient's door. Part of the fun of delivering is visiting with recipients, but it is important to keep visits brief enough for you to complete your route on time. Delivering meals is also a great social activity – you can do it with a friend or spouse. Volunteers use their own vehicle. Meal preparers and Ride Along Partners are also needed! Volunteer hours at Fort Smith Activity Center Monday – Friday 9:45 AM – 12 Noon. Volunteer hours at Beckman Senior Activity Center Monday – Friday 8:00 AM – 2:00 PM.

They love having volunteers and can use your help in our facility as a senior-friend, activity helper, BINGO caller, etc. A patient heart and smiling face is all you need to start! Choose your schedule; we welcome daily, weekly and monthly volunteers, as well as special one-time visits. Assistance is needed Monday through Friday any time between 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM.

Volunteer Hairdressers are also needed to provide salon services to clients one morning a week (preferably on Friday, but time and day is flexible) for mostly women and a few men. The volunteer must provide their own supplies. Put your talents to work in making someone feel beautiful.

Don W. Reynolds Cancer Support House

Support House Volunteer is needed to give their time, energy and talents each week to greet, register, call and encourage patients. Others clean, straighten, organize, file and provide other ser-

Contact B.J. Cobb at Fort Smith RSVP Center at (479) 783-4155 for further information about these volunteer opportunities.

Center Volunteers are needed to assist with setting up for special events, helping with mailings, assist with daily meal service and other activities as they become available. Assistance is needed Monday through Friday from 8:00 AM to 2:00 PM. If you could help out a couple of days a week or every day during the week, any assistance will be greatly appreciated. Fort Smith Activity Center is located on the Southside of Fort Smith and Beckman Senior Activity Center is located on the Northside of Fort Smith.

Fountain of Youth Adult Day Care

Client Care Aide: Volunteers are needed to assist with activities, games and help out at meal time.

vices that keep the House running. Volunteers are needed Monday – Thursday 9:00 AM - 12:00 noon or 1:00 PM – 4:00 PM.

Fort Smith National Historic Site

Front Desk Assistant/Greeter: This is the first and often only personal contact a visitor has in the park. The volunteer in this position will meet and greet visitors coming into the Visitor Center, accept fees and orient public to site attractions, sell items for the Eastern National Bookstore and assist with other front desk associated work. A Volunteer is needed Monday, Thursday & Friday 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM (Hours can be less depending on person's schedule). A park uniform will be provided.

Volunteers are Needed to Fill These Jobs—

Washington County - Farmington

Volunteer Coordinator: This person would be responsible for assisting new volunteers in the required paperwork for their agency, training new volunteers, organizing their work schedules and documenting volunteer hours. Also Volunteers are needed to assist with fundraising projects for the center as well. Center hours are Monday thru Friday 8:30 am to 4:00 pm.

Washington County – Fayetteville

7 Hill Homeless Center is a hub of services for homeless and impoverished individuals and families in Northwest Arkansas. They rely on the generosity of the community in NWA to meet the growing needs of the homeless and impoverished in the region. Several Volunteer opportunities are available.

Food Pantry Assistants build bags of food to be distributed to clients during food pantry hours of operations. Volunteers are needed Monday – Friday 9:00 am – 11:00 am and 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm.

based upon available appointment with Gift-In-Kind Project House.

Handyman Service Volunteers provide needed maintenance and light repairs as services or as they are reported at our Walker Family Transitional Living Facility. Light repairs may include repairing leaky toilets, installing equipment, tackling basic plumbing issues, etc... Volunteers are needed on a varying basis, but would prefer a scheduled volunteer at least once per week. Schedules are flexible and can be coordinated with the Volunteer Coordinator

Meal Servers help prepare, serve and clean up after daily kitchen meals. Breakfast is served Monday – Friday 8:00 am – 10:00 am and Snack Times is Monday – Thursday 2:00 pm – 4:00 pm.

Ozark Literacy Council

Tutors: Help English-speaking and non-English-speaking adults, 18 years of age or older, learn to speak, understand, read, and write English to meet self-identified goals. Tutor and student set own sessions during office business hours: Monday thru Thursday 8:00 am – 8:00 pm and Friday 8:00 – 1:00 pm. Addition times are available at the Springdale Public Library to meet with students, as well. Ozark Literacy Council prefers to

Contact Karen or Steve Tyler at the Rogers RSVP Office at (479) 636-0578 for further information about these volunteer opportunities.

Clothing Room Attendants assist the clients in selecting and bagging clothes, sorting through donations and stocking the clothing room. Volunteers are needed Monday/Wednesday/Friday 9:00 am – 11:00 am and/or Tuesday/Thursday 1:00 PM – 3:00 pm.

Gift-In-Kind Shopper, a team of two(2) people drive to the United Way of Northwest Arkansas warehouse, select and pickup in-kind merchandise according to posted rules and “shopping list”, sack and deliver items to the Day Center to be distributed to 7 Hill clients. The schedule for the Gift-in-Kind Shopper teams varies

have at least 1.5 hours scheduled per week. Training sessions for volunteer tutors is provided the last Wednesday of each month.

Washington County – Springdale

Springdale Senior Center

Homebound senior Meal Delivery: Delivering meals is a simple and rewarding way to help seniors and people with disabilities in need of hot

Encourage Your Friends and Family to Volunteer!

Washington County – Springdale continued

meals and a daily visit from a friendly face! Volunteers bring a prepared and nutritious meal to each recipient's door. Part of the fun of delivering is visiting with recipients, but it is important to keep visits brief enough for you to complete your route on time. Delivering meals is also a great social activity – you can do it with a friend or spouse. Volunteers use their own vehicle. Meals preparers and Ride Along Partners are also needed! Volunteer hours are flexible and volunteers are needed Monday – Friday 8:00 am – 4:30 pm.

Schmieding Center for Senior Health & Education: The Schmieding Center's mission is to improve quality of life for adults in the second half of life with the provision of personalized programs of education, services and healthcare for all stages of aging.

Center Volunteer is needed anytime between 8:00 am – 5:00 pm in the front office area to act as greeters, help with director and answer question. Also volunteer are needed to answer phones many days during 11:00 am – 1:00 pm and Special Event volunteers are needed for our special events to help with set up.

Benton County – Bella Vista

Village House Adult Day Center- Village House is a non-profit program providing social, recreational, educational, and care giving opportunities for participants who may no longer feel comfortable staying at home by themselves. Our goal is to maintain quality of life for the clients and the caregivers.



Client Care Aide: Volunteers are needed to assist with activities, games and help out at meal time. They love having volunteers and can use your help in our facility as a senior-friend, activity helper, BINGO caller, etc. A patient heart and smiling face is all you need to start! Choose your schedule; we welcome daily, weekly and monthly volunteers, as well as special one-time visits. Assistance is needed Monday through Friday any time between 8:00 am – 5:00 pm.

Schmieding Center for Senior Health & Education: The Schmieding Center's mission is to improve quality of life for adults in the second half of life with the provision of personalized programs of education, services and healthcare for all stages of aging.

Center Volunteers: Assist patrons with senior resource information, give directions within the building, manning the front desk, assist with fundraisers (Senior Expo & Senior Health Fair), prepare program packets and assist staff member with various other projects. Volunteer Hours in the Health Resource Center are 9:00 am to 12:00 pm and 12:00 pm to 3:00 pm. They currently need a volunteer for Tuesday morning and Thursday mornings. Contact Karen at RSVP, 479-636-0578, for further information.

Madison County – Huntsville

Madison County Senior Activity & Wellness Center & Meals on Wheels Thrift Store

Center Volunteer are needed to assist with setting up for special events, assist with daily meal service, cleaning, selling ticket, selling items at the Thrift Store and other activities as they become available. Hours for volunteer's position are flexible Monday through Friday 8:00 am to 4:00 pm. This Thrift Store could use volunteers on Saturday also.

Volunteers are Needed to Fill These Jobs—

Carroll County – Berryville

Loaves & Fishes

Food Pantry Volunteers: Loaves & Fishes provides Carroll County families access to federal Emergency Food Assistance Program. There is no paid staff – they are 100% volunteer organization. Volunteers are needed to help clean, paint the building to refresh the old appearance assist in fundraising efforts and to assist in food drives for specific items. Hours of operation for Loaves & Fishes are: Monday, Wednesday & Friday 10:00 am to 12:00 pm and Tuesday 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm.

Boone County – Harrison

Boone County Senior Activity & Wellness Center

Center Volunteers are needed as kitchen helpers, help with light cleaning, assist with special events, assist with daily meal service, and other activities as they become available. The center also has a garden and could use assistance with it. Gardening day is usually on Wednesday at 12:30 pm but help would be appreciated any time. Assistance is needed Monday through Friday from 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM. If you could help out a couple of hours a day or every day during the week, any assistance will be greatly appreciated.

ers and Ride Along Partners are also needed! Volunteers are needed Monday thru Friday 10:30 am – 12:00 pm.

Boone County Adult Day Center

Center Activity Volunteers are needed to assist with activities like dominos, checkers puzzles and other games and help out with arts & crafts. They love having volunteers and can use your help in our facility as a senior-friend, activity helper, BINGO caller, etc. A patient heart and smiling face is all you need to start! Choose your schedule; we welcome daily, weekly and monthly volunteers, as well as special one-time visits. Times when volunteers are most needed is between 9:00 am – 3:00 pm.

Marion County—Flippen

Marion County Senior Activity Center

Center Volunteer are needed as kitchen helpers, help with light cleaning, assist with special events, assist with daily meal service, and other activities as they become available. Assistance is needed Monday through Friday from 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM. If you could help out a couple of hours a day or every day during the week, any assistance will be greatly appreciated.

Contact Karen or Steve Tyler at the Rogers RSVP Office at (479) 636-0578 for further information about these volunteer opportunities.

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It has been a very busy year for WestArk RSVP. We just completed our first year with eight counties and five employees. It has been exciting adding new members and partners. I am glad that once again there will be RSVP members volunteering in Boone and Marion counties and thankful that RSVP members will continue to serve in Washington County.

We added a third tax site in Siloam Springs (thanks to Kathy Patterson and all the folks at the Siloam Springs Senior Activity Center). Our tax program in Rogers again doubled their productivity and the tax program in Fort Smith extended their record of yearly growth for the tenth year. Preparing 14% of the free tax returns prepared in Arkansas just shows you the amazing work of our tax volunteers and their fearless leader, Trish Walker.

I'm often asked how does partnering with RSVP aid local non-profit agencies. In addition to providing volunteer insurance for all our members and recognition events, RSVP can be a big help in recruiting volunteers. We work with our partners to aid them in creating effective volunteer job description and we host recruitment events (see front page). We also list available volunteer positions on our website and nationally on the AllForGood website. But our best recruitment tool is our current members who encourage friends, family and neighbors to join them in volunteering.

We recently updated our website www.WestArkRSVP.org. Please give it a look ,it contains useful information.

June 1st, I started what will be my 17th year as the director of WestArk RSVP. Everything has changed with the RSVP program since June 2000 except the willingness of our members to volunteer! I am constantly amazed at the generosity of spirit and the commitment to service exhibited by our volunteers.



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WestArk RSVP is a program of the Western Arkansas Counseling & Guidance Center, Inc. and receives funding from the Corporation for National and Community Service.

Tax Program Surpasses All Goals

80 tax volunteers served **12,613 hours**.

4,002 Federal income tax returns prepared and electronically filed. 4,096 State Income tax returns prepared and electronically filed. Given credit by the IRS for 460 on-line returns which were self prepared.

Accuracy rate was 99.6%.

VITA (*Volunteer Income Tax Assistance for families with incomes of less than \$54,000*) grant from the IRS for \$48,539 for 3,024 returns: we accomplished **3,249** returns.

TCE (*Tax Counseling for the Elderly for individuals 60 years of age or older*) grant from the IRS for \$18,500 for 1,127 returns: we accomplished **1,213** returns.

CDBG Grant from the City of Fort Smith for tax assistance \$6,000.

Total refunds: \$4,541,162. This is the first year we exceed \$4.5 million.

Earned Income Tax Credit: \$1,603,637.

Average Adjusted Gross Income for VITA: \$19,405, for TCE: \$24,600.

Prepared **14%** of the VITA/TCE tax returns in the State of Arkansas.

Tax volunteers will continue to provide free tax assistance on Wednesday mornings through September 21st, 2016 at both RSVP locations.



Expect a Call from Karen, Steve or B.J.

An RSVP staff member will be contacting you by telephone to update information originally provided on your enrollment form. RSVP is funded through a federal grant which has numerous re-

porting requirements. Many of our members are dropping their home phone lines and going to cell phones. Beside the basic review of your contact information i.e. phone numbers, mailing and email address, we will be asking:

- *Are you a veteran?*
- *Do you drive to your volunteer assignment?*
- *Are you still volunteering at these locations?*

None of the questions will be open ended, you will be asked to verify or update the information we already have on file for each RSVP member. This type of telephone calling will only happen once every three years—we promise!



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*A program of Western Arkansas
Counseling & Guidance Center, Inc.*