

Choices

VOLUME 2, ISSUE 2

OCTOBER 2009

**Retired and Senior Volunteer Program
Serving Crawford, Marion, and Morrow Counties**

FROM THE DIRECTOR'S CHAIR

Director

Bonnie Howard

740-387-1039 x 119

877-241-3427 x 119

bonnie.2777@ohcac.org

Inside This Issue

Volunteer Spotlight 2

Volunteer Opportunities 3

Frequently Asked Questions 3

RSVP Benefit 4

Summer has somehow managed to fly by again! I hope all of you have enjoyed the past few months and continue to live every day to the fullest. As we enter into the beautiful fall season, we realize that every season brings something to appreciate.

This fall, our RSVP office wants to place special emphasis on our veterans and their stories. In October 2000, the U.S. Congress created the Veterans History Project at the Library of Congress, which collects and preserves per-

sonal stories and other documents from America's war veterans, as well as those American civilians who served in support of them.

RSVP would like to honor our local American war veterans and civilian workers who supported them by preserving stories of their service to our country. If you are a veteran or know of a veteran who would like to share a story, please contact me at one of the phone numbers listed at the left and we'll get started!

By helping to record the stories of our veterans and those who supported them, we hope to do our part to inspire future generations to find their own way to serve and volunteer.



GOLDEN BUCKEYE CARD PROJECT

The State of Ohio approached our RSVP program to assist them in a project. We have agreed to call all businesses in our three counties that honor the Golden Buckeye Card and update their contact and discount data.

Once this is done, all the updated information will be entered into a computer database. Additionally, the new program will allow Golden Buckeye Card members to access a website that will feature businesses and what they offer

to seniors. At this time, volunteers have completed contacting businesses in Crawford County and are awaiting the list for Marion and Morrow Counties. This state-wide project is expected to be completed by the end of 2009.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Marion County offers many services to the community that rely heavily on volunteers to provide those much needed services. CONTACT Care Line is one of them. Originally, it was a grass-roots ministry in empathetic listening and crisis intervention through the Methodist Church. Initiated in 1976, it is now affiliated with CONTACT USA. It is a confidential, emotionally supportive, non-judgmental, crisis intervention, empathetic listening, informational and referral line to Marion residents. This 24-hour, 365 day free of charge service is for anyone who needs

a listening ear and help through information and referrals by thoroughly trained volunteers. All volunteers are enrolled in extensive training. Volunteer schedules are flexible with an average of 4 to 8 hours a month. Volunteers do not act as counselors. They are skilled listeners providing support and encouragement while callers utilize their own problem-solving abilities. Should callers ask for referrals, volunteers provide information to these resources. CONTACT Care Line receives an average of 6,000 calls a year.

Volunteers are always welcome. Simply call CONTACT Care Line at 740-383-CARE(2273) to arrange to attend an orientation/information session. Linda Harris is the coordinator.

In Crawford County, volunteers can assist in providing similar services through CONTACT Crawford County. Call 419-562-9010 or 800-755-9010 for more information.

The HELPLINE is available in Morrow County. To speak with someone about volunteering, call 419-947-2520. For services, call 800-684-2324 or dial 211.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q. Where is the RSVP Office?

A. RSVP of Crawford, Marion and Morrow Counties has its office at 372 E. Center St. in Marion, Ohio. Since Marion is known for its one way streets, the office can be a little tricky to reach. The best bet is to travel west on Center St., which is also Rt. 309, as you enter Marion. The office is in the building of our sponsor, Ohio Heartland Community Action Commission. You will see it on your right as you pass Greenwood St. The large cream colored building has parking in the back.

Q. If someone I know wants to volunteer, what should I do?


A. Volunteering is a very individual, personal decision. If you know someone who would like to try volunteering, tell them about what you do and how rewarding it is. They may be interested in doing something similar or they may have other interests. If they think they would like to volunteer where you volunteer, talk with your volunteer supervisor to see how they can get involved. If they want to know about a variety of volunteer opportunities, so that they can choose their own, ask them to call the RSVP office.

Q. How often do you come to Crawford and Morrow Counties?

A. My goal is to visit each county a minimum of three times a month. This allows me to visit all three towns in Crawford County, as well as travel to New Washington periodically. I am still getting the word out about RSVP in Morrow County, so I may be there more often for a while, depending on the number of group presentations I do and meetings I attend.

As always, my main goal is to be available to assist volunteers and volunteer locations whenever needed!





RSVP
372 E. Center St.
P.O. Box 779
Marion, Ohio 43301-0779

**Retired and Senior Volunteer Program
Serving Crawford, Marion, and Morrow Counties**

Phone: 740-387-1039 Ext. 119
Fax: 740-387-8006
E-mail: bonnie.2777@ohcac.org

RSVP STRIVES TO:

- Develop a variety of community service opportunities for older people willing to share their experience, abilities and skills for the betterment of their community and themselves.
- Partner with agencies and organizations involved in the fields of aging and volunteerism.
- Support all agencies and organizations who utilize volunteers through assisting in any way to promote and connect volunteers where needed.
- Develop local support to supplement available Federal resources and ensure program expenditures are incurred effectively.

RSVP BENEFIT: ANNUAL RSVP VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION BANQUET

A few months ago, we held our annual RSVP Volunteer Recognition Banquet to say thank you to all those volunteers enrolled in RSVP. To be eligible to attend the banquet, a volunteer must be enrolled in RSVP and turning in volunteer hours on a regular basis to our office, using the RSVP time sheet. Some volunteer locations track their own volunteer hours, so this can be confusing. The important thing to keep in mind is that not all volunteers are enrolled in RSVP. It is an optional program that offers benefits to volunteers. So be sure that you are completing the RSVP time sheet each month.

Sign it, have your volunteer coordinator sign it and send it to the RSVP office. Some volunteer locations mail the time sheet for you or hand deliver it to our office. Sometimes the volunteer mails it or delivers it to our office. Please take the time to talk with your volunteer supervisor to see how it should be done. It is the **VOLUNTEER'S RESPONSIBILITY** to get the signed time sheets to RSVP. If RSVP does not receive a time sheet from you, we cannot prove that you are volunteering. This means that we can't invite you to the annual RSVP Volunteer

Recognition Banquet. We don't want anyone to miss out on an invitation to our banquet next year, so PLEASE take a few minutes each month to write down your volunteer hours and get those to us. You DO NOT have to track or turn in mileage. RSVP just needs to prove that you are volunteering by documenting your hours. We don't want you to miss out on ANY of the benefits of our program. Please let us know if you have ANY questions!!

RSVP
Lead With Experience

A SPECIAL RSVP VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

Beulah Speck recently retired as a volunteer with Marion General Hospital. Volunteering her time and talents in the Gift Shop for over 34 years, Beulah performed many services and touched the lives of countless people. Beginning in February 1975, Beulah volunteered 3 afternoons a month. Over the years, Beulah increased her volunteer time considerably, often exceeding 100 hours a month. Often she would work on Sundays and holidays, showing her true volunteer spirit. Last year, Beulah logged over 34,000 lifetime volunteer hours. At various times throughout her volunteer career, Beulah was a candy buyer (25 years), a ceramic buyer (18 years) and was also on the TWIG III Board.

Beulah started on her path of volunteering when a friend asked her to volunteer with her at Marion General Hospital. She enjoyed it and stayed. Beulah states, "I loved it. I enjoyed the friendships I made and all the people I met."

Beulah turned 96 on July 21st and here are some remarkable facts about this lady. She is an avid reader, favoring mysteries and inspirational themes. She likes to stay active and mowed her own yard until the age of 89. When you enter Beulah's home, you will see an exercise

bicycle in her living room. She still uses it almost daily! To keep her mind sharp, Beulah keeps a daily diary, which she has done for 80 years, since the age of 16. Her family knows that Beulah will always win the dispute about what happened when, because she gets her diary out and shows them! Beulah's family consists of 3 daughters, 5 granddaughters, 3 great-granddaughters, 3 great-grandsons, and 2 great-great grandsons.

Beth Meadows, Manager of Volunteer Services and Pastoral Care for Marion General Hospital, has much praise for Beulah. "It isn't often that one has the opportunity to know an individual that truly enriches your life at every turn. Beulah Speck is such a person. Her quiet confidence provided an excellent trainer for new volunteers, her dedication is unmatched and is an inspiration to all, her sense of humor kept us all laughing and her love for her family, her work, her community and her hospital is genuine and remarkable. I have been blessed to become acquainted with Beulah and I am honored to call her my friend."

Dena Coy, CPS/CAP with Volunteer Services and Pastoral Care for Marion General Hospital, also believes that Beulah is an amazing lady. "Her life of

service is an inspiration to me and all who know her. How do we thank someone for giving 34 years and over 34,000 hours of her time to volunteerism? The response is to carry on her legacy of giving.

Thank you, Beulah, for all you give and for who you are!"

On behalf of RSVP, we also want to thank Beulah for showing others how volunteerism can impact a person, a family, an organization, a community and future generations. Her support of RSVP and encouragement to others to volunteer is also very much appreciated. In this time of National focus on service and volunteerism, Marion can be VERY proud of one of its own volunteers. Beulah Speck has shown us all how to lead with experience!!

