

YOUR PLACE TO VOLUNTEER



COULEE REGION
RSVP

Newsletter 2023



50 Years Serving The Community!

50 Years! RSVP has been running for 50 years in the Coulee Region. WOW, awesome! We couldn't have done it without all the outstanding volunteers over the years. Over the previous 50 years there have been 2,990 volunteers and have collaborated with over 356 organizations. Those figures are fantastic!

More recently, over the last few years seven to be exact, I have seen the impact that RSVP volunteers make in the community!

- Our volunteer drivers provide over 1,500 rides per year to clients for medical appointments, groceries, and food banks. Volunteer drivers are always ready to help clients when needed.
- The Handyman Program helps people stay safe in their homes by providing simple repairs. This service keeps clients in their homes longer. Each year handyman volunteers complete over 125 jobs.
- Our excellent Handcraft volunteers are always busy making goods for community organizations' clients. At our annual Handcraft Open House, over 25 organizations receive handcrafted hats, mittens, scarves, baby layettes, lap blankets, wheelchair/walker bags and more for their clients. This event annually donates approximately 3,000 items to local nonprofits. The handcraft volunteers then make 2,000 more items for the community each year. 5,000 items is a lot of knitting, crocheting, sewing, and quilting!!
- The Telephone Reassurance program volunteers help isolated and lonely clients by calling them. The volunteers socialize with clients regularly to build great relationships. This program has helped over 25 clients in recent years.
- Additionally, many volunteers make a difference in the organizations we collaborate with each year. Currently 75 organizations benefit from RSVP volunteers. We have volunteered at Mayo Clinic Health System and Tomah VA Medical Center (30 years), Gundersen Health System (27 years), Salvation Army (26 years), La Crosse Symphony Orchestra (19 years), Habitat for Humanity (17 years).

The 2023 Value of a Volunteer Time report, Independent Sector announced in April 2023 that the latest value of a volunteer hour is estimated to be \$31.80. On average our volunteers impact the community by giving more than 55,000 hours of their time each year. So that would be a savings of \$1,749,000.00! That is a lot of volunteering!

From the bottom of my heart I want to say "Thank You" to each of the current and past volunteers who have made Coulee Region RSVP an amazing place. YOU truly make a difference in the community! Let's keep going for the next 50 years!!

Thank You for volunteering,

Ruth Kinstler

RSVP Director



As I approach my one-year anniversary with Coulee Region RSVP, I reflect on all the amazing things we have been able to accomplish in the past 12 months.

I accepted this job because I thought the organization fit well with my values and love for giving back, but I was unaware of what a large positive impact RSVP is making in our community. From completing home repairs and safety modifications, transporting clients to necessary medical appointments, and handcrafting thousands of items for those in need, our volunteers are unmatched in talent and dedication. I have had the privilege of supporting our volunteers through our in-home programs. They never cease to amaze me with their willingness to step up in times of need.

I have heard nothing but praise from those on the receiving end of our services. Undoubtedly, this is because of our volunteer's charm, kindness, and altruistic personalities. They go above and beyond to help those who need assistance the most. Coulee Region RSVP is an inspiring place to work. Through experiencing the effects our services have had on community members, it has reinstated my personal mission of volunteerism.

Thank you to all our volunteers for making this feel more like a passion and less like a job. You inspire me to be the best version of myself.

Thank you!

Tessa Thurin

RSVP Administrator



I started in May as RSVP's Development Coordinator, and my job is to raise money to support RSVP's outstanding programs. At the moment, we are getting ready for

an online auction with a lot of great items donated by local businesses and supporters. I will be working on grant applications and a year-end appeal soon, and we also have exciting plans for next spring.

While I'm new to RSVP, I have worked in the nonprofit world in La Crosse since 2009, when I started as a curator at the La Crosse County Historical Society. At the end of 2022, I retired as their executive director after six years. I took some months off before deciding that I still needed to be involved in nonprofit work, and this part-time position at RSVP became available. It has turned out to be a perfect fit.

I look forward to making a difference in RSVP's capacity to do good in our community. Quilts and handcrafts are a longtime interest of mine. My M.A. in Textile History had a focus on quilt history. I appreciate working in an office full of handmade crafts and sometimes even hanging out with RSVP's volunteer textile artisans.

Thank you!

Peggy Derrick

Development Coordinator

July 1, 2022-
June 30, 2023



Welcome New Volunteers!

Tom Abing	Walter Manthei
Joan Anderson	Brian Martz
Marlene Benson	Corinne Means
Michael Beranek	Larry Means
Kathleen Brudos	Sherry Mitoraj
Deborah Cromer	Deanna Neubauer
Sue Davis	Marcy Olson
Lori Dickman	Barbara Pulfrey
Trudy Duffrin	Rose Puma
Susan Dworschak	Barbara Rockwell
Sister Rose Elsbernd	Dennis Ross
Gary Erickson	Lori Schaub
Mary Ann Gerrard	Betty Simmons
Paulette Gleason	Joan Werth
Pamela Grady	Charlotte Wright
Rosemary Hefti	
Donna Holtz	
Nancy Jaekel	
Larry King	
Mary Klein	
Linda Kloet	
Patricia Kohner	
Eunaice Kritchman	
Martha Manthei	

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.

Do you know someone who might like to volunteer? RSVP volunteers are our best recruiters as they spread the word about why they like volunteering and the need for more volunteers. Please pass this newsletter onto a friend or neighbor and tell them what RSVP means to you!

Volunteer Recognition

2022 Recap

On Thursday, September 15th 2022, we held our annual “RSVP Volunteer Recognition”. This event was held at The Nature Place, formally known as the Myrick Park Center, located in La Crosse’s beautiful Myrick Park. The event’s theme was “ You make a difference More & More every day!”. Volunteers were invited to enjoy a free lunch and good company.

Volunteers receiving a 4,000 hour milestone were recognized with an Lifetime Award. Award recipients included: Sharon Berger, DuWayne Gust, and Kathryn Humbel.

Governor Service Award

The Governor’s Service Awards honors outstanding national service members, volunteers, and programs that have helped to address serious social needs in their communities.

Coulee Region RSVP was awarded with the AmeriCorps Seniors Program of the Year.

The service is described below:
Coulee Region RSVP’s AmeriCorps Seniors volunteers have helped people and organizations since 1973. Over 3,000 RSVP volunteers have served at over 350 organizations in La Crosse and Monroe counties for over 50 years. Coulee Region RSVP improves its communities by implementing its objective to “through collaboration with community non-profit and public organizations we provide meaningful volunteer experiences for American’s age 55 and better.

Coulee Region RSVP volunteers help La Crosse and Monroe County residents with many services when groups contact them. Besides assisting others, their program keeps older volunteers active and engaged, which helps reduce the risk of social isolation, depression, and loneliness by connecting them with community needs.

The Coulee Region RSVP Transportation program has had a big impact by providing 15 or more trips every day to medical appointments, food sources and grocery stores. The program matches drivers and customers to create connections and reduce loneliness to aid those who require rides frequently. Since Coulee Region RSVP has numerous new customers each month who express interest after hearing how outstanding the program’s volunteers are at providing rides, these interactions often lead to referrals. After the COVID-19 pandemic, we now have 27 volunteer drivers who drive over 5,000 miles per month for a total of 225 hours.

The Coulee Region RSVP Handyman Program volunteers receive numerous calls per week to assist with “minor fix it” issues. The fifteen AmeriCorps Seniors volunteers helped nearly 100 clients stay safe and independent living in

Governor Service Award (cont.)

their homes, by installing doorbells or smoke detectors but also safety and mobility projects which include adding grab bars, mending a power lift chair or fastening bathroom flooring to prevent falls. They also help clients maintain their houses by mending leaky faucets, garbage disposals, toilets, broken lamps and changing light bulbs.

RSVP volunteers often go above and beyond what each client requested, completing a few more items they see as needed to help them live safely in their homes and sometimes staying and talking with them for a few hours because the clients are often lonely and haven't seen anyone in a few days.



*Lt. Governor Sara Rodriguez
and RSVP Volunteer Beth Curtis*

*Lt. Governor Sara Rodriguez
and Tessa Thurin*

Over the past year, Coulee Region RSVP Handcraft volunteers have donated over 5,000 wheelchair/walker bags, cancer turbans, caps, mittens, scarves, quilts, lap blankets, clothing protectors and many other items to over 40 local organizations. Over 125 volunteers have donated over 21,000 hours in the past year. These initiatives range from general needs to medical and behavioral issues. Volunteers have made flannel bonding hears for NICU families to transfer scents between parents and their preemies. To help calm anxious patients they have made "comfort cloths" for local behavioral health units. To provide a sensory experience for Alzheimer's patients they have made "twiddlemuffs".

When describing working with their AmeriCorps Seniors RSVP Volunteers, Coulee Region RSVP program director, Ruth Kinstler explains that "I look forward to coming to work each day and being able to interact with RSVP volunteers, our volunteers have so much to offer the community and it is my pleasure to make sure they are staying busy and not isolated in their homes. The volunteers have such giving hearts and that is what makes my job so rewarding and fulfilling."



Volunteers with 20 years of service were also recognized with a plaque. Four volunteers from Coulee Region RSVP were identified as having reached the 20-year milestone: Beth Curtis, Jean Gabrielson, John Hamilton, and Evelyn Miller.

The 2023 award ceremony was held on Wednesday, June 7 at the Olbrich Botanical Gardens in Madison.

2023 Volunteer Awards

BRONZE



100-249hrs

Ruth Adams
Joan Anderson
Kathy Bahr
Kathleen Brudos
Sue Chattington
Mary Kay Collings
Daniel Dunn
Sally Emerson
Katie Fleis
Ellen Gianoli
Marilyn Hegge
Susan Hughes
Dee Johnson
Janis Jolly
Anderson Anderson
Carol A Knox
Linda Kloet
Deborah Lee
Peggy Lydon
Martha Manthei
Walter Manthei
Sherry Mitoraj
Marcy Olson
Nancy Olson
Mark Stahlhut
Sue Weeden
Rita Zindorf

SILVER



250-499hrs

Joan Anderson
Cecilia Berg
Sandi Bloom
Helen Elsbernd
Sally Emerson
Irma Kapanke
Linda Kloet
Ted Lau
Frank Mauss
Linda Palmer
Bob Sewell

GOLD



500-3,999hrs

Joan Anderson
Sandi Bloom
Susan (Sue) Bodenschatz
Barbara Buros
Helen Elsbernd
Kathleen Fischer
Peter Hansen
Ramona Kiehne
Dawn Naas
Linda Palmer
Rob Schuette
Arlene Young

RSVP Special Awards

(Recognized at 10,000 hours, 15,000 hours
20,000 hours, 25,000 hours, 30,000 hours)

Pat Forer - 10,004 hours



LIFETIME AWARD:

**David A. Bruha
Lila Krueger
Dianne Zenz**

All awards are calculated for the time period July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023

RSVP Crossword Puzzle

THANK YOU FOR HELPING US GROW!

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

BEANS	GARDEN	PLOW	SERVICE	SUPPORT
BIRD	GROW	PODS	SHOUT	THANK YOU
BLOOM	HAIL	POTATO	SHOVEL	TRIM
BLOSSOMS	HELPER	RAIN	SOW	TRIP
BUGS	HOE	RAKE	SPRAY	VOLUNTEER
CORN	LILY	RARE	SPROUT	WATER
DAISY	LUCK	RIPE	SQUASH	WEATHER
DIRT	MOW	ROOT	SUGAR	WEEDS
FARM	OKRA	ROSE	SUMMER	WORD
FERN	PEONY	ROWS	SUN	WORK
FLOWERS	PLANTS	SEED	SUNSHINE	WOW

Word Search provided by: Sister Fran Browning



Program Spotlight



Handyman

Handymen and women complete home repairs and safety modifications to keep individuals 55 and better independent in their homes. Volunteers donate their talent and time at no charge to the client. Clients are only responsible for costs associated with additional purchases of materials to complete a job. These volunteers are skilled and big-hearted for investing their precious time in ensuring the safety of local senior citizens.

This service would not be possible without the dedication of our Handyman Program volunteers. A great benefit of joining this team is collaboration with other individuals that share a passion for helping underserved groups. We are looking to expand our team to accommodate more requests from community members and allow more aging people to stay in their own homes longer. Please contact Tessa Thurin at tthurin@rsvplax.org to learn more.

Enjoy the following photos of real-life projects our Handyman group has accomplished throughout the last year.



Is this program for you?

- Fits easily into your schedule
- Sign a Handyman agreement form
- RSVP office screens and emails out requests to the Handyman Volunteer
- Perform in home repairs and safety modifications
- Mileage reimbursement (current IRS reimbursement rate)



“Through the Handyman Program, I feel more confident that my home will be able to service me in the years to come.”



Program Spotlight



Telephone Reassurance

The Telephone Reassurance Program provides comfort to participants, their families, and their friends that someone will be calling them regularly for a check in. It serves as a catalyst for home-bound senior citizens to socialize often.

Volunteers in this program make regular phone calls to the individual they are paired with based on similar interests. Calling schedules depend on what is arranged and agreed upon between the volunteer and recipient. Callers record notes and their hours and turn them in monthly while reporting any immediate concerns to the RSVP Administrator. Volunteers make a huge impact on a lonely person's life from the comfort of their home by holding friendly conversations.

Is this program for you?

- Be available at times arranged between you and the client (weekdays only)
- Ask/record questions to track clients well being
- Turn in volunteer hours monthly
- Sign confidentiality agreement
- Immediate concerns should be brought to the attention of the RSVP Administrator



Transportation

The Transportation Program provides friendly rides to individuals in our community who do not have other means of transportation. Volunteer drivers transport clients to medical and personal appointments. Volunteers donate their time and in return receive a mileage reimbursement set yearly by the IRS.

This program needs more volunteer drivers to help serve the aging community with their transportation necessities. The more drivers we have, the more rides we can accommodate, and the bigger positive impact we are able to create in our community. Volunteers can drive as little or as much as they would like based on their schedule and preferences.

If you are interested in joining the Transportation Program, please connect with RSVP Administrator, Tessa Thurin at tthurin@rsvplax.org

Is this program for you?

- Volunteer on a daily, weekly or on-call basis
- Receive mileage reimbursement (set yearly by the IRS)
- Accurately track and submit mileage reimbursement sheets monthly
- Provide copy of driver's license and proof of insurance
- Sign Volunteer Driver Agreement
- Have email access to receive ride requests from RSVP staff



Handcraft

Our Handcraft Program was busy again last year! New project collaborations include crocheted little hearts for The Little Heart Project, small cloth hearts for NICU parents to transfer aroma to the infant, and comfort cloths for mental health and dementia patients to relieve anxiety. The Little Heart Project creator Kathleen Jensen said, “RSVP volunteers started crocheting and tagging hearts for us this year and we are so thankful for their support of our mission!! The Little Heart Project crafts small crocheted hearts with encouragement and leaves them everywhere. At its core, this is a random act of kindness to eliminate mental health stigma and prevent suicides. The RSVP volunteers produced 2,212 hearts for us to graciously distribute at numerous local events this year. With more hearts, we can impact more lives. Thank you!

Coulee Region RSVP conducted their annual “Handcraft Open House” over three days in November 2022. Many local groups selected homemade gifts for their clients. Through local agencies, RSVP gave 4,580 items to community members. Thank you to the handcrafters who worked hard to provide this effort with lovely hats, mittens, scarves, blankets, etc. This event would not happen without these volunteers’ talent

and time. Thank you to the volunteers who helped staff, organize, and operate this event.

The RSVP Office hosts “The Knotty Knitters” every Wednesday from 8:00 to 11:00 AM. RSVP handcrafters are welcome to socialize and meet other knitting/crocheting volunteers. No signup required.

“Thank you for your generous donation, The La Crosse Area Suicide Prevention Initiative is thrilled to have your support. Your generosity truly made a difference, and we are so grateful for your contribution.”

Mark your calendars and make sure to have all your handcraft items turned into the RSVP office by Monday, November 13th.

Open House 2023 will be held November 14th, 15th and 16th from 9am-3pm



Sweet Notes Comes To A Close in 2023



The Sweet Notes has been with Coulee Region RSVP for 27 years and has now had to discontinue their performances for a couple of reasons. It has been hard to get more folks to join the group so they finished off with 4 members. The biggest issue was the fact that it was just getting difficult to transport the sound equipment, set it up and then take it down again.

The Sweet Notes has been in existence for over 40 years! They played at many different places in the area over the years.

Bethany St. Joseph, Hillview, Springbrook in La Crescent, St. Benedictine, Bethany Riverside, Onalaska Care Center just to name a few. They would even have a special Christmas program in December for the various places they would entertain at.

Coulee Region RSVP has recorded that there have been 37 members of the Sweet Notes over the years.

Their last performance was for the National Night Out on August 1st, 2023 which they have done for the past 4 years.

One of the members, Marlene Stolpa said she has been with the group since April 2013 and she really enjoyed playing the keyboard with them.

I know that the many places where they would entertain are going to miss them!

THANK YOU!

RSVP volunteer Nancy Jaekel pieced together this beautiful quilt and Maxine Jacobson quilted it.

Thank you for your generous donation, The La Crosse Area Suicide Prevention Initiative is thrilled to have your support. We recently celebrated our 10th Annual Dance for Hope with music, dancing, education and fabulous gift baskets including donations such as yours. We utilize funds from this event to continue education in the community promoting suicide prevention. Your generosity truly made a difference and we are so grateful for your contribution.



Mississippi Valley Conservancy



Rotary Lights Opening Night Celebration



RSVP Handcraft Open House



Western Technical College

Quilt Raffle

2023 Handmade Quilt Raffle
Donated by: Linda Hamilton

Linda Hamilton an RSVP volunteer for 17 years passed away October 2022. Linda volunteered countless hours quilting and was very generous and donated quilts to our Annual Quilt Raffle each year. This is the last quilt we have that was quilted and donated by her.

Tickets are available

1 ticket = \$1 or 6 tickets for \$5

Drawing to be held:

November 28th at 1:00 pm

**Stop by the RSVP office and
check out the beautiful quilt
and to purchase some tickets
for your chance to win!**

The winner of the 2022 Quilt Raffle was
Marilyn Heinz

Thank you to all who purchased raffle tickets

Ticket sold by: David Pierce



Upcoming Events

2023

November 14th-16th
Handcraft Open House

November 23rd-24th
Thanksgiving
(RSVP Office closed)

November 28th
Giving Tuesday

December 25th and 26th
Christmas (RSVP Office closed)

2024

January 1st and 2nd
New Years (RSVP Office closed)

January 15th
Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
(RSVP Office closed)

March 29th
Easter (RSVP Office closed)

March 24th and 27th
Memorial Day
(RSVP Office closed)

July 4th
4th of July (RSVP Office closed)

September 2nd
Labor Day (RSVP Office closed)

September 19th
RSVP Volunteer Program
(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.



A Day at the Capital

Tessa and Ruth were able to be a part of the AmeriCorp Day at the Capital in Madison on March 15, 2023. We were able to visit the offices of Senator Brad Pfaff (he was in session so we met with his staff member Sarah Semrad), Representative Jill Billings, and Representative Steve Doyle. We were able to provide information to them about our programs. We were joined by other AmeriCorp office staff from our region during these meetings.

There was a short program after our meetings with the various members of legislature and Ruth Kinstler, RSVP Director was very fortunate to give a brief talk about the impact we make here in the Coulee Region.





Thank You for 20 years of Support

20 years of Support from The Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Adoration (FSPA) Ministry Fund.

Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Adoration mission statement:

We are a community of vowed Franciscan women centered in the Eucharist, committed to be loving presence through prayer, witness and service.

The FSPA Ministry Fund is sponsored by the Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Adoration. Funds are allocated to projects/programs which empower people in ministries that are consistent with the FSPA Constitutions and the Mission of the Church.

Coulee Region Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) has been very fortunate to have been blessed with 20 years of support from the FSPA Ministry Fund.

Starting in 2003 until 2007 the grant was used to help support our Study Buddy program where our volunteers were placed in schools to be volunteer tutors that were designated economically challenged.

From 2008 to 2013 the grant supported the Transportation program where we were able to provide affordable transportation for the elderly, disabled and low income.

In 2014 until 2018 we wrote the grant to support our Handyman Program where Handyman volunteers do minor fix it repairs to individuals in need in our community. Volunteers help individuals with disabilities, low income, Veterans, and seniors in need of assistance that may not otherwise be able to afford it.

Then in 2019 to 2021 we received the grant to support our Handyman program in addition to adding the Transportation program. Both of these programs have impacted the community and have allowed clients as they age to be able to stay in their homes longer with the assistance of either the Transportation Program (no longer driving but needing to get to medical appointments) and the Handyman program (taking care of the minor fix it repairs that are needed).

And for the previous 2 years 2022 and 2023, we have added the Handcraft Program in addition to continuing with the Handyman and Transportation program. We found a great need for being able to purchase more items for our Handcraft volunteers (yarn, thread, material). With the rising costs of many items, it was making it harder to purchase the supplies our handcrafters needed.

TOTAL RECEIVED FROM 2003-2023

\$68,000

**HANDYMAN - \$26,825
STUDY BUDDY - \$25,175
HANDCRAFT - \$8,500**

We want to say “THANK YOU” to the Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Adoration for their dedication, support and donations to our organization that allows us to continue to make an impact in the community.

A Look Back at the Early Days: A Brief History of RSVP

In 1973 the Domestic Volunteer Service Act authorized the creation of the Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP), along with the Senior Companions, and Foster Grandparents programs. That is when RSVP was born and when it began in the Coulee Region—fifty years ago this year.

On Dec. 5, 1972 the La Crosse Tribune ran a headline: “\$26,374 Grant for New Program,” which announced the establishment of RSVP. “Retired Senior Volunteer Service Planned,” it said, and then went on to describe a program and mission that are essentially unchanged today.

Of course some things have changed. In March of 1975, the Tribune ran a small article stating that RSVP volunteer drivers would receive \$.12/mile reimbursement.

Initially the Coulee Region RSVP program covered four counties: La Crosse, Monroe, Vernon, and Crawford. Ten years later, it still represented four counties. Reading the oldest issues of the RSVP newsletter on file at the La Crosse Public Library. The newsletter in those days came out 4 to 5 times a year and was primarily used to promote the various volunteer opportunities available. Looking through newspapers online it became clear that newspapers were also used to publicize the volunteer opportunities and recruit volunteers. Far different from the volunteer portal on our website!

In the 1983 newsletter it stated that RSVP was in the Oktoberfest Parade and that year they

took first place! Their entry was a “handmade wagon drawn by six matching Clydesdales” and according to the account in the newsletter it was “absolutely magnificent.” Robert and Gen Clay provided the wagon and horses. No photo was located of this regal RSVP wagon.

The wagon carried RSVP royalty in the parade: there was a king, queen, and two attendants, all chosen for their winning number of volunteer hours and as representatives of the four counties. Perhaps some of my readers will recognize the names: King Warren Fisk, of Vernon County, Queen Clio Wetzel of La Crosse County, and attendants Edward Bitzer (Monroe) and Clementine Sedbrook (Crawford).

We still hold our Volunteer Recognition event in the fall, just as they did then, and we still think our volunteers are royalty. RSVP has stayed true to its original mission even while keeping up with changes in society and the world. Because of our volunteers and their dedication we are a strong community asset.



Representing RSVP in the Community

If you know of an event we should be at or if you know of somewhere for us to present about RSVP please feel free to reach out to either Tessa or Ruth and we would be happy to participate!

A list of events we participated at:

- Duratech Wellness Fair
- Veteran Bonanza
- Juneteenth Celebration
- Onalaska Library Fair
- Scenic Bluff Health event
- Ho-Chunk National Wellness
- Rotary Lights!



Ways to Stay Connected



Facebook

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

Rsvplax.org

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
- You can log into the website and view volunteer opportunities and submit hours
- You can look at the current newsletter and past newsletters

Constant Contact

One way we communicate with our volunteers on a regular basis is through our weekly emails.

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.

Donations and Contributions

Individual Contributions

Donald & Joan Anderson	Caroline Mann
Julie Arentz	Tess Mann
Joyce Arthur	Amy Marcou
Conrad or Margaret Ann Awtrey	John & Dee Medinger
Rebecca Bacon	Nel Miller
Jean Beyer Estate	Kurt & Mary Mueller
Wendy Butler	Donald Pahnke
John Cartwright	Jeffrey Palm
Mark & Minda Chamberlain	Carol Peterson
Calvin Chatten	Joan Peterson
Marti Clark	Jean Rand
Judith Corbett-Hutchens	Richard Record
Beth Curtis	Rhonda Rood
Peggy Derrick	Jolene Rust
Dan Dunn	Kay Rutherford
Kate Dunnum	Mark or Kimberly Schneider
Christopher Eickman	Mary Servais
Trish Grathen	Amy Smyth
Mary Greene	Amanda Spielman
Sig & Jean Ann Gundersen	Kathy Ticknor
Pat & Sue Hanratty	R.L. & Janet Virata
Dona Hartwig	Dorothy Wetterlin
Joseph & Patricia Heim	August & Donna Wobeck
Sandra Hoeser	Arlene Young
Brian Hopkins	
Susan Hughes	
Marcy Hutchenrueter	
Laura Ira	
James or Patricia Jakowski	
Larry King	
Dan & Ruth Kinstler	
John Kjos	
Roger Larson	
Peggy Lydon	

Business Contributions

Altra Credit Union Give Back Day	Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
Cleary-Kumm Foundation, Inc	La Crosse Area Suicide Prevention
Culvers, La Crosse	La Crosse Community Foundation
Dairyland Power	Lewis Vally ELCA
First Lutheran Church-Onalaska	The Rock Foundation
Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Adoration (FSPA)	Thrivent Action Team

Celebrate RSVP Online Auction Contributions

1924 Custom Soapery	Jump Start Park
Alpine Inn	Kathryne Humbel
Billie's kitchen	Kwik Trip, Inc
Castle La Crosse Bed & Breakfast	La Crosse Area Family YMCA
Children's Museum of La Crosse	La Crosse Symphony Orchestra
Coulee Golf Bowl	Le Coulee Cheese Castle
Coulee Region RSVP Staff	Lindy's Subs and Salads
Coulee Region RSVP Staff & Board of Directors	Mary Kay by Lisa Wendt
Crimson Clover Floral	Meringue Bakery & Café
Explore La crosse	Nel Miller
Festival Foods	Olive Juice Quilts
Girl Scouts of Wisconsin	Phil S. Addis
Badgerland	Play It Again Sports
Green Bay Packers Give Back	Radisson Hotel
Habitat for Humanity La Crosse Area	St. Croix Hospice
Joe Heim	The Weber Group
John Hamilton	Viterbo University
John Medinger	Western Technical College

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™

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.

**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.

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Coulee Region RSVP, Inc.

2920 East Avenue South, Suite 104

La Crosse, WI 54601



Phone: 608.785.0500

Email: info@rsvplax.org

Website: www.rsvplax.org

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