

MONADNOCK

www.monadnockvolunteercenter.org
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RSVP VOLUNTEER CENTER

FROM THE DIRECTOR

Happy Holidays!

When I was growing up, most of the holidays were spent at my grandparent's. I loved going there because my Gram went all out. I am not sure how she was able to make so many pies, breads, candies, and rolls while working full time as a nurse, but she did. It was always exciting to look into the den where she kept everything since it was cool and, generally, it was off limits to us kids. In this room she also kept a jar of shiny pennies which she would carefully select and give to my sister and me when we left. It is amazing that I remember what a treasure that was.

I have often said volunteers are earning their "pennies in heaven". Volunteers are a humble, selfless, generous group of people that seek little recognition. So often they say, "I get back more than I give". Those acts of kindness that volunteers may not view as doing anything out of the ordinary make extraordinary differences.

For example from our America Reads survey to teachers in June, "My volunteer provides invaluable one on one instruction to students who are struggling academically. It is very important that these students receive some one on one instruction. It helps them learn in a focused manner, and gives them much needed practice reading orally. There is very little time in a classroom for one on one instruction, and it does not always happen at home. My volunteer fills that void." At our Neighbors-In-Deed barbecue, one care recipient said tearily, "I so often don't get out of the house. I am so happy to be here. Thank you for doing this for us."



Great times at the Neighbors-In-Deed BBQ at Wilson Pond

Volunteers are priceless. Over the years, it has been like living vicariously through all of you. Your stories paint the picture when we present to Monadnock United Way, speak to groups, or compile the reports to our funders. Without you, it is easy to see numbers, rather than the people who are struggling with unmet needs in our community and how you make it better. Every day I am most grateful for the work you do, the compassion you share, and the example you set by sharing your experience. You deserve many pennies for the shiny stars you are! Thank you for the gifts you give all the year through!

I wish you all a joyous holiday season and a New Year filled with every blessing.

Warm regards,

Kathy Baird

Kathy Baird

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has."

- Margaret Mead

WELCOME NEW RSVP VOLUNTEERS!



- | | |
|-----------------|------------------|
| Beth Allen | Deborah Jardine |
| Jillian Burkett | Nancy Newton |
| Jane Cunningham | Wendy Peters |
| Ann Curtis | Carol Reed |
| Karen Debonis | Robert Sherry |
| Carol Green | Nancy Van Campen |
| Gil Hunter | |

Spread the word: RSVP is asking for your help! Please pass along our newsletter to a friend to help get the word out about our program and service opportunities.

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RSVP

Lead With Experience

Corporation for
**NATIONAL &
COMMUNITY
SERVICE** 

LIVE UNITED

Monadnock United Way


**MONADNOCK
FAMILY
SERVICES**

Welcome Paul Teixeira to the RSVP Team!

I am pleased to announce that Paul A. Teixeira has been hired as the Program Coordinator for Peterborough and the Neighbors-In-Deed program. Paul has spent his entire career in the not for profit world working to improve the quality of life for underserved populations. One of his focus areas was developing and preserving low-income supportive senior housing in central Massachusetts. Paul was also actively involved in programs that provided services to individuals, families, and rural communities that focused on helping create opportunity for self-sufficiency, providing permanent housing for homeless families, and protecting drinking water resources. Please stop in to meet Paul when he is in Peterborough on Wednesday and Thursday at 9 Vose Farm Road or Mondays at 64 Main Street in Keene from 8:30 AM to 4:00 PM.



The Monadnock RSVP Volunteer Center

invites you to a

Holiday Open House

Thursday, December 11, 2013

1:00p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

64 Main Street, Suite 212, Keene NH

**Help Support
Monadnock RSVP
Volunteer Center**

as a TD Bank Customer
or by becoming one.

**Affinity
Membership
Program**



TD BANK AFFINITY MEMBERSHIP PROGRAM

Based on the Affinity Codes assigned to accounts, TD Bank will make a financial contribution to Monadnock RSVP every year based on the average balance in all members' accounts. No contribution is made from your bank accounts. You are simply showing your "affinity" to Monadnock RSVP. There are two ways to get involved:

CURRENT TD BANK CUSTOMERS

Call TD Bank at (603)352-2040 or visit any branch and ask to have your account(s) linked to Monadnock RSVP.

OPEN A BANK ACCOUNT AT TD BANK

If you are not a TD Bank customer, but would like to support RSVP, you can receive a reward for opening a new TD Bank checking account. You will receive \$25 when you open a new, non-interest bearing checking account with TD Bank.

*Participating in the
TD Bank Affinity
Membership Program is
an easy and simple way
to support Monadnock
RSVP Volunteer Center
at no cost to you!*

*By participating, your
bank account(s) will be
allocated Monadnock
RSVP's Affinity code
"AG065", linking your
account to RSVP.*

WE'RE MAKING PROGRESS!

Here are some results from our recent CNCS report:

33% of RSVP volunteers are serving in the area of Healthy Futures.

106 unduplicated volunteers are in work plans that have outcomes.

330 children tutored in America Reads had improved reading proficiency, based upon results from a survey in June to teachers.

5 volunteers are Representative Payees to 7 people with severe and persistent mental illness. We made our three year target already!

901 pints of blood were collected by the American Red Cross at blood drives supported by RSVP volunteers.

The Community Kitchen, Inc



THANKSGIVING DISTRIBUTION

Sunday, November 23rd • 10:00 - 4:00
Monday, November 24th • 10:00 - 4:00

CHRISTMAS DISTRIBUTION

Wednesday, December 17th • 12:30 - 5:30
Thursday, December 18th • 11:30 - 4:00

A Christmas Blessing

*During this Christmas season, may you be blessed
With the spirit of the season, which is peace,
The gladness of the season, which is hope,
And the heart of the season, which is love*

*Somehow, not only for Christmas
but all the long year through, the joy that you
give to others is the joy that comes back to you.
And the more you spend in blessing
the poor and lonely and sad, the more of your
heart's possessing returns to you glad.*

- John Greenleaf Whittier

RECIPES TO SHARE



Oreo Chocolate Truffles

INGREDIENTS

- 1 (16 oz) package OREO Chocolate Sandwich Cookies, divided
- 1 (8 oz) package PHILADELPHIA Cream Cheese, softened
- 2 (8 oz) packages BAKER'S Semi-Sweet Baking Chocolate, melted

DIRECTIONS

Crush 9 of the cookies to fine crumbs in food processor; reserve for later use. (Cookies can also be finely crushed in a resealable plastic bag using a rolling pin.) Crush remaining 36 cookies to fine crumbs; place in medium bowl. Add cream cheese; mix until well blended. Roll cookie mixture into 42 balls, about 1-inch in diameter.

Dip balls in chocolate; place on wax paper-covered baking sheet. (Any leftover chocolate can be stored at room temperature for another use.) Sprinkle with reserved cookie crumbs.

Refrigerate until firm, about 1 hour. Store leftover truffles, covered, in refrigerator.

How to Easily Dip Truffles: Place truffle ball in melted chocolate to coat; roll if necessary. Lift truffle from chocolate using 2 forks (this will allow excess chocolate to run off) before placing on wax paper.

How to Melt Chocolate: Place chocolate in microwaveable bowl. Microwave on HIGH 2-1/2 min. or until chocolate is completely melted, stirring every 30 sec.



MANY HANDS MAKE LIGHT WORK!

On the 13th anniversary of September 11th, RSVP held its National Day of Service to Honor Our Veterans in conjunction with Monadnock United Way's annual Day of Caring. It was a rainy, drizzly day and we were worried about cancellations. But all the volunteers showed up, enthusiastic and ready to work!



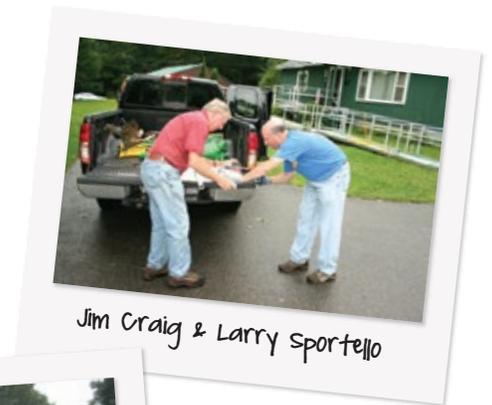
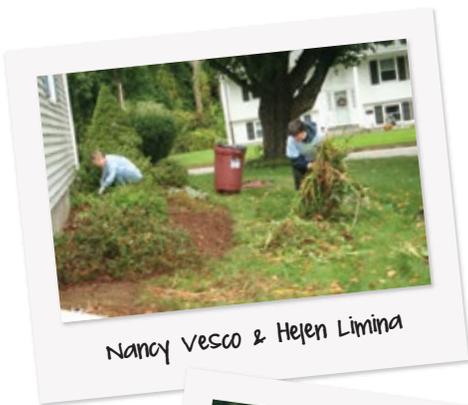
Here is what a few of the participants said:

"These few words will never be able to express my deepest gratitude for all the work your organization did for me on September 11th. I was deeply touched by the kindness of strangers who gave their time so willingly to help me. My husband served his country, devotedly, for 10 years and he would have been so pleased that someone was helping his widow." - Hinsdale resident

"I wish to personally thank each and every one of you that volunteered their services on September 11th. The group of volunteers that provided services for me were so amazing, caring, thoughtful, and dedicated. The rainy day did not even hold these individuals back from helping me out. God bless each and every one of you! Words just can't describe how much their services meant to me." - Keene resident

"My spirits were soaring on the ride home from Brenda's home. It felt so great to be able to help her and I'm so glad to have been part of this special day of service. Thanks for all your hard work putting this together." - Rosemarie Dowling, RSVP volunteer

Overall, 37 volunteers representing RSVP, two AmeriCorps members, residents of Plowshare Farm, and students from Franklin Pierce College completed nine projects in Keene, Swanzey, Fitzwilliam, Richmond, Hinsdale, and Greenville. Thank you to all the volunteers and to Cathy Garland for making a difference!



America Reads 2014-15 is off to a GREAT start!

With our program entering its 16th year, we were thrilled to bring together 18 new volunteers on October 1st to be trained by our long-time trainer and friend, Evelyn Fortune! We are so excited to have this new group of volunteers teaming up with our veteran readers to provide mentorship, friendship, guidance and positive change to so many of our youngest community members.

We are proud to bring our program to the following Monadnock Region elementary schools this year: Chesterfield, Frankestown, Franklin, Fuller, Greenfield, Jaffrey, Jonathan Daniels, Marlborough, Mt. Caesar, Peterborough, Peterborough SKIP, Westmoreland, Winchester as well as the Head Starts in Jaffrey and Swanzey.

With our deepest thanks to the teachers who welcome our volunteers into their classrooms and our dedicated volunteers who give so generously of their time and talent! Here's to another successful year for America Reads!

UPCOMING VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Horatio Colony Museum

HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE

Friday, Dec 5th from 7:00 - 8:30 PM

Saturday, Dec 6th from 1:00 - 2:30 PM

One volunteer will be placed in each of the 5 rooms and will give info about the room (reading from a script) to visitors who walk through.

Blood Drives

KEENE - Tuesday, Dec 9th

Best Western Hotel

2:30 - 7:30PM

JAFFREY - Saturday, Dec 13th

American Legion Post #11

10:00 AM - 3:00 PM

American Red Cross

TRANSPORTATION

Drivers are needed for 1 day per month in Keene, Jaffrey & Peterborough

There is also a need for drivers willing to travel to Boston once a month to bring folks to medical appointments.

The Community Kitchen

DELIVERY DRIVERS

Thursday - help pack and deliver food boxes

Must be able to lift 30 lbs and must have own vehicle

FOOD PREPARATION

Monday thru Friday Afternoons

Help prepare evening meal

Peterborough Food Pantry

Monday - Friday 9 AM - 12 PM

Volunteer 1 day per week to help with ongoing tasks at the Pantry

Rindge Food Pantry

Thursday 2 - 6 PM

Volunteer 1 day per month to receive and pack food orders for clients

America Reads Volunteers

PETERBOROUGH, GREENFIELD & WINCHESTER

We have had a great response from area elementary schools this year and can use a few more volunteers to help students in grades K - 3 in these communities that are struggling with reading and writing.