



Volunteers on the Move in Northeast Iowa

330 VOLUNTEERS MAKING A DIFFERENCE EVERY DAY!

202 Winnebago Street, Decorah, Iowa Phone: 563-277-5181 rsvp@decorah.lib.ia.us



RSVP Volunteer Appreciation Brunch
October 18, 2017
Nob Hill Supper Club

330 Volunteers
Serving at
58 non-profit agencies
31,581 Hours of Service
Value of Service: \$721,079.88

Thank you for sharing your time & Talents!

A 'check' for \$721,079.88 was presented to former Decorah Library Director, Lorraine Borowski and new DPL director, Kristin Torresdal representing the value of volunteer service during the 2016-2017 grant year.



Kathy Barloon, Kristin Torresdal, Lorraine Borowski



Joann Hagen received a certificate for 15 years of volunteer service

Midge Kjome of Decorah Genealogy and Kathy Schwartzoff of Helping Services for Youth & Families accepted a RSVP station certificate for 15 years of welcoming RSVP volunteers into their agencies.



Staff on the Move at Northeast Iowa RSVP!



I wish to thank Kim Toussaint for a job well done!
Kim joined the RSVP staff in August of 2013 and has done a great job matching volunteer interests with needs in the community. We wish her well in her new job!

From the Director's Desk...

I would like to wish everyone a very Happy, Healthy and Prosperous New Year!

As we look forward to 2018, we may wonder what changes may be in store for us, our families, friends and neighbors. For the RSVP program, we are still wondering about program funding - which has been a constant since 2009 when we received a 20% cut in funding that was never restored. We have always moved on and '*acted as if*'. We will continue to do that because we have so many wonderful volunteers who are willing to give of their time and talents to help others.

On another note, there will be some changes for me personally, as I have decided to retire from my position as the RSVP Director. I have enjoyed almost 15 years of working with some pretty wonderful people. What a fine example each of you have set for me as I enter the 'retirement' stage of my life.

DPL Director, Kristen Torresdal and the library board will be developing a plan leading to inviting candidates to apply, interviewing and hiring my replacement. I have been busy the past few months developing a (NE IA RSVP specific) operations handbook to assist in a smooth transition. We are working on a time-line that will lead towards my last day to be in mid to late April, getting us through the tax season and grant renewal. We will not be filling the Volunteer Coordinator position at this time, allowing the new director a chance to develop his/her program. In the mean-time, I want to thank Karen Pattison who works at the DPL front desk for taking on the task of recording the volunteer hours that you turn in each month. She is doing a great job and was quick to learn the Volunteer Reporter system.

Thank you from the bottom of my heart for your support over the past 14 ½ years!

Kathy Barloon, RSVP Director

The 2018 Tax Season is about to begin! Eighteen RSVP volunteers will be spending Fridays in January training to become certified as tax preparer's. Tax appointments will begin the first week in February and will be offered at the Cresco, Decorah and Postville Libraries as well as the Allamakee Extension office in Waukon.

We will start making appointments Jan. 17th. Thanks to the talented and dedicated volunteers working with this program!



Appointments: Cresco, Decorah, Postville

563-277-5186

Waukon Extension Office: 563-568-6345



SNOW Bird Help....

It happens every year at this time, volunteers go South for Winter! For those of you who stay around to enjoy the Iowa Winter - help is needed:

- Food Pantries in Decorah, Postville & Waukon
- Luther College Cafeteria to Community
- **February** Meal delivery to Nisse Preschool on Mondays From Decorah hospital 11:00-11:30 (subs on other days)

Volunteers going SOUTH for winter!

Call Kathy 563-277-5181 for more information! Toll Free: 877-806-0623



Do you play 500 or Euchre or any other popular card games? The residents at area nursing homes would love to have you come to play a game with them - but be prepared - they have played for a long time and know all the tricks! Wellington Place in Decorah is looking for Wednesday card players to carry on the long time card party tradition.

In a recent survey:

96% of Northeast Iowa RSVP Volunteers said that Volunteering gives them a greater sense of purpose!

Tax Time Help Needed...

Greeters who will welcome tax clients in Decorah & Postville, check to make sure they have everything they need and instruct them on filling out the necessary paper work for the tax preparer.

Someone to come to the Decorah Library to make **reminder phone calls** to tax clients the day before their appointment.





Coming Soon...Training for those volunteers who would like to help out in a Winneshiek County Volunteer Reception Center during/after a local disaster. This will include some of the same information offered at the last training but will include more on answering the Disaster Phone Line.

'**Duckling Rockers**' are needed in the infant classroom at Sunflower Child Development Center in Decorah for babies age 6 weeks to 15 months. You choose the day and time you would like to spend rocking, soothing, bottle feeding, playing and reading to a baby or toddler.

Just because I am the newsletter editor and I can do this - I have added a picture of Grandma B with her newest grandchild - Evelyn Marie! We enjoy 'Rocking'! I am sure there is a study out there somewhere to prove that rocking a baby is beneficial for both the 'rockee' and the 'rocker'!



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Listen to a 1st Grade Child Read

John Cline School 8:00-8:30 M-F

This activity will help a child practice reading and give the child confidence in their reading ability. We already have a volunteer interested in Wednesdays, so you can choose to do every day or just one day of the week. **Make a Difference in the Life of a Child!**

Postville Elementary Volunteer will be mentors for elementary age students, serving as a 'tutor', providing social and emotional learning skills and/or having lunch with students and/or playing games with the students. It is expected that the volunteer will help students who need extra attention so that the student feels extra support and has a positive rapport with more adult figures. The happier the student, the better they will succeed in school.

Volunteers will work with the teacher to determine a time that is best for both the volunteer and the student. Ideally, the volunteer will serve once a week during the school year for 45 - 60 minutes, Monday-Friday, 8:00-3:00.



A big thank you to the Allamakee, Howard and Winneshiek County Supervisors. I have had the privilege of meeting with them in December and January. They appreciate the RSVP volunteers and we appreciate the financial support they provide for the program!



First United Methodist Church of Decorah
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