



Your place to volunteer

Coulee Region RSVP
Summer Newsletter
2018



Inside this issue:

Welcome
Fundraiser 2018
Key areas of service
Upcoming Events
Donations and Contributions

Gratitude



I am grateful to be writing this letter to introduce myself to you as the new Executive Director of Coulee Region RSVP! Though I have technically been at my post since December 18th, 2017, I have had the privilege of Lynnetta

Kopp's guidance for the last four months. As Lynnetta officially retires, I officially pick up the reigns. I want to thank Lynnetta for all that she has done for Coulee Region RSVP, and I am grateful for what I have learned from her. Best wishes to Lynnetta as she embarks on her new life adventure!

I am grateful to and humbled by over 600 volunteers that choose to serve their community by sharing their experience, skills, and talents. Thank you to our volunteers that serve in over 80 sites within our service areas of La Crosse and Monroe Counties, meeting needs that would otherwise go unmet. Coulee Region RSVP volunteers drive people to appointments, deliver meals, make daily telephone calls to home-bound individuals, complete vital repairs that allow people to remain in their homes, complete tasks that help other nonprofit organizations, keep materials out of our landfills, and create handcraft items to be used by our communities. There are more things that our volunteers do than I can include in this brief letter. I am grateful to be part of an organization that contributes to so much good in the community!

I am grateful to the volunteer sites that collaborate with us to match the experience and skills of volunteers ages 55 and better with needs in their organizations. This allows us to make efficient and effective use of the volunteer resources in our community. It also allows us to offer an array of volunteer experiences that

enrich the lives of our volunteers. Thank you to the volunteer sites, including other nonprofit organizations and healthcare facilities, that partner with us to reach a common goal of making the Coulee Region an even better place to live!

I am grateful to the Coulee Region RSVP team, including Ruth Kinstler and Jennifer Olson, and the Board of Directors, for all they do to keep us in operation. I am thankful to have this group to lean on and share ideas with!

I am grateful to benefactors of Coulee Region RSVP. Financial and in-kind support ensures our ability to carry on our mission to provide meaningful volunteer opportunities and experiences for individuals age 55 and better in our community. By providing a positive impact for, and enhancing the quality of life for volunteers, organizations, and those we serve, RSVP achieves its mission by identifying community needs, recruiting, and placing volunteers in diverse, intergenerational volunteer opportunities throughout our community. Thank you to our donors for sharing their treasure with us so that we can continue to help those that need it most!

There is so much to be grateful for when it comes to being part of Coulee Region RSVP! Perhaps the best thing is witnessing the gratitude of those we serve. It is heartwarming to see the notes of gratitude that come from those that appreciate the services provided by RSVP volunteers. Thank you for all of the ways that YOU contribute to our mission!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Vanessa Southworth".

Vanessa Southworth
Executive Director

Welcome to the family

Get to know our new Program Specialist/ Office Manager!

I was born and raised in the Coulee Region. I spent 7 years living on the East coast when I was a child, and 3 years overseas, but nothing compares to the community surrounding us here in La Crosse. I attended Logan High School and graduated from Viterbo with a Bachelor of Science degree in Criminal Justice. I am excited to start on this new adventure and I look forward to working with the volunteers here at RSVP



Hometown:

La Crosse, WI

Jobs:

US Army stationed in Okinawa, LHI, Goodwill, Motherhood, 3PAdministrators

Family:

Travis, 3 Children; Rylee, Abriella, Ludwig

Favorite thing about the Coulee Region:

The bluffs and Mississippi River

What I enjoy about RSVP:

I love listening to our volunteers. They are wise, insightful, and caring, and are indispensable to our mission

Pets:

Oscar my cat, Duke my Great Dane

Biggest Accomplishments:

My children

New volunteers

From August 2017 - April, 2018

Beverly Bankes	Cynthia Huffman	Karen Saegrove
Irene Belling	Janis Jolly	JoAnne Schlicht
Cecilia Berg	Audrey Kader	Rob Schuette
Sandy Bissen	Mary Kumbier	Mark Stahlhut
Jac Bulk	Sandra Laufle	Richard Swantz
Dan Filzen	Frank Mauss	Donald Thesing
Kathleen Fischer	David Melin	Kathy Ticknor
Karen G. Mitchell	Connie Mracek	Mary Visgar
Patty Green	David Palm	Sr.Constance Walton
Lee Grippen	Tom Pyrek	Barb Warling
Terry Hafner	Allan Rindahl	Shawn Werner
David Hartman	Pamela Rochester	Carol Winther
		Jenny Wolfe

If you don't have a volunteer badge, please stop in the office so we can take your picture. Also, don't forget to report your hours!

New board members

John Medinger



Hometown: La Crosse, WI

Family: Dee, wife of 35 years. 4 children; Emily, Johnathan, Justin and Christopher

Favorite part of Coulee Region: Goose Island

Why RSVP? I believe that it's important we help put meaning into the lives of our seniors by volunteering in ways both big and small.

Ideal retirement: Long naps and walks sprinkled with helping those in need.

Biggest Accomplishment: Elected to be the Mayor of La Crosse

Hometown: Milwaukee, WI

Family: Patricia, wife

Favorite part of Coulee Region:

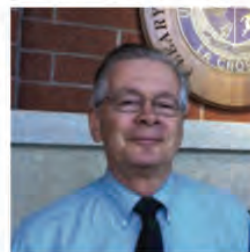
Downtown La Crosse

Why RSVP? Because of all the good they do for the La Crosse area.

Ideal retirement: In good health and being involved in civic activities

Biggest Accomplishment: Being a balanced and nonpartisan political commentator

Joseph Heim



Laura Bishop



Hometown: Tomah, WI

Family: Bob, Husband. 2 children, Jeff and Jane. 2 cats and 1 dog.

Favorite part of Coulee Region:

The people and the scenery

Why RSVP? I believe in the value of volunteering and the meaning it brings to the volunteer

Ideal retirement: I'm living it!

Biggest Accomplishment: Planting the seed and organizing the Tomah Community Table.

Think you're smarter than a 5th grader?

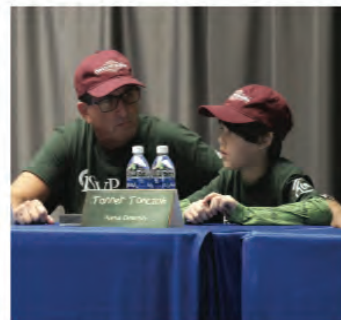
Who will be smarter than a 5th grader? celebrates 10 years of giving back!

What an amazing result for our 10th annual Who will be smarter than a 5th grader? event! On April 21, 2018, 16 teams of local celebrities and area fifth graders participated in a friendly game show style competition to raise funds for Coulee Region RSVP. After two rounds and a tiebreaker, three teams proceeded to the final round: Al Louis of Designing Jewelers and Tanner Tomczak of Spence Elementary, Chris Walters of DBS Group and Pierce Sommerfield of Eagle Bluff Elementary, and Sister Karen Lueck of Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Adoration and Matthew Rabindra of Blessed Sacrament.

Winners were Sister Karen Lueck of Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Adoration and Matthew Rabindra of Blessed Sacrament. The winning school, Blessed Sacrament, received \$1,000 for a special project to be chosen by Matthew. **Congratulations to Sister Karen and Matthew!**

Coulee Region RSVP brought in over \$106,000 with the People's Choice Award going to Al Louis who raised a record \$20,246.

Over \$106,000 raised



Celebrating 10 years!



Our Judges:
Abigail Xiong, Sue Ambler, Brad Williams -
emcee, Kay Berra and Jodi Brueggeman



Winners:
Sister Karen Lueck
Matthew Rabindra

A special thank you!

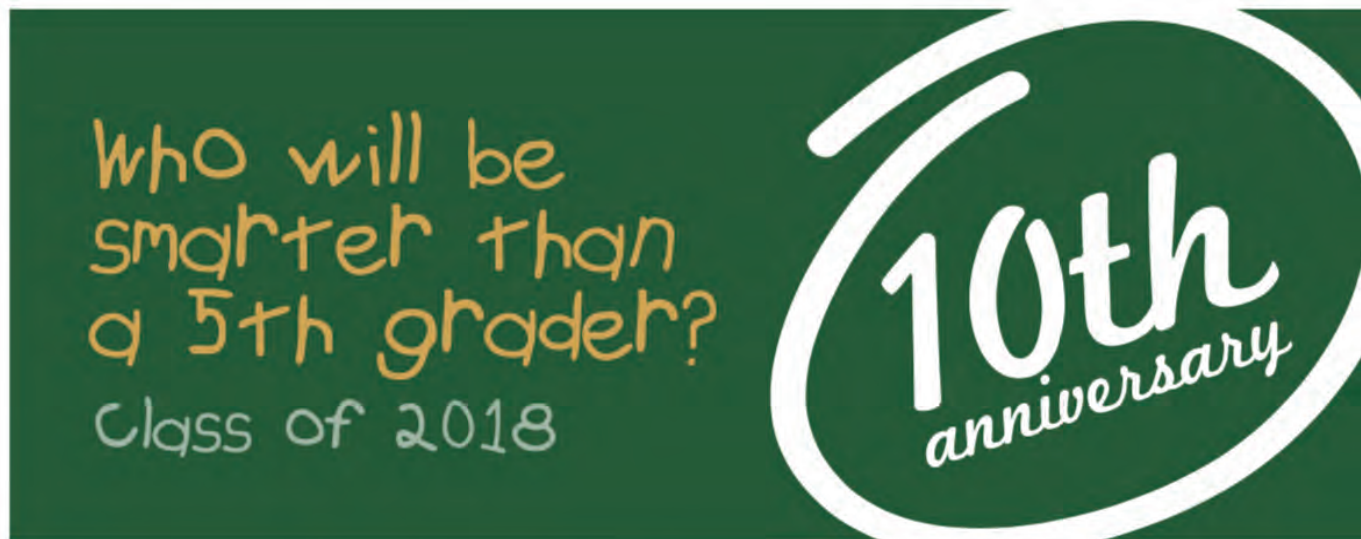
Thank you to all of the contestants for sharing their time and talent to support Coulee Region RSVP! We also thank the celebrity contestants for their commitment to raising funds to support the services provided by RSVP and the many sponsors that support our work.

Thank you also to our esteemed judges: Sue Amble of St. Patrick School, Kay Berra of Blessed Sacrament, Jodi Brueggeman of School District of La Crosse, and our first-ever student judge Abigail Xiong!



Thank you to everyone who helped make our 10th year a success!
Mark your calendars for next year!

Who will be smarter than a 5th grader?
returns on **March 16, 2019!**



**Dave Carney &
Alisa Johnston**

Northside



**Jodi Ehrenberger &
Lucy Slaughter**

Northern Hills



**Eric Erickson &
Miti Patel**

Irving Pertzsch



**Michael Flanagan &
Trevor Paulson**

St.Patrick



**John Honadel &
Fischer Wait**

Summit



**Lisa Klein &
Michael Koglin**

SOTA I



**Sr. Karen Lueck &
Matthew Rabindra**

Blessed Sacrament



**Al Louis &
Tanner Tomczak**

Spence



Dr. George Metropulos & Dylan Peloquin
Coulee Montessori



Michael E. Nickel & Vishnu Prakash
Northwoods



Tim Schadeberg & Gideon Wolbrink
West Salem



Stacy Shapiro & Savit Vurity
Hintgen



Jeff Trohkimoinen & Rachel Greany
Emerson



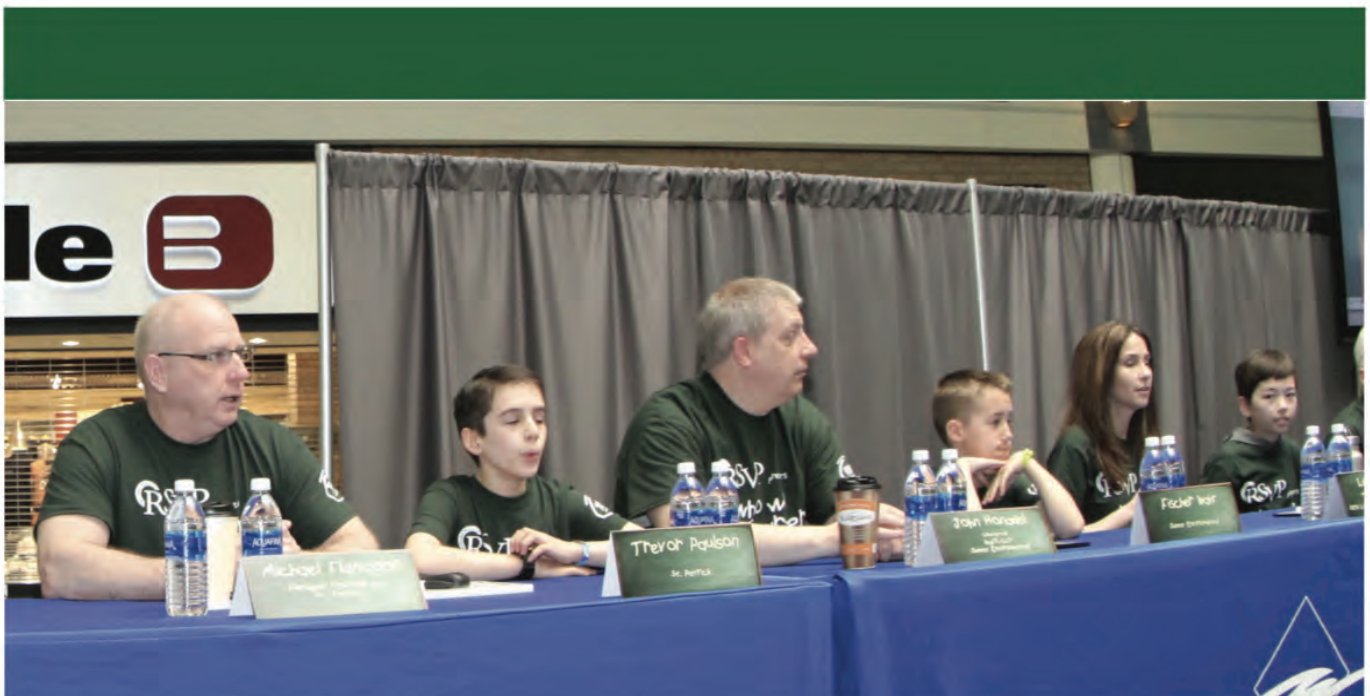
Chris Walters & Pierce Sommerfield
Eagle Bluff



Aimee Wichelt & Avery Bosshard
State Road



Tami Woods & Siena Folkers
Southern Bluffs



RSVP key areas of service: **Veterans**

Our Veterans are an important part of our community. We are honored to have them as our volunteers



**Thank you to our
Veteran volunteers!**

Heroes are walking among us every day and on Friday, November 10, RSVP joined Harry Spence Elementary School to honor all Veterans. A special honor was given to four RSVP volunteer Veterans, Dennis Baehr, Warren Engelson, Donald Mahr, and Richard Rady. These four gentlemen volunteered to serve our country and now are giving back to our community through volunteerism. Harry Spence students had a wonderful program of speeches, songs and the presentation of the flag. Thank you for your service and making a difference in our community!



RSVP key areas of service:

Handcraft

Our Handcraft Volunteers knit, sew, and crochet items, participating in groups or at home during their own free time.



This year's Handcraft Open House was held on November 16th from 9 AM – 3 PM. The event gives local social service agencies the opportunity to receive items such as lap robes, afghans, quilts, wheelchair and walker bags. Over 1,800 items were distributed to non-profit organizations in our community! We were also able to give Head Start 420 pairs of mittens and hats for the children in their program. Thank you to all our amazing Handcraft volunteers!

Congratulations 2017 Quilt Raffle Winners

1st Pat Niemeier

2nd Beth Curtis

3rd Lori Turner

Thank you to all who purchased raffle tickets and a special thank you to Linda Hamilton for making and donating this year's raffle items.

Upcoming Events

July 4

July 4th Holiday
(RSVP Office closed)

September 3

Labor Day
(RSVP Office closed)

September 11

National Day of Service &
Remembrance

September 20

Volunteer Recognition

September 27-30

Oktoberfest 2018

November 15

Handcraft Open House

November 22-23

Thanksgiving
(RSVP Office closed)

Don't miss out on these volunteer programs!



Telephone Reassurance

The Telephone Reassurance Program provides adults with disabilities or those who live alone with a daily call from our volunteers.

The program offers support and peace of mind for individuals as well as their families and friends, knowing that someone is checking on their loved one. Our RSVP volunteers call participants Monday through Friday mornings to offer a daily safety check and socialization.



Handyman

The Handyman Program provides limited fix-it services for individuals in need in our community. The program is designed to help individuals with disabilities, those who are low income, veterans and seniors who are in need of minor home repair. Our volunteers donate their time and skills at no charge.

No job is too small!

All that is required is for the individuals requesting the service to provide/pay for the materials. Limited funds available for those unable to pay.



Driver Program

Volunteer drivers use their own vehicles to transport individuals to medical and personal appointments, Monday through Friday from 7:30 a.m. until 5:00 p.m.

Volunteer drivers receive mileage reimbursement and can volunteer on a daily, weekly, or on-call basis.



Study Buddy

Study Buddies volunteer in area schools sharing at least one hour of their time per week helping students academically and socially. Volunteer assistance includes reading and math tutoring, either in small groups or individually.

Donations & Contributions

A & W Restaurant of La Crosse
 A&Js Barnhardt Construction, LLC
 Patti Abel
 Carol Abrahamzon
 Ad Aids
 Tracie Adams
 Asad Ahsan
 Danford J Akuna
 Altra Federal Credit Union
 Teresa Amann
 Sue Amble
 David Amborn
 Bradley Anderson
 Anonymous
 Aquinas Catholic Schools
 Associated Bank
 Ann Auseth
 Badger Corrugating
 Kelley Bahr
 Mike & Bethany Bakalars
 Caroline Barge
 Kristine Bartley
 Amy Bauer
 Judith Bautch
 Barb Beer
 Thomas Behrenbeck
 Dave & Chelle Belland
 Rebecca Benzing
 Allison Bergemann
 Kay Berra
 Robyn Bjorge
 Roger & Kay Bjorge
 Pat Blanchard
 Kelly Blank
 Blessed Sacrament School
 Blessed Sacrament Students
 Block & Kroll Financial
 Barry Blomquist
 Ashley Bohl
 Jessica Boland

Melissa Borsheim
 Borton Construction
 Andrew Bosshard
 Bill Bosshard
 Dayna Bosshard
 Diane Bosshard
 Bosshard Parke Ltd.
 Pamela Branshaw
 Brenengen Auto
 Johnny Brevik
 Laurie Brindle
 Tom & Jan Brock
 Kristin Brown
 Dyanne Brudos
 Rose Bruha
 Alicia Bruskiewicz
 David Buchanan
 Carl Buchinger
 Madalene Buelow
 Build-A-Bear
 Martha Burdick
 Emily Campbell
 Carroll's Popcorn & Frozen Yogurt
 Doug & Nancy Casper
 Mark & Minda Chamberlain
 Scott Chorski
 Sr. Georgia Christensen
 Roger & Kenna Christians
 Citizen's State Bank
 Marti Clark
 Clason Buick-GMC, Inc.
 Gail, Kristine and Sandra Cleary
 Cleary Management Corporation
 Coalition Drum Shop
 Coulee Bank
 Courtyard by Marriott
 Cowgill Dental
 Dr. Terry Cowgill, DDS
 Thomas Culp
 Culver's of La Crosse

Gregory Curti
 James Curtis
 Mary Czajka
 D.R. Johnson & Associates
 Dahl Automotive
 Earlamae Dahlby
 Colleen Daines
 Dan Stacey Enterprises, Inc.
 DBS Group
 Renee Dehn
 Sr. Helen Deppe
 Designing Jewelers
 Designz
 Dean Dickinson
 Shonda Dickinson
 James & Rebecca Dietsche
 Sue Dillenbeck
 Steve Doll
 Katlyn Dunk
 Tim & Sue Durtsche
 Dynamic Recycling
 Dimitar Dzikov
 Angela Erdenberg
 Christopher Eickman
 Sr. Helen Elsbernd
 Employees of Altra Federal
 Credit Union
 Employees of Associated Bank
 Employees of Coulee Bank
 Kathleen Engh
 Engleson & Associates
 Christine Engstrom
 Donna Erdman
 Eric Erickson
 Terri Erickson-Harper
 Sr. Susan Ernster
 Lowell Fairchild
 Family Video
 Russell Fashingbauer
 Michael Fashingbauer

Fazoli's
 Michelle Fellenz
 Kathleen Flanagan
 Mike Flanagan
 Flanagan Financial
 Carolyn Flock
 Gladys Folkers
 Marc Fortney
 Fowler & Hammer Inc.
 Fox 25 Fox 48
 Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual
 Adoration
 Wendy Franke
 Jason Fratzke
 Sally Fredricks
 Maureen Freedland
 Jane Fremstad
 Betty Freybler
 Sr. Maria Friedman
 Friends of Al Louis
 Sr. Joann Gehling
 Denice L. Geller
 Jodi Gettelman
 Ellen Gilligan
 Lois Gissal
 Tom & Holly Gorman
 Jenny Grabher
 Jodi Grams
 Thomas Grau
 Christina Graul
 Kris Greany
 John Greany
 JTR Greany
 Greater Milwaukee Foundation
 Laurena Green
 Kurt Gresens
 Sr. Mary Ann Gschwind
 Gundersen Health System
 Dr. Sig & Jean Ann Gundersen III
 Jack Haase
 Jane Hafner
 Hale, Skemp, Hanson,
 Skemp & Sleik
 Linda Hamilton
 Jessica Hamus

Paula Hanan
 Trisha Harman
 Harters Quick Clean-Up
 Vincent Hatt
 Shawn Hauser
 Sarah Havens
 Kimberly Hawthorne
 Joeseeph & Patricia Heim
 Ed & Nancy Hengel
 Hengel Family Foundation
 High Roller Skating
 Renee Hinytzke
 Bill Hoel
 Mel Hoffman
 Louise Honadel
 John & Dianne Honadel
 Shari Hopkins
 Megan Howard
 HSR Associates
 Jeanne Hulse
 Roger Imes
 Interstate Sound
 Mary Isaacs
 Susan Jackowski
 Mark Jacob
 Jay & Dawn Jaehnke
 Mary Ellen Jafari
 Jack Jefferson
 Jani Jensen
 Rae Jeske
 V Jeyaprakash
 Melanie Johnson
 Timothy Johnson
 Tim Johnson
 Evie Johnson
 Jump Start Adventure Park
 Joseph Jurusz
 Kaplan
 Margaret Kellogg
 Tom Kennedy
 Laura Kerkman
 Lorraine King
 Martin Kirchner
 Judy Kirkpatrick

Sr. Carrie Kirsch
 Barbara Klasinski
 Kevin Knerzer
 Thomas Knothe
 Tom Knothe
 Barbara Knutson
 Joy Kogli
 Sara Koopman
 Steven & Lynnetta Kopp
 Nancy Korn-Smith
 Timothy Kotnour
 Thomas Kress
 Debbie Kroner
 Loren & Lila Krueger
 Joe & Barb Kruse
 Darla Krzoska
 Tom Kuffel
 Clark Kulig
 John Kulig
 Kwik Trip
 La Crosse Community
 Theater
 La Crosse Loggers
 Foundation
 La Crosse Symphony
 Orchestra
 La Crosse Tribune
 (Jeans Day)
 Linda Lanke
 Tammy Larson
 Timothy Lau
 Joe Laux
 LHI
 Robert & Darlene Lipke
 Kimberly Lucas
 Sr. Karen Lueck
 Kimberly Lueck
 Lyche Family
 Art Lyons
 Michael Madsen
 Randy Mahoney
 Dr. Todd & Deb Mahr
 Theresa Mann
 Amy & Michael Marcou
 Mayo Clinic Health System -
 Franciscan Healthcare

Gail Mc Cauley	Kolette Paulson	Casey Schneider
Paula McDonald	Janet Pearson	Mark Schneider
Michael McKinney	Ted & Vicki Peck	Roz Schnick
Emily Medvecky	Timothy Pepin	School District of La Crosse
Merchants Bank	Jack Peplinski	Carol Schroeder
Kimberly Metcalf	Pepsi of La Crosse	Linda Schwartz
Dr. George Metropulos	Jessica Peterson	Seven Bridges Bank
Anne Meyer	Jill Peterson	Dan Baumgardt & Stacy Shapiro
Steven Michaels	Judith Peterson	Robert & Karen Shapiro
Midwest Family Broadcasting	Anthony Piazza	Lee Shapiro
Annette Mikat	Pischke Motors	Jennifer Shapiro
Sue Miller	Pizza Doctors	Shapiro Strategies
Wade & Jill Miller	Pizza King	Theresa Sharp
Barry Miller	Mark Platt	Scott Shaw
Connie Minton	Joe Plunger	Sr. Eileen Shaw
Jennifer Miskowski	Todd Poss	Lynette Sheffer
Todd Molzahn	Ken Possehl	Kay Shepherd
Jane Morgan	Karen Quinn	Sr. Nina Shepherd
Patrick Mullen	Prem Rabindranauth	Janice Shrauner
Naturo Weight, LLC	Jonella Rademacher	Michael Sigman
James & Rebecca Naugler	Richard Rady	Donald Skibba
Ned Time, LLC	Marc & Elizabeth Ranger	Julie Sommerfield
Michelle Nehring	Scott Rathgaber	Melissa Sprain
Randy & Lynn Nelson	Adam Reich	SpringBrook Community of Onalaska
Steven Nelson	John & Kathy Reinhard	St. Patrick School
Kelly Nest	Dr. Silvana & Dr. Robert Richardson	Jessica Stefanski
Diane Neuman	Riverstates Truck and Trailer	Mariette Stefferud
Claudia Newton	Robert & Eleanor Franke Charitable	Sally Steine
Mike Nickel	Foundation, Inc.	Jennifer Stenberg
Amy Noel	Micah Roberts	Stifel
Lillian Nordin	Barb & Gordy Roberts	Amy Stodola
North Country Steak Buffet	Rocky Rococo	Students of State Road Elementary
Nancy Novak	Brian Rotty	Brad & Lynn Sturm
Erika Nuciforo	Rarita Roy	Bruce Swanwick
Gary Olsen	Rudy's Drive-in of La Crosse	Andy Sweet
Robert Olson	Jennifer Ruetten	Michael Swinghammer
Tiffany Olson	Jack & Judy Rusch	Target of La Crosse
Charles Olson	Elizabeth Russell	Ann Tarr
Onalaska School District	Emily & Shawn Sackman	Jason Tauber
Judy Ostreng	Eric Salud	Jennifer Tempelis
Joan Paine	Timothy Schadeberg	Andrew Temte
Rob Palmberg	Michelle Schaefer	Texas Roadhouse
Dorothy Park	Jedediah Schaller	Prasanthi Thatavarthy
Karen Park	Janet Schleifer	The Insurance Center
Patients of Cowgill Dental	Sheila Schmidt	The Kopp Family
		The Students of State Road School

Donations and Contributions

The Waterfront Restaurant & Tavern
Scott Thesing
Gary Thewis
Ann Thewis
Steven Thicke
Kathy Thiede
Tom & Jean Thompson
Mary Tomczak
Tarah Tomczak
Tom's Bobcat & Snowplowing
Maria Topel
Tostrud & Temp
Ernie Tourville
Travel Leaders - Goli's
Avenues of Travel
Holly Tripp
Dr. Jeff Trohkimoinen
Trohkimoinen Family
Delnora Tuschl
US Bank

Valley View Mall
Roger Vandermus
William Verrette
Frank Vierling
R.L. and Janet Virata
Dennis Vogel
Kelly Voss
Ravi Vurity
Sr. Margaret Wagner
Jodi Wait
Dale Walter
Chris Walters
Bruce Walters
Marvin & Michelle Wanders
Emilie Watson
Heather Watson
Mark Glendenning & Margie Webster
Dr. Steve & Katie Webster
Webteam
Charlene Wegner
Sr. Joan Weisenbeck

Joe Welch
Shawn & Mary Jo Werner
Maura Whiston
Joyce Wichelt
Tim Wichelt
Wichelt Imports, Inc.
Teri Wildt
David Winiecki
Julie Winjum
Terri Witgen
WKBT News 8
Amy Wojahn
Rose Wolbrink
Fran Wolbrink
Joan Woods
Tami Woods
Timothy Wuebben
Xcel Energy
Abigail Xiong & Family
Sr. Fran Yanisch
Mary Zaky
Robert Zink
Joseph Zoellnerk

Save the date:
Volunteer Recognition



rsvp

our
volunteers
are a hit!

thursday
sept. 20th
2019

Coulee Region RSVP, Inc.
2920 East Avenue South, Suite 104
La Crosse, WI 54601



Phone: 608.785.0500
Fax: 608.785.2573
Email: info@rsvplax.org
Website: www.rsvplax.org

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 372
La Crosse WI 54601

RSVP Staff

Vanessa Southworth
Executive Director
vsouthworth@rsvplax.org

Ruth Kinstler
Volunteer Coordinator
rkinstler@rsvplax.org

Jennifer Olson
Office Manager/Program
Specialist
jolson@rsvplax.org



Designed by: Joseph Kinstler
Printing Services donated by:
Dairyland Power Cooperative

Board of Directors

The Friends of Coulee Region RSVP, Inc.

President
Beth Curtis
Retired | Onalaska School District

Vice President
Richard Record
Retired | Midwest Family
Broadcasting

Board Counsel
Terence Collins
Johns, Flaherty & Collins, SC

Treasurer
John Hamilton
Retired | Western Technical College

Secretary
Sister Fran Browning, FSPA
Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Adoration

Chris Brown, MA CSW
Mayo Clinic Health System,
Franciscan Healthcare

Sarah Havens
Gundersen Health System

Joseph Heim
University of Wisconsin - La Crosse

Fran Pollard
Retired | CenturyTel
Former Mayor of Tomah

Amy Marcou
Coulee Bank
VP Mortgage Lending

John Medinger
Retired | Former Mayor of La Crosse

Laura Bishop
Retired | Tomah VA Medical Center