

YOUR PLACE TO VOLUNTEER



COULEE REGION
RSVP

Newsletter 2021

Thankful



CHANGE

That word has been used quite a bit over the last 14+ months. Why do we need change? Changes in life help us move forward and become better. Large or small changes in life can make us look at others and oneself differently.

In January volunteers were able to start going back to their volunteer sites but not without changes in the way we volunteer with the following various precautions set in place. In March we also had some staff changes when Heather Gilles accepted a new position at Mayo Clinic, Rochester. I am now the RSVP Director and have added new responsibilities but continue to coordinate volunteers. On July 6th we reopened our doors to volunteers and visitors. Stop by and see us, we have made some changes here in our office – such as office moves and newly painted walls.

What’s important about change is how we react to it. Write down the positive. Be kind to yourself and talk it out. From what I have read it states that it takes about 18 months to adjust to a new change. As things change once again out in the community with the pandemic we will once again experience changes.

One thing that has NOT changed is that my office door is always open to anyone that has something to share, needs to visit, etc

Stop by and see me any time
Ruth Kinstler
RSVP Director



RSVP Volunteers are AMAZING! That is something I can’t say enough, and I brag to anyone who will listen. This last year and a half have done nothing but prove that point.

We had to learn to change, as Ruth mentioned, and adapt to our new “normal”. And through it all our volunteers were there, ready and waiting to respond to any need that our community had.

Our handcrafters surpassed the need of making masks and increasing the need for any handcraft items, we were able to give out to so many this last fall at our open house.

The driver and handyman program requests decreased, but we still had volunteers there ready to respond when someone needed that essential ride to medical appointments or who needed something to be fixed in their home. These programs are still growing as we are starting to see requests pick back up.

I am so proud to work here at RSVP and I am so proud to work with all of you!

Thank you!
Rebecca Brueggeman
RSVP Administrator

Americorps Brand

Coulee Region RSVP federal funding source is AmeriCorps, officially known as the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS). This agency, established in 1993, is the only federal agency focused on community service and volunteerism.

AmeriCorps is the national agency that provides resources and volunteers to strengthen communities across America. They are the largest supporter of service and volunteerism in the US – enrolling over 270,000 volunteers each year and dispersing \$1 billion in funding. However, AmeriCorps was not getting the recognition their work deserves. They lacked a consistent story, and this made the brand confusing to understand and was impacting its brand awareness.

Last fall, to increase recognition, CNCS decided to use AmeriCorps (its largest program) as the agency name because the AmeriCorps name is more widely known. So, with that we are introducing a new logo!

AmeriCorps Seniors (formerly known as Senior Corps) is comprised of several programs: RSVP, Foster Grandparent, and Senior Companion. Nationwide, there are over 400 AmeriCorps Seniors programs operating independently under AmeriCorps Seniors federal guidelines.

Unlike most RSVP’s in the nation, Coulee Region RSVP is an independent private nonprofit organization and doesn’t have a sponsoring agency. We will not be changing the name of our organization but will use the AmeriCorps Seniors logo in addition to the Coulee Region RSVP logo.



July 1, 2020 -
June 30, 2021



Welcome New Volunteers!

Cindy Patterson-Rhorer

Norita (Nel) Miller

Joan Poeschel

Patti Van Buskirk

Diane Dingman

Eugene Kirchner

Marta Martinez

Edith Gold

Carol Ringahl

Lynda Schaller

Ramona Kiehne

Bonnie Winter

Helen Elsbernd

Susan Hughes

Deborah Hanson

Virginia Brochhausen

Randy Wiedman

Gary Kateley

Kathy Bahr

Donald Salter

Mary Lathrop

Deb Peitz

Thomas Cunningham

Ying-Tzu Chang

We are updating our badges with the new logo so please stop by the office to pick up your new badge or if you haven't received one yet.

Also, don't forget to report your hours!

Phone: 608-785-0500

Ways to submit your hours monthly:

Online: rsvplax.org

Volunteer Hours Sheet:
Email - rkinstler@rsvplax.org

Please feel free to reach out to Ruth Kinstler if you have any questions.

Remember to submit your hours at the end of each month. This is very important for us to receive our Federal Grant Award from the AmeriCorps.

We report every 6 months on the amount of hours each of our volunteers submit.

Volunteer Recognition

2020 Recap

On Thursday September 17th, 2020 we held our Annual "RSVP Volunteer Recognition". Our recognition looked a little different last year. We didn't have a traditional sit-down banquet. Rather we celebrated by a curb side Chicken Q.

Our Volunteers are an "Essential Piece" to our organization and our community. We didn't want to miss an opportunity to recognize all of you and what you do for your community.



Our volunteers keep our community a FLOAT

What a year it has been for our community and for Coulee Region RSVP.

The work we have done in the last year would not have been possible without the help and support of each and everyone of you. As always, when there was a need you stepped up.

When there was a need for masks, our handcrafters were right there ready to make them. When there was a need for transportation when no one else was providing, our drivers were there ready to go.

We responded to each need our community had and it is amazing!

2021 RSVP Volunteer Recognition Event



Governor Service Award

The Governor's Service Awards honor outstanding national service members, volunteers, and programs that have helped to address serious social needs in their communities. Those honored by these awards will have made significant contributions to Wisconsin through their service efforts, with their generous service impacting the lives of countless Wisconsinites.

The awards are hosted by Serve Wisconsin and they recognize outstanding national service members, volunteers, and programs that have helped to address serious social needs in their communities. Wanting to honor long-term volunteers for their service, they reached out to the governor's office and added this recognition, with a plan to recognize subsequent volunteers in the future the year they reach the 20-year milestone.

The 2021 Governor's Service Awards ceremony was held on August 4, 2021 at the Monona Terrace Community and Convention Center in Madison. If you would like to watch the video here is the link:

[Link for video](#)

Due to COVID-19 Coulee Region RSVP chose to have a local recognition to honor the volunteers who have served 20 or more years at the yearly Volunteer Recognition in September.



2020 Governor Service Award was held virtually and we were able to have one of our volunteers receive the COVID-19 Response Service Award. Congrats to DuWayne Gust and thank you for the difference you made through your service.

Governor's Service Awards
Hosted By:

Volunteers with 20+ years of service

28yrs Marilyn Pertzsch	26yrs Charlotte Phelps	23yrs Gerrie Gerke Dorothy Paulikas George Renner	21yrs Sister Fran Browning Evelyn Hammes Dorothy Ricke
27yrs Betty Baier Velma Lutz Winnie Solberg	24yrs Bety Fukuda Mary Hanson	22yrs Pat Blanchard	20yrs Patricia Forer Carol Parker

2021 Volunteer Awards

BRONZE

100-249hrs

SILVER

250-499hrs

GOLD

500-3,999hrs

Leah Breu
Ewert Margaret
Nancy Jenks
Sandra McKittrick
Connie Norris
Kathy Ticknor
Russell Willis
Norita (Nel) Miller
Darci Keenan

Leah Breu
Vicki Delap
Chryl Gilbertson
Darci Keenan
Lynne Leuthe
Norita (Nel) Miller
Jo Ann Nelson
JoAnne Schlicht
Rob Schuette
Jan Werner
Joline Freisinger
Susan Milde
Diane Sewell
Joan Wolf

Eillen Daily
Mary Koenig
Ruth Ann Mendiola
Nortia (Nel) Miller
Cheryl Robbins
Alan Ross
Joline Freisinger
Susan Milde
Diane Sewell
Joan Wolf

**LIFETIME AWARD:
Beth Curtis - 4,000+hrs**

All awards are calculated for the time period of July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021

RSVP Crossword

M	E	O	B	I	G	B	O	A	R	O	L	M
A	L	S	N	A	E	B	M	S	S	I	E	A
E	B	D	L	E	U	Q	N	H	V	N	E	Y
R	A	E	F	D	E	C	I	E	P	T	A	N
C	T	S	J	I	H	F	O	R	K	L	P	U
E	B	S	H	A	L	N	I	K	P	A	N	F
C	V	E	I	O	K	E	S	N	H	M	I	H
I	L	R	A	L	O	P	O	R	K	T	E	P
P	I	T	S	M	O	L	I	F	Z	A	U	Q
U	S	A	K	O	C	A	W	C	L	C	N	R
I	L	G	N	F	A	T	R	T	N	I	U	E
V	I	S	I	T	X	E	H	L	F	I	F	B
C	D	E	R	K	T	E	L	O	G	F	C	E
A	E	M	D	A	L	I	O	S	P	I	H	C
K	R	A	W	L	R	D	W	O	M	E	N	C
E	S	G	O	G	D	I	A	D	N	A	B	A

Omni	Fork	Beef	Pork	BBQ
Big Boar	Health	Spoon	Napkin	Plate
Sliders	Bandaid	RSVP	Live	Fun
File of Life	Beans	Games	Floats	Play
Ice Cream	Cook	Chips	Water	Aid
Grill	Cup	Rebecca	Ruth	Drinks
Visit	Tea	Picnic	Hello	Men
Women	Food	Table	Dessert	Cake
Chairs	Him	Us	Help	She

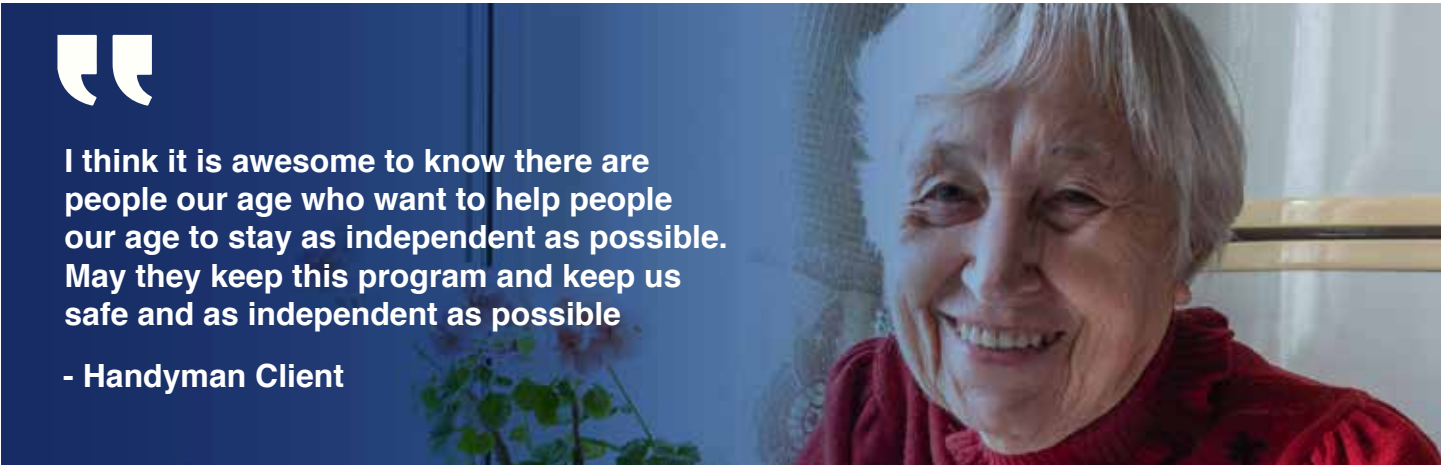


Handyman

Designed to provide fix-it services and minor home repairs for individuals in the community age 55 and better, clients with disabilities and veterans. Our volunteers donate their time and skills at no charge to the client. We only ask that the client pays for the cost of the supplies needed for the job.

Right now we have about 8 Handyman who are willing and ready to assist where needed. If you have skills that would benefit this group of volunteers we are always looking for more help. Just send an email to Rebecca Brueggeman at rbrueggeman@rsvplax.org

Check out the photos to see the good work our group of Handyman do in the community to help keep older adults safe in their home.



I think it is awesome to know there are people our age who want to help people our age to stay as independent as possible. May they keep this program and keep us safe and as independent as possible

- Handyman Client



Veterans

This year we were unable to recognize our Veterans with an in-person assembly. But we still wanted to find a way to recognize all our veteran volunteers.

So we decided to put together a small package for our 44 RSVP Veterans. The package included a letter from RSVP staff, a pin, a letter from La Crosse Mayor Tim Kabat, and art work from students from First Lutheran School La Crosse.

In addition to sending out packages on November 11, 2020 News8000 and Rebecca from RSVP went to First Lutheran School and talked with a few of the students. The students were asked what Veterans Day means to them ...

“It’s really important to thank them, because they don’t even know half the people that they’re serving for”

– First Lutheran School student Bella Bolduan.

“They guard our country and if we didn’t have them we would not be safe”

– First Lutheran School student Michael Johnson.

Thank you to all the students at First Lutheran and Mayor Tim Kabat for making this special for our veterans.

And above all else, Thank you Veterans!



Thank you and all the volunteers who provide our children with hats and mittens. Over 400 children receive a hat and mittens each year. Teachers are excited to hand them out and the children are eager to wear them outside to play

-Robyn (Executive Director, Headstart)

Handcraft

RSVP has been a vital partner to our Christmas Angel Giving Tree Program. Volunteers from RSVP provide love and care to our families during their time of need by gifting handmade scarves, mittens, blankets, and quilts. Kindness comes from the heart and RSVP is the heart of our community!

Coulee Region RSVP Annual “Handcraft Open House” looked a little different last year due to COVID. We changed our event to a 2-day event and had the various organizations call and sign up for a day and time so that we were able to keep the amount of people to a small number. We ended up giving to 28 various organizations (2 new organizations) in need with our count totaling over 4,000 items.

Thank you to the Volunteers who assisted at the Open House and a BIG “THANK YOU” to all the RSVP Handcraft volunteers for all your hard work in making the many different items and growing this program throughout the community.

The winner of the 2020 Quilt Raffle was Amy Marcou.

Are you looking to join a group? The “Knotty Knitters” meet every Wednesday at the Coulee Region RSVP office in the board room from 8:00 am – 11:00 am. Any RSVP volunteer handcrafter is welcome to attend.

Handcraft Open House 2021 will look the same as last year by having the various organizations call and sign up for a date/time to come and shop. It is scheduled for November 16th, November 17th and November 18th from 9:00 am – 3:00. Later times may also be scheduled as needed.



Ways to Stay Connected

RSVP Website

There are many things you can do through our rsvplax.org website. You can reach out to us through our general email. You can find contact information for each staff member. If you are an RSVP volunteer, you can log into the website and view volunteer opportunities and submit your hours.

rsvplax.org

UGetConnected

In addition to watching for volunteer opportunities on our website or through Constant Contact, you can also search volunteer opportunities on ugetconnected.org. This is an online database that all non-profit organizations can post volunteer opportunities.

If you are interested in something you see on here, you can either respond directly or contact the RSVP office and we can assist you in getting connected to that opportunity.

Constant Contact

One way we communicate with our volunteers on a regular basis is through our weekly emails. If you are an RSVP Volunteer and we have your email we send you weekly emails through “constant contact”.

We can update you on any new volunteer opportunities, what we are currently in need of, and anything else we want to share with our volunteers.

Facebook

If you have Facebook, please LIKE and SHARE our page, “Coulee Region RSVP”.



Bring Out the Best of America

What will you achieve when you serve with AmeriCorps Seniors?

Explore all the benefits of serving as an AmeriCorps Seniors volunteer.

Each year, hundreds of thousands of AmeriCorps Seniors volunteers work alongside each other for the betterment of every community. Are you ready to do your part?



270,000

members and volunteers



40,000

locations across the country



1.1 million+

AmeriCorps alumni

AmeriCorps.gov/Serve/AmeriCorps-Seniors

NATIONAL SERVICE IN

WISCONSIN

900

local service sites

7,900

AmeriCorps members & AmeriCorps Seniors volunteers

\$37.4

million AmeriCorps and local funding

\$109.7

million AmeriCorps scholarships earned since 1994

AmeriCorps.gov/Wisconsin

Quilt Raffle

We are raffling off a quilt generously donated to us by Linda Hamilton. Quilt is about a queen size.

Tickets will be sold at various events and available in the office until the day of the drawing. The drawing will be at the RSVP office on Wednesday December 1, 2021 at 11:30am.



Brat Sale

This year RSVP participated in Festival’s Brat Sale. We were at the Village Festival on Sunday July 25, 2021 from 10am-6pm.

The event was successful and we were able to get out into the community.

Look for this event again next year!

Upcoming Events

September 6

Labor Day
(RSVP Office closed)

September 11

National Day of Service & Remembrance

September 16

Volunteer Recognition

November 16,17 and 18

Handcraft Open House

November 25-26

Thanksgiving
(RSVP Office closed)

November 30

Giving Tuesday

December 24

Christmas Eve
(RSVP Office closed)

December 31

New Years Eve
(RSVP Office closed)

Coulee Region RSVP 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.

Board Member Spotlight

Shayna Schertz

Wellness Education Specialist
Gundersen Health System



Hometown:
Nekoosa, WI

Family:
I'm lucky to be an aunt to a niece and two nephews who each bring me an incredible amount of joy.

Favorite part of the Coulee Region:
The genuinely kind community as well as the various exercise opportunities.

Why Coulee Region RSVP:
Being a board member of RSVP has given me the chance to learn more about this community. This opportunity has allowed me to meet many wonderful people who have displayed incredible dedication to the community. It brings me pleasure to be a part of such a meaningful organization.

Accomplishments:
After graduating with the intent to teach health education to middle and high school students, I decided that helping adults learn was my true passion. I am lucky to have been employed by Gundersen Health System for the past nine years.



Donations and Contributions

Individual Contributions

Judy Boyd	Mark and Minda Chamberlain
Becky Prickett	Kurt & Mary Mueller
Dorothy Wetterlin	Mark & Kimberly Scheider
Cameron Roberts	Gerald & Ruth Berns
Amy Marcou	Mary Beth Rady
John & Kate Dunnum	Christoper Eickman
Robert Caplan	Art & Linda Butterworth
John & Dee Medinger	Darlene Lassig
Norita Miller	David Morrison
Marti Clark	Robert & Esther Suter
Charles & Lu Ann Roth	Cheryl & Cinty Vieth
J.L. Kirkpatrick	Veronica Stoll
Lynne Lueth	

Business Contributions

Coulee Bank	Lewis Valley
Good Shepherd Trust Foundation	Logistics Health Inc.
Illinois Tools Works	Quilt Corner
Le Coulee Cheese Castle	River Valley Jeans Day

Without your gifts, Coulee Region RSVP would not be able to offer its many volunteer programs and services.

THANK YOU!

Please know that we make every attempt to include all donors on this list. If we inadvertently failed to include your name, please contact us and we will include your name in our next newsletter.

Thank you for being a friend of Coulee Region RSVP.

Ways to Donate

Your donations are important to help Coulee Region RSVP recruit and support the volunteers who serve their neighbors in communities throughout La Crosse and Monroe County.



In -Person:

Make a gift anytime with Cash, Check, Debit or Credit Card



By Mail:

Send check or money order to:
2920 East Avenue South, Suite 104
La Crosse, WI 54601



Online:

Make a one-time, monthly, quarterly or annual gift online
www.rsvplax.org
Click on "Donate Here" in the right corner



Gifts In-Kind:

In-kind gifts are contributions of goods, services & expertise
Some of our immediate needs are: Gift cards to home improvement, fabric or retail stores, sewing supplies and kids' fabric. Please call 608-785-0500 to see our wish list.



Legacy Gift:

To support Coulee Region RSVP's mission for the future, you may designate a gift to RSVP in your will or list Coulee Region RSVP as a beneficiary under a financial account, a retirement plan or a life insurance policy.



Memorials or Tributes:

You can dedicate your donation to recognize a volunteer, family member and friend with a tax-deductible gift to Coulee Region RSVP.

Other ways to Support RSVP



Kwik Trip Scrip

We have enrolled in the Kwik Trip Scrip program. How does this work? We have Kwik Trip gift cards in the office that you can stop by any time during office hours and purchase.

They are used like any other gift card, only a portion of the proceeds comes back to RSVP. If you would like to purchase multiple cards or want a card denomination larger than what we have in the office, we do have an order form that you can fill out.



Amazon Smile

When you shop at AmazonSmile, they will donate a portion of your eligible purchases to Coulee Region RSVP! RSVP can receive 0.5% of all purchases made on AmazonSmile.

To sign up – just visit the AmazonSmile page (smile.amazon.com) and follow these steps:

1. Log in to your account, and search for "Coulee Region RSVP" (look for the small orange "supporting" banner under the Search bar.
2. From there you can select RSVP as your charity recipient).
3. Its that easy!

Remember that when you make purchases, you must always do so from the Amazon Smile page (not the Amazon general page) in order for RSVP to receive the donation.

Tear this off and send in to us at
2920 East Ave S #104
La Crosse, WI 54601

Make a Gift Today

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Enclosed is a gift of:

☐ \$1,000 ☐ \$500 ☐ \$250 ☐ \$150 ☐ \$100 ☐ \$50 _____

Payment Information:

- Checks can be payable to Coulee Region RSVP
- To make a secure donation, go to www.rsvplax.org
- Please charge my card:

VISA Mastercard American Express

Credit Card Number: _____

Expiration Date: _____ Security Code: _____

Signature: _____

Optional:
This gift is in honor of: _____ memory of: _____

Please send an acknowledgement to:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Your donation is tax-deductible, thank you for your gift to
Coulee Region RSVP.



Through collaboration with community nonprofit organizations, we provide meaningful volunteer experiences for individuals age 55 and better in our community. We achieve this mission by identifying community needs, recruiting, and placing volunteers in diverse, intergenerational volunteer opportunities to over 90 different sites throughout La Crosse and Monroe Counties.

www.rsvplax.org

IF YOU DO NOT WANT TO RECEIVE FUTURE FUNDRAISING REQUESTS SUPPORTING COULEE REGION RSVP, PLEASE CALL OUR OFFICES BETWEEN 8:00AM - 4:00PM MONDAY - FRIDAY AT 608-785-0500 OR INFO@RSVPLAX.ORG AND LEAVE A MESSAGE.

Board of Directors

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Region RSVP, Inc.

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Shayna Schertz

Gundersen Health System

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AmeriCorps
Seniors

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Email: info@rsvplax.org

Website: www.rsvplax.org

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