



# Volunteers on the Move in Northeast Iowa!

October, 2017 202 Winnebago Street, Decorah, Iowa

Kathy Barloon, RSVP Director, 563-277-5181

Kim Toussaint, Volunteer Coordinator, 563-277-5180

**RSVP Volunteer  
Appreciation Brunch**

**October 18,  
9:00 a.m.**

**Nob Hill Supper Club**

**2955 US Hwy 52**

**Decorah, Iowa**



**Let us know if you are  
coming to the brunch  
or if you can't make it:**

**563-277-5181**

**[rsvp@decorah.lib.ia.us](mailto:rsvp@decorah.lib.ia.us)**



**Road  
Construction  
around Decorah  
is a possibility!**

## **RSVP VOLUNTEERS ARE GOING BACK TO SCHOOL!**

It is that time of the year again...RSVP volunteers are returning to area classrooms and there is always room for more! They are busy in the pre-school and Head Start classrooms, engaging children in pre-reading activities. They work one on one with individual students and with small groups of students in the elementary, middle and even the high school setting. They are also engaged in Allamakee Community Connections after school program.



**Give us a call if you would like more information about  
volunteering in a classroom near you!**

Northeast Iowa RSVP Volunteer Program currently has memorandums signed with the Allamakee Community Schools, ArtHaus, Crestwood Elementary, Decorah Community Schools, Head Start classrooms in the tri-county area, Kinderhaus, Nisse Preschool & Kids Place, Postville Community Schools and St. Benedict School.



The Reading Buddies Program at Crestwood Elementary is beginning their 2<sup>nd</sup> year of RSVP volunteers serving in the classroom. It has been a rewarding experience for both the children and the volunteers and the teachers are very enthusiastic about the classroom assistance. There is always room for more!



# COMING SOON



## 2018 Tax Season

**Well not really that soon...** but it is time to let us know if you want to help with the 2018 tax season! Last season RSVP volunteers served over 500 appreciative clients!

## Volunteers make the world go round!

### On-going Volunteer Needs

- ✓ **Delivery of Meals to Homebound**
- ✓ **Food Pantry assistance in Decorah, Waukon & Postville**
- ✓ **ArtHaus in Decorah needs a Gallery Volunteer and a Marketing Volunteer**

## VOLUNTEER RECEPTION CENTER UPDATE...

RSVP Volunteers, Mark Ruen, Carolyn Mottley, Diane Osborn and Bev Sheridan were on hand to register sandbagging volunteers at a recent event. Pictured with Sean Snyder, Winneshiek Emergency Mgt. Director and Kathy Barloon, RSVP Director



### Volunteer Management for Disasters in Winneshiek County

RSVP staff are in the process of training volunteers to help with the operations of a Volunteer Reception Center (VRC) after a disaster. The purpose of the VRC is to register and deploy those volunteers who show up to lend a hand during the recovery period after a disaster strikes. RSVP staff have pulled together two portable totes filled with everything that may be needed to register the spontaneous volunteers. We have had one training session and will be scheduling more in the near future. We will also be training volunteers to assist with answering a disaster phone line. Let us know if this is of interest to you!

### RSVP Contact Information....

**We know there are times when we call and you don't recognize our '277' number so you don't answer the phone – we do the same thing on our personal phones with numbers we don't recognize, so please add our numbers to your contacts:**

**Kathy 563-277-5181 and Kim 563-277-5180**

**Kim has a new email to be more recognizable as RSVP:**

**[rsvp2@decorah.lib.ia.us](mailto:rsvp2@decorah.lib.ia.us)**

**(Kathy: [rsvp@decorah.lib.ia.us](mailto:rsvp@decorah.lib.ia.us))**



**Northeast Iowa RSVP**

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## Christmas Cards for Iowa's Bravest by October 31st

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Some of you will remember a few years back when our RSVP program gathered Christmas Cards for Iowa troops who were deployed overseas. The past few years, there has not been as much of a need. However, with the recent deployment of 35 local Army National Guard soldiers out of Waterloo headed to the Middle East plus a larger group of Iowa Army National Guard soldiers who will be part of a 500-soldier force from four states including 390 from Iowa, Julie Ehlers with Iowa's Bravest announced that they are once again seeking donations of items for "appreciation boxes" to be sent to soldiers. I have been in contact with Julie and have offered to have Northeast Iowa RSVP Volunteers write a letter/Christmas card to be included with these boxes for the Iowa Bravest program will send the appreciation boxes. Julie needs the cards by

October 31<sup>st</sup>, so if you are interested, please sign a card, write a positive note thanking the soldier for their service and either send it to us or drop it off at our office at the Decorah Public Library or **bring your cards to the brunch on October 18<sup>th</sup>**. If you are sending your card(s), please mail to Northeast Iowa RSVP, 202 Winnebago Street, Decorah, Iowa 52101.

If you can't find Christmas cards in October – just use blank paper or another note card or make your own (no glitter). Feel free to sign your name and address. Also, if you wish to make a donation to help cover the cost of shipping items, you can make a check out to Iowa's Bravest and we will send it on with the cards.



**Please Note:** Do not put your card/letter in an envelope as it needs to be proof read for appropriateness before it can be sent off to our soldiers. Thank you for your positive and encouraging notes.

## WELCOME TO KRISTIN TORRESDAL DECORAH PUBLIC LIBRARY DIRECTOR!

We are pleased to welcome Kristin into her new role as the Decorah Public Library Director. She has actually been serving as the DPL administrative coordinator since 2005 and is very familiar with the operations of the library including the RSVP program. Torresdal has nearly 20 years of experience in libraries, and has completed Level V library director certification through the State Library of Iowa.



Decorah Public Library Board President, Andrea Beckendorf, stated that "the board was impressed with Kristin's vision for the library in the community and her understanding of the role the library plays for a wide range of community members." Beckendorf further stated that "We were looking for someone who would be dynamic, creative, and collaborative in carrying out the day-to-day work of the Library. Kristin's demonstrated record of having brought those qualities to her current position and her enthusiasm for working with Library staff and patrons aligned with what we were looking for in a Library Director."

**Comments from Kristin:** "In my new role as Decorah Public Library Director, I look forward to continuing to foster the same great spirit of cooperation that has always been the cornerstone of the Library's relationship with the RSVP program. RSVP is an absolutely phenomenal asset for Northeast Iowa and I am in awe of the thousands of hours of valuable services provided by RSVP volunteers every year. Thank you, Kathy and Kim, for all that you do to make this program a reality, and thank YOU, volunteers, for so generously sharing your time and talents!" **We look forward to working with Kristin!**

## Northeast Iowa RSVP

Is sponsored by  
Decorah Public Library

Federal Programming  
provided by

**Corporation for  
National &  
Community Service**

### **State Funding**

Iowa Commission on  
Volunteer Service

Other Funding

Marion E. Jerome  
Foundation

**Allamakee, Howard  
and Winneshiek Board  
of Supervisors**

Depot Outlet  
First United Methodist  
Church of Decorah  
ExxonMobil  
United Way of  
Winneshiek County



## **Volunteer Comments:**

**One of my greatest joys while volunteering at the DEPOT is seeing kids picking out books – the kids act like they have found a treasure!**

**One day I was asked by a student if I was a grandmother – I replied “No, but I would love to be one”. A sensitive young lad immediately said “You can be my grandmother anytime, Phyllis”!**

**A tax client told my tax preparer partner and me “Thank you for treating me with dignity” That made my day very special!**

**Kindergarten kids are wonderful and so smart!**

**I am so pleased with how many out of towners visit our Butterfly Garden and City Prairie**

**Love the people I deliver meals to!**

**I love volunteering at the VA Clinic, especially when Veterans talk about their service time.**

**The people I assist at the food pantry are always grateful and never fail to say “Thank You.” This is a critical service in our community and I am pleased to be part of it.**

**As a volunteer with Laura Ingalls Wilder Museum, I interact with people from all over the world, many illustrators and authors.**

**One young man visited us, told us his dream, followed our suggestions about how to groom for an interview, role played the interview and got his dream job!**

**I love the workings of the 3 & 4-year-old mind. One day they had quesadillas for lunch, they each flipped theirs over explaining that I had served the ‘Pizza’ upside-down!**

**It is very rewarding to talk to Veterans and family members at the VA Clinic.**

**I just love it when I am out in the community and the little children I work with come over and give me a hug!**

**It is a great feeling of joy when we meet our quota for a blood drive!**

**I really appreciate the “Thank You’s” I get while volunteering!**

United Way provides support to RSVP and 19 other agencies in Winneshiek County. For more information go to: <http://www.unitedwaywinnco.org/donate.html> or you can mail a donation to PO Box 165, Decorah, Iowa 52101

**United Way makes a difference in Winneshiek County!**