Dear Volunteers:

February 2018

Happy New Year to each of you! 2017 was an incredible year for service in our community. Last year, RSVP+ volunteers contributed a record 160,481 hours! That is an increase of 3,557 hours from 2016. Recruitment was successful, our seasonal fundraisers both showed slight increases from the year before and our federal funding agency performed a required Federal Monitoring visit in August and that inspection revealed an organized and well ran program with no corrective findings. So I guess what I am trying to say is, as we look back on 2017, there is a lot to be proud of. Thanks to all of you, we are on track to complete our fiscal year having successfully met all our goals and objectives outlined in our federal grant. While we are happy about that, we are also mindful that the time you volunteered is always more than numbers and statistics. Your time given allowed hundreds of seniors to live independently in their homes. Your time given helped raise thousands of dollars for non-profit and service organizations through the numerous fundraisers you assisted with. Your time given helped young people learn to read and secure futures success in their education. Your time given assisted veterans and families, the homeless and the hopeless. Your time given inspired, enlightened, motivated, and, most importantly, made a difference! Your commitment and service to our community remains evident, vital and valued. Now that 2018 is firmly underway, I hope that, come what may, your volunteer spirit remains unwavered and the records that you break will be celebrated at this time next year.

As I write this, Valentine’s Day 2018 is just around the corner and again this year, we distributed hundreds of boxes of valentines to disadvantaged children in Rapid City Schools. This was only possible because of the overwhelming generosity of all of you. Most of the valentines we gave away this year were purchased last year after the holiday when they had been steeply discounted. As this is an annual project, I hope that you will join me and take advantage of the clearance sales when the holiday is over, and pick up boxes of valentines at 50 – 75% off the regular price. ♥ ♥

This will be my last newsletter as I have decided to discover the next chapter of my life and will be leaving at the end of our current fiscal year, March 31. I want to thank all of you wonderful volunteers for the difference you made in my life. I have gotten to know so many of you over the years and have always been grateful for all of the amazing people God put in my life to make me the person I am. I have come to admire each and every one of you for your kindness, and your unique gifts and talents you share, so generously, in this community. “I’ve always heard every ending is also a new beginning, we just don’t know it at the time, I’d like to believe that’s true.”

With heartfelt sincerity, I remain your friend  -Angie

Welcome New Volunteers

Rita Allgeyer, Jeanette Bjugstad, Coleton Deitz+, Joshua Garcia Hopp+, Connie Hobbs, Ann Maynard+, Vikki Parsons, Danielle Ragnone+, Denalda (Kitty) Taggart, Jordyn Thayer+, Seth Trautman+, Rita Wagner (+ indicates community volunteers)
Through the years, I have done hundreds of newsletters, I would like to share three of my favorite excerpts from past publications.

**A GRATEFUL WHALE!**

If you read the front page story of the *San Francisco Chronicle* on Thursday, Dec 15, 2005, you would have read about a female humpback whale who had become entangled in a spider web of crab traps and lines.

The fifty-foot whale was weighted down by hundreds of pounds of traps that caused her to struggle to stay afloat.

She also had hundreds of yards of line rope wrapped around her tail, her torso and a line tugging in her mouth.

A fisherman spotted her just east of the Farallone Islands (outside the Golden Gate) and radioed an environmental group for help. Within a few hours, the rescue team arrived and determined that she was so bad off, the only way to save her was to dive in and untangle her – a very dangerous proposition. One slap of the tail could kill a rescuer.

They worked for hours with curved knives and eventually freed her. When she was free, the divers say she swam in what seemed like joyous circles. She then came back to each and every diver, one at a time, and nudged them, pushed them gently around – she thanked them.

Some said it was the most incredibly beautiful experience of their lives.

The guy who cut the rope out of her mouth says her eye was following him the whole time, and he will never be the same.

May you, and all those you love, be so blessed and fortunate in the New Year – to be surrounded by people who will help you get untangled from the things that are binding you. And, may you always know the joy of giving and receiving gratitude.

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“Over my Dead Body” Delicious Peanut Butter Cookies.

Ruth Scanlon was a wonderful volunteer for 8 years. She volunteered at many places and always baked the best peanut butter cookies for our bake sales. When asked for the recipe, she would always smile, decline and say, “Over my dead body.” Sadly she lost her battle with cancer and her daughter (with Ruth’s blessings) shared her recipe at the funeral.

**Stirring Up MEMORIES**

**1 Cup Peanut Butter, 1 Cup Sugar, 1 Egg**

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Combine the peanut butter, sugar and egg. Mix until smooth. Drop spoonfuls of dough onto prepared baking sheet. Bake at 350o for 6 to 8 minutes. Do not overbake, these cookies are best when they are still soft and just lightly brown on the bottoms. May add chocolate Kiss when cooling.
Among my first days on this job, I was introduced to a man named Don. Don had an amazing wit, brilliant sense of humor and in all the years that I knew him, I never heard him speak ill of anyone. Each time I called his house, I was greeted with the salutation, “Hello, We’re having a great day!” and there was little doubt in my mind that they really were. Through the years, Don did many great things for RSVP—he helped lay the foundation for our golf tournament, identified advisory council members and promoted the program as only he could.

As he and his wife were approaching their 50th wedding anniversary, their children had submitted their original wedding picture along with the announcement to the local paper. The day it appeared in print, Don paid his weekly visit to the RSVP office. After we all congratulated him, another volunteer teased that after all these years, his wife still looked as lovely as ever, but it seemed the years hadn’t been as kind to Don. “Well”, he quipped, “The truth is, my wife was a lot happier over the years than I was”!

So many memories of Don still make me smile, but that one, is my favorite!

“I’m so glad we had this time together. Just to have a laugh or sing a song. Seems we just get started and before you know it, comes the time we have to say ‘So long’.”

-Carol Burnett Theme Song

In Loving memory of:
Sheila Bowen, Rowena Clark, Dorothy Denke, William Fitzner, Ken Garland, Margaret Henriksen, Marilyn Hockenbary, Margo Javersak, Emil Jundt, Lorraine Robins, Norma Shaw, Leilah Talbot, Don Tillotson

MEMORIALS/DONATIONS
Donations to assist in maintaining RSVP+ are very important and appreciated.
Please consider a gift to help sustain RSVP+ in our community by donating online at http://friendsofrspvinrapidcitysd.mydagsite.com/
or clip the form below and mail to: RSVP+, 333 6th Street, Rapid City, SD 57701

My gift of $________ to the Black Hills Retired Senior Volunteer Program is enclosed. I NAME__________________________
ADDRESS________________________
CITY_______________________STATE_______ZIP_____
Thank you for supporting the endeavors of the Retired Senior Volunteer Program+
HAPPY BIRTHDAY!
For January, February & March

JANUARY: Bonnie Bertsch, Dee Bevers, Jon Boone, Lila Bredberg, Myron Buchli, Monique Bunkers, Marsha Colling, Mark Crosswait, Marlene Dhayer, Mary Doescher, Demetrius Duncan, Paula Efta, Beverley Espeland, Pat Fallbeck, Sheila Fenner, Edward Fitzgerald, Grace Fodness, Patricia Forrer, Jill Gearhart, Marjorie Golden, Robert Grimm, Sandy Gullings, Connie Hanson, Lila Harrington, Monna Haile, Dan Herman, Donald Hotz, Doris Hume, Andrea James, Lisa Jenson, DeeDee Karabetos, James Kunz, Barb Layton, James Leon, Carolyn Little, Kelley Maguire, Mary Mead, Karen Nemecek, Larry Oswald, Darlene Parker, Lea Patterson, Sharon Pettersen, Marcile Pustejovsky, Frank Rasmussen, Janece Rieman, Joan Robinson, Ruby Rodocker, Loren Seegrist, Shirley Sjomeling, Lawrence Tesch, Dorothy Thompson, Tom Tolman, Mildene Turpin, Diane Ward, Jack Welker

FEBRUARY: Nila Boone, Jerry Brown, Paige Cadotte, Marleen Caffe, Rita Conklin, Terry Davies, Karol Dodson, Mary Doescher, Marvin Espland, Ethel Gibbons, Kathleen Gibbs, Mary Gummo, Sarah Hart, Heidi Hartnett, Dolores Holt, Roger Horgan, Bill Hough, Evelyn Knapp, Dorothy Larsh, Alice Lascelles, Millie Laue, Regina Lewis, Genevieve Liebig, Joann Lux, Christine MacDonald, Marjo Maple, Dave Martinson, Lisa Moran, Vera Morgan, Marilyn Mulz, Shirley Myers, Virginia Nelson, Darlene Ochsner, Libbie Pavich, Letty Penaloza, Goldie Prestjohn, Erica Rineard, Anne Rohluff, Diane Stadel, Tiffany Tan, Jose Trinidad, Lorna Walgren, Joyce Walsh, Rosella Waltman, Brady Wauer, Donna Weeks, Joann Wilkins, Clara Wiltse

MARCH: Richard Abbott, Louise Achtien, Rita Allgeyer, Patricia Anderson, Vi Barfoot, Maria Bunkers, Noel Burke, Peggy Christner, Hilda Cole, Gertrude Crisp, Sandy Dallago, Zachary Dempsey, Dorothy Doerner, Isaac Egermier, Margaret Feist, Audery Feterl, Betty Foos, Dewayne Glassgow, Florence Glassgow, Norman Griggs, Carol Hahn, Terresah Hall, Linda Halley, Joyce Hannan, Dorothy Hill, Peggy Holmberg, Benita Hume, Dorothy Jones, James Karabetos, Emma King, Kathy Lemire, Seth Malott, Ann Maynard, Mark McDaniel, Alta McElroy, Patricia McKay, Sandra McLain, Glenn Miller, Ken Nash, Cindy Nelson, Judy Nielson, Ronald O'Connell, Betty Ott, Ann Oukrop, Manuel Penaloza, Michael Perez, Wayne Peterson, Barbara Pierce, Todd Pond, Teresa Pullen, Leon Reel, Dennis Ritter, Mary Root, Irene Sears, Susan Smith, Edna Steinberg, Terry Stone, Pauline Sumption, Durwood Swimmer, Pat Tarr, Clinton VanBlaricum, Chuck Ward, Rachel Willey, Donald Willey, Greg Williamson, Clara Zechin,

VOLUNTEER OF THE QUARTER!

Evelyn Knapp has been named our OUTSTANDING VOLUNTEER OF THE QUARTER!

Evelyn first joined RSVP+ in 1998 and has spent the past 19+ years making a difference in our community! She has volunteered at the hospital, assisted RSVP with fundraisers, provided services to veterans by organizing the Royal Neighbors participation in our “Sweats for Vets” project and semi-annual Bake Sales. She has accumulated more than 6,000 hours of service to our community.

We admire and salute all the wonderful things she has done and continues to do. It is our great honor and privilege to recognize Evelyn Knapp as our OUTSTANDING VOLUNTEER OF THE QUARTER!
Reach for the gold!

I hope everyone is spending some time this month watching their favorite Olympic sport! While you are watching individuals compete to be the best in the world, maybe it got you thinking about how you could take on the world with a new volunteer opportunity! I have listed just a few volunteer opportunities below. Please let me know if you have any questions or would like more information. If you don’t see any opportunities that are your cup of tea, give us a call at the office and we can find something fun for you to do!

**Job Fair:** The Black Hills Area Job Fair is just around the corner, and we are looking for volunteers to help at the event. This is a day filled with fun and excitement! Volunteers help assist with either registration, evaluations and/or hospitality. The event is taking place on this year on Wednesday, March 14th from 12:00-6:00pm. If you would like to work the whole event that is great, but if you would like to work a couple of hours they would love to have your help. This volunteer opportunity fills up fast, so give the office a call at 394-2507 and we can get you scheduled.

**RSVP+ Office:** The RSVP+ office is looking for volunteers to help with various office tasks. Days and times are flexible. If you are interested in working in our fun office give us a call and we can visit about what the tasks will be and work on setting up a volunteer schedule!

**South Dakota Child Identification Program:** The SD Child Identification Program (CHIPS) will be hosting an event at this year’s Kids Fair, which is held at the Civic Center arena. The CHIPS program creates a database for children in case they were to go missing. They enter each child’s fingerprints, height, weight, voice recordings, up to date photo and video recordings. The Kids Fair will take place April 27th, 28th and 29th, and they will need help mornings and afternoons. Let us know if you would like to help out, so we can get you on the schedule.

**Mommy’s Closet:** Mommy’s Closet is moved to a new location and is in need of more volunteers! Help is needed Mondays and Thursdays anytime between 10:00am – 4:00pm. Volunteers will help keep the clothing closet stocked and organized. You can volunteer all day or for a couple of hours, whatever works best with your schedule.

**Meal Delivery:** Western South Dakota Senior Services is looking for volunteers to deliver meals to homebound seniors in our area. Routes can generally be completed in about 1-1 ½ hours, and start at 11:00 am. They need volunteers to drive once a week, once every other week and substitute drivers. Help is needed mostly on every other Monday, and Thursdays and Fridays once a month. Reimbursement for mileage is available, but may be forfeited back to the program to assist other seniors with meals. This is truly, one of the most rewarding volunteer jobs you will do.

**Timesheet Reminders:** I wanted to mention a few items that can go on your volunteer timesheet. If you give rides to the grocery store, doctor’s appointments, events or errands please put those hours on your timesheet. Don’t forget to put down how many people you gave rides to. If you donate blood make sure to put down your time. Also if you bake or make meals for neighbors or aquaints don’t forget to jot that time down as well! If you have any questions on what you can put down as volunteer hours please do not hesitate to give me a call. You probably volunteer more than you think!!

***If you have a change of address or a new phone number, please give the office a call and let us know. We want to make sure we can keep you up to date on what is happening at RSVP+***

And, PLEASE turn your time sheet in by the 10th of the month. You can mail them, call in your hours, or email your time to me at ann.hines@rcgov.org. We really appreciate your effort to get the hours to us. Thank you!!

If you’re looking for a new volunteer opportunity, and didn’t see anything on this page, we have more opportunities than are listed here, just give us a call. We have both ongoing projects and one-time special projects. Call us at 394-2507.
"The purpose of life is not to be happy. It is to be useful, to be honorable, to be compassionate, to have it make some difference that you have lived and lived well." - Ralph Waldo Emerson