

RSVP

Lead With Experience Station News

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Congress Reauthorizes National Service Programs

On March 31, 2009, the House of Representatives passed the Edward M. Kennedy Serve America Act by a vote of 275-149. The bill reauthorizes the Corporation for National and Community Service and its programs through 2014, including **RSVP**. Supported by President Obama, the bill includes significant provisions advancing the Administration's goals for national service, including:

- A dramatic expansion of service opportunities for Americans of all ages, setting a path for increasing the number of AmeriCorps members to 250,000 by 2017.
- A Social Innovation Fund pilot program to provide seed money and scale up innovative and evidence-based programs that leverage private and foundation capital to meet major social challenges.
- Expanding eligibility for the Senior Companion and Foster Grandparent programs.
- Simplifying AmeriCorps program management, including through the availability of fixed amount grants.
- Increasing the Segal AmeriCorps Education Award.
- Strengthening agency management to support expansion.

Learn more at:

http://www.nationalservice.org/_recovery_summary.pdf

National Volunteer Week

April 19 - April 25, 2009

**A great time to
recognize the dedicated
service provided by
your organization's
volunteers!**

RSVP is funded in part by United Way



Reminder:

Station representatives must sign volunteer mileage reimbursement vouchers and compare them with the volunteer's time record.

~Thank you



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1

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*Your RSVP Stories -
Nancy Davis and Anne Myers
By Kim Salisbury*

Why do people volunteer you may ask? The answer is as varied as the volunteer you may ask the question of. That has been my experience as the Coordinator, of the Chemung-Schuyler-Tioga Long Term Care Ombudsman Program. And when I sat down recently to talk to two of my ombudsmen volunteers, I was neither surprised nor disappointed by their responses. RSVP volunteers Nancy Davis and Anne Myers are trained and certified long term care ombudsmen volunteers with the Chemung-Schuyler-Tioga Regional Long Term Care Ombudsman Program (LTCOP). As ombudsmen, they advocate on behalf of residents who live at the New Falls Home and Seneca View Nursing Home here in Schuyler County. After successfully completing the 36-hour training program, Nancy and Anne were assigned to their facilities where they visit the residents on a weekly basis and help to resolve any questions, concerns or issues that the residents or the resident's representatives may express.

Both ladies learned about the Long Term Care Ombudsman Program through the Schuyler-Yates RSVP. Nancy, a retired Registered Nurse, was somewhat familiar with the program and she states that she decided to

volunteer as an ombudsman because she knew that the residents could benefit from such a program and that she would enjoy the interpersonal relationships that she wasn't able to have with her patients. Anne, on the other hand, a newcomer to the area, knew nothing about the program until she sat down with Beth Lisk, Director of the Schuyler-Yates RSVP to learn more about volunteer opportunities in the community. Anne states that Beth thought that Anne's experiences working with families and children would be beneficial and that she would be good with residents. Anne states that she was willing to try it because she knew that from talking to Beth Lisk and from her conversations with me that the program is "needed" and "necessary". Both Nancy and Anne are quick to agree that the time they spend with their residents talking and getting to know them, gaining their trust, helping to resolve issues big or small, as well as the thanks and smiles they get, is extremely rewarding. Anne states that being a volunteer ombudsman is "challenging", but the more time she spends with her residents the more comfortable she becomes. Nancy states she truly enjoys the relationships she makes and takes "pride" when a resident tells a new resident to "talk to her" because she has helped me.