

The *Volunteers' Voice*

LEAD WITH EXPERIENCE

2014 RSVP Volunteers of the Year



Volunteers extraordinaire is the phrase used by one RSVP member when describing Bob and Evelyn Essmiller of Great Bend.

The Essmillers are the 2014 RSVP Volunteers of the Year. As Co-Presidents of the Barton County Food Bank, they don't just preside over meetings and represent the Food Bank to the community; they are passionate about the mission of serving the hungry.

They have donated their time (which easily equals a full-time job), vehicles, fuel, energy, and sometimes their health to meet the ongoing ministry of the Food Bank in Barton County with an attitude of humility, compassion, grace and generosity.

Volunteer of the Year nominees included Selma Webb, Ray and Jane Fertig, Arlene Schamaun and Kathy McCinnis.

Congratulations and thank you to all of our 2014 nominees and winners.

Volunteers In Action/RSVP recognizes volunteers and it's own year of change

It has been a whirlwind of change in our office but we wanted to make sure our volunteers know how critical they are to this program.

The recognition banquet is the perfect place to show our love and appreciation for everything our over 400 volunteers do for this community.

Many of the volunteers, such as the ones pictured on this page, put a great deal of time and effort into helping others and this was a great chance to say thank you.

The banquet was topped off this year with some fantastic entertainment from the *Dixieland Band* and then great food served by Great Western Dining at Barton Community College.

A big thanks to the five young men from the soccer teams who helped carry trays during the dinner.



Volunteer of the year nominees included from left to right, Selma Webb, Kathy McCinnis, Ray and Jane Fertig, and Arlene Schamaun .

Thoughts from the Director's Desk

Family Volunteer Day is a day of service that demonstrates and celebrates the power of families who volunteer together, supporting their neighborhoods, communities and the world. This year, National Family Volunteer day is Saturday, Nov. 22.

Volunteers In Action/RSVP is planning to coordinate a day of families helping others in our community.

This would be a day when grandparents, parents, children, and other extended family members would come together to help in the different non-profit agencies in the area.

We will be encouraging these agencies to find opportunities in their organization for families to come together and at the same time inspire families about the benefits of service and civic engagement. When families understand the power of family service and that family service can enhance family life, they become inspired to spend time serving others.

Family volunteering encourages the members of a family to volunteer as a unit. It can be done by the whole family together, by one parent and one child or teen, or with extended family such as grandparents, aunts, uncles and cousins.

Families engaged in service can instill in the next generation a lifelong commitment to volunteering.

The Importance of Family Service

Research suggests that engaging parents and their children in service together has important positive outcomes for everyone involved. It benefits:

- Children and youth by cultivating positive values, such as caring and empathy and by developing a commitment to service both now and in the future.
- Parents by giving them more quality time with their children and all the other benefits of volunteering including increased interpersonal skills and improved health.
- Families by increasing their sense of cohesion, well-being, and connections to the broader community
- Sponsoring organizations and civic life by attracting more volunteers, increasing volunteer commitments and bringing new energy to traditional volunteer opportunities.

We hope that Family Volunteer Day, will be just the beginning of families working together, mentoring the children, and making that connection to the community around them.



Linn Hogg
Director VIA/RSVP



Medicare Part D Enrollment fast approaching

The open enrollment period for prescription drug coverage (Medicare Part D) is just around the corner. The new open enrollment period is Oct. 15, 2014 through Dec. 7, 2014.

This year, the RSVP office will not be scheduling appointments for open enrollment, however there are several trained people in the area who can help you with this procedure.

The Barton County Extension Office will host an informational meeting on October 8, from noon-1pm. It's located at 1800 12th St., in Great Bend. On the same day, the Hoisington Library will host another informational meeting from 4-5 pm. The library is located at 169 S. Walnut, Hoisington, KS.

The Medicare and You booklet will be released in mid September by mail or on the Medicare website at www.medicare.gov. Letters regarding changes in your current drug plan will be coming in the mail in late September and early October. Please take time to read these letters before throwing them away.

It is strongly encouraged to have a comparison of drug plans run during this time between Oct. 15 and Dec. 7. Once an appointment has been made, bring your Medicare Card and a list of your medications to the visit. Remember the three C's when considering a plan: Cost, Coverage and Convenience.

There are new Senior Health Insurance counselors for Kansas (SHICK) in our area and they plan on having a sign-up event. More information will be coming out soon, please watch the newspaper or call our office for any updates. The Volunteers In Action/RSVP office will have a list of individuals you can call for assistance by the beginning of October.

New health initiative needs your help

There is a new and convenient way to stay healthy and help kids all at the same time. Riley school is starting a "Walking School Bus."

A Walking School Bus is a group of school children walking together along an agreed route to and from school, accompanied by adults, with children joining the group at pre-arranged points. Each route is designed with the child's safety in mind.



Volunteers are needed immediately and there will be training for all adults helping out. The Bus will be running during the fall and spring. Dates for this fall are Oct. 1 through Nov. 21. Spring dates will be announced.

Call our office at 620-792-1614 for more information or to volunteer.

2014 RSVP Volunteer Recognition Banquet





Caring ~

Sharing ~

Giving ~

Laughing ~

Working ~

Volunteer...

Our appreciation for you
and all these things you do
grows and grows...





Opportunities

Barton County Historical Society

The Historical Society is looking for help at the front visitors' desk. Volunteers would greet visitors, answer phones, etc. Training provided. This is an as needed position. Contact Bev Komarek at 620-793-5125

Senior Center

The Great Bend Senior Center is looking for one or two volunteers to help during the noon hour. The volunteer would help pour coffee or tea, greet guests and help with check-in once in awhile. Volunteers do not have to be there every day of the week. Contact Rosie at 620-792-3906.

One-to-one help

We have had several calls in our office asking for some one-on-one assistance. Jobs could include picking up items at the Farmers' Market on Thursday evening, running some errands or transporting to haircuts. In many cases an individual no longer has family living close and a great many of their friends are in need of the same service. This is a chance to make a new friend and help someone out at the same time. Maybe it can be a little bit of "pay it forward."

RSVP Medical Transportation

Volunteers provide transportation to Barton County residents needing help getting to necessary medical appointments. Volunteers drive their own vehicle and RSVP reimburses 27 cents per mile. RSVP has a van available to help transport passengers that require a wheelchair. Volunteers can choose long distance or local trips with the option to drive the van when necessary. Volunteers have full discretion to accept a trip or not. Call Victoria for more information at 620-792-1614.

VIA/RSVP Office

The office of Volunteers in Action and RSVP is needing volunteer support to answer phones, greet visitors, enter volunteer data, and help with various projects. We have positions open for mornings and anytime Friday. Please contact Linn at 620-792-1614 to learn more about our office .

RSVP Thrift Store

The Thrift Store in Hoisington is a large fundraising opportunity for VIA/RSVP. The store is operated by a dedicated group of volunteers. It is open Monday-Friday from 11 a.m.-4 p.m. It is also open on Saturday from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. The Thrift Store is always seeking volunteers to assist in the day-to-day operations. Please contact Selma Webb to obtain more information 620-653-4118.

Kansas Wetlands Education Center

Curtis Wolf and his staff are looking for some help at their front desk. Job would consist of answering phones, greeting visitors, etc. Training provided. Contact Megan Barfield, our volunteer coordinator, at 620-792-1614 for more information.

Riley's Walking School Bus

A Walking School is a group of school children walking together along an agreed route to and from school, accompanied by adults, with children joining the group at pre-arranged points. Each route is designed with the child's safety in mind.

Volunteers are needed immediately and there will be training for all adults helping out. The Bus will be running during the fall and spring. Dates for this fall are Oct. 1 through Nov. 21. Contact our office at 620-792-1614.





02 Sabrina Chism
 02 Carol A. Danielson
 03 Mary A. Bieberle
 03 Walter C. Ehrlich
 04 Stanley Jantz
 06 Lois Klug
 07 Randy Willis
 09 Virginia Davidson
 09 Della D. Guesnier
 09 Duane Rea
 09 Yvonne Strecker
 11 Leona Cheney
 11 Gregory R Gibson
 12 Daniel Bayer
 12 Kate Carroll
 13 Donald C. Feist
 13 Edson Merlau
 14 Clara Mae Brown

September Birthdays

15 Dolores Baker
 16 Marlene Brack
 18 Bob Mead
 19 Jody Eller
 20 Sharon K. Lingreen
 21 Loretta C Zorn
 24 Betty Wilkinson
 27 Mark Mingenback
 29 Barbara Worman
 30 Larry Buczinski

01 Charles Parmer
 02 Irene Gallentine
 02 Lucibel Jay
 03 CAROL DELLINGEN
 03 Ronald Kelly
 04 John Basham
 04 Cheryl Steinert
 04 Nancy J. Swafford
 07 Sister. Judith Lindell
 07 Sandra Schneweis
 08 Connie Lathrop
 08 Sheryl Schamaun
 09 Gary Shook
 11 Marilyn Sauber
 11 Lewis Stephenson
 12 Lathelda "Dodo" White
 13 Angie Ingram
 13 James Leewright
 14 Jim M. Pitts
 15 Howard Davis
 15 Charlene F. Eisenhart
 15 Evelyn Essmiller
 15 Karen Sessler
 18 Georgia "Sue" Denney

October Birthdays

18 Ella J. Hartig
 19 Jennifer Schartz
 20 Howard Herter
 21 Linda K Bunselmeyer
 22 Glen Hughes
 23 Kathy M. Collicott
 23 Ruby Feil
 24 Virginia Thomas
 25 Barbara Millard
 27 Marge R. Bieberle
 27 Ray Butler
 27 Michael Westerman
 29 Twilla Sherwood
 30 Paul Maneth
 31 Garry Dassow
 31 Joann Hodges
 31 Sharon A. Phillips
 31 Don Tracy



RSVP Time Sheet

Print Name: _____ Month of Service _____

Your hours are important to us. Thanks for all you do!

The following partners report your volunteer hours so you don't need to list them below:

Elementary Schools
American Red Cross Bloodmobile
Weekday Meals on Wheels
Knit/Crochet (RSVP)

RSVP Transportation
Historical Village
St Rose Amb Sur Center
Hoisington Thrift Store

Food Banks
Senior Centers
Shafer Gallery



What did you do?	Where did you work?	Hours Served:
Churches: quilting, funerals, board meetings, all other volunteer jobs.		
Veterans and military family projects: American Legion, VFW, Military Moms, etc. (please be specific)		
Nursing Homes, Assisted Living Communities (please indicate location name)		
Community Organizations: fund-raising, office work, meetings, bookkeeping, board meetings, advisory councils, etc.		
One-on-One Assistance: errands, handyman chores, yard work, transportation, friendly visiting, cooking, etc.		
Education Projects: after-school programs, early childhood, preschools, etc. (please specify the location and project name)		
Nutrition Programs: commodities, Prairie Land Foods, etc.		
Environmental: Recycling, etc		
Health Projects: other hospitals, clinics, etc. (please be specific)		
Other: Please be specific		

Volunteers in Action/RSVP
Sponsored by Barton Community College
1025 Main, D114
Great Bend, KS 67530

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