

RSVP of Schuyler and Yates Counties

~ Station News ~

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RSVP

Lead With Experience

The corporation for National & Community Service has developed a new look for RSVP and we have adapted the new logo pictured above for local use on our stationary and pamphlets. Look for our materials around the community.

RSVP Volunteer Impact Results

Bone Builders

- 110 individuals age 55 and older, learned and practiced research-based exercises designed to reduce the incidence of osteoporosis
- 61% of the 59 participants who responded to post-tests reported improved strength and balance as a result of participating in the program

Reading Buddies (From teacher surveys)

- 143 children received one-on-one "Reading Buddy" services at 5 elementary schools in Schuyler & Yates Counties.
- 76% of the participating children (109 children) improved their attitude toward reading as a result of the Reading Buddy services
- 54% of the participating children (77 children) are reported to be reading at the grade level expected for his/her age by the end of the school year.

"Volunteers don't get paid, not because they're worthless, but because they're priceless."

~Sherry Anderson

This quote is often used as a way to celebrate and show appreciation for the valuable service provided by volunteers. And while it holds true, there is a monetary value associated with the time donated by volunteers placed at non-profit organizations.

Independent Sector is a coalition of corporations, foundations and private voluntary organizations that works to strengthen America's nonprofit organizations. It reports that the value of volunteer service, as measured in an hourly wage, jumped by 74 cents in one year, rising from \$18.77 in 2006 to \$19.51 in 2007. Volunteer service is now worth 3.3 times the minimum wage. "Our nation's volunteers play a vital role in helping America's 1.4 million charitable organizations," said Diana Aviv, president and CEO of Independent Sector; "Quantifying the value of their time gives us yet another indicator of how important volunteers are to communities."

While this hourly wage sounds higher than the salary expectations in our local community, fringe benefits are included in the calculation. Learn more about the Independent Sector at www.independentsector.org



RSVP Staff: **Beth MacIntyre Lisk**, Director: emc14@cornell.edu
Jennifer Geck, Administrative Assistant: jlg228@cornell.edu
Heidi Wilhelm, Volunteer Coordinator: hab74@cornell.edu

Corporation for
**NATIONAL &
COMMUNITY
SERVICE** ★★ ★

Volunteer Stories

By Karey Solomon

"Your Stories" provides an opportunity for RSVP volunteers to describe their volunteer activities and what inspires them to volunteer. They are written by other RSVP volunteers.

When person-to-person help is needed, RSVP volunteer Sally Hill is likely to be there. Retired -for the second time - from nursing about 10 years ago, Sally joined RSVP and immediately found things to do.

She was already no stranger to volunteering - she and her brother were active for several years in "Make A Difference Day," repairing homes for the elderly and infirm. This annual event has been locally discontinued - but Sally's commitment to helping others is active as ever.

"I've been really fortunate in my life," she says. "I've survived cancer, and I've been blessed. If I can help someone else get through the rough spots, I will."

The needs keep finding her. Her nursing skills get put to use at flu clinics, blood drives and blood-pressure clinics. And her people skills are frequently called for in her volunteer work as a school "Reading Buddy," as a fund-raiser for the Italian-American Festival and the United Way, as a volunteer with CASA. Then there's her favorite volunteer work, at the Schuyler Outreach Food Pantry.

"You really feel a sense of reaching out and helping the less fortunate," she says. At a recent "food truck" trip, she heard many parents comment they're having an increasingly difficult time buying food to feed their families, particularly during cold weather with the added financial stress of heating bills. Even harder hit, Sally says, are some seniors, who often feel unhappy about needing the food pantry and worry they're taking food away from someone else if they accept help. "We reassure them there's enough to go around," Sally says. Then she diplomatically asks about favorite foods - and quietly adds those to the package.

"It's good to know kids in the community aren't going to bed hungry," she says. And to help ensure that they're also in a safe environment, Sally is a CASA volunteer, assisting children in crisis as a court-appointed special advocate for youngsters, helping ensure that when a family is having troubles, the children don't get lost in the system. This is not a small commitment, either - some children are followed for three or four years until their lives become calmer.

As a volunteer with the after-school youth program, Sally says, "I met a lot of young kids I grew to love." One of her contributions to the program involved teaching children how to safely prepare a meal at times when they're hungry and a parent is delayed at work. Kids are also part of the food pantry "family." Some, like the Odessa students recruited to help prepare Christmas baskets, had their eyes opened when they saw how many people in Schuyler County not only didn't have Christmas presents but also lacked the fixings for a holiday dinner. "When they realized these problems exist, they were more than happy to lend a hand," Sally says.

"They did a lot of work and enjoyed it so much they've already asked to do it next year." It's similarly eye-opening for teens mandated to help at the food pantry to fulfill a community service requirement. "The thing is, by the time they've finished their community service, a lot of them come back and volunteer to help us," Sally says. "They even realize the importance of being able to help someone."

It's something Sally Hill does as a matter of course, including in her rounds many volunteer jobs that don't make it into the RSVP tally. She regularly visits a friend whose rheumatoid arthritis keeps her from housework and does that friend's ironing; she's a frequent helper at Moose Club breakfasts and barbecues in order to help with many community causes, including packing and sending boxes to local service personnel at Christmas.

"You get involved in something, and then you get a phone call," she explains. "Will you help with - " The blank may be filled in with any community need. Sally says, "I try to make myself available if I can do it." In fact, with 25-30 hours of regular volunteer work most weeks, she finds she's working more than she did in her last years as a nurse. And she tries to inspire young people to start volunteering as well. She tells them, "When you see someone in need, you don't have to be paid for it, help! "I've been blessed," she says. "Each day I wake up, I thank the good Lord I've got another day on earth."



Sally Hill

2008 Presidential Volunteer Service Award Recipients (Schuyler County)

Lifetime Award: 4,000+ Hours

Helen Haight

GOLD: 500+ Hours

Marion Adams	D. Maxine Spaulding	Robert Bower	Edith Hansen
Roy Craver	Mary Tillinghast	Bonnie M. Seeley	Beverly Burnside
Helen James	Edna Christian	Mary Jo Webster	Anne Meehan
Elizabeth Hayes	Robert Soule	Marietta Searles	Janice Brew
Elsie VanAlstine	Helen Baker	Dorothy Griffiths	Emma Smith
Lois Hoffman	David T. VanDyke	Nancy Davis	Mabel Wood
Nancy Brooks	Esther Starkweather	Shirley Cooper	Patricia Decker
Bruce Adams	Judith Hatsell	Anna Erdle	Joan Ward
Joyce Soule	James Paradiso	Edythe Jones	Althea Carpenter
Doris Fazzary	Muriel Graeber	Janet Stamp	Norma Baldassarre
Marilyn Harling	Margaret Sibley	Marian Boyce	Gayle Hatch
Norman West	Pat Macnamara	Elaine Dahl	Rebecca Abraham
Virginia Shippy	Helen Darling	Priscilla Kelly	Beverly Krellner
Nancy L. Pratt	Glenn Larison	Almerida Lewis	Charles Keach
Clara H. Hoover	Jean Bishop	Jean Hubsch	Leona Sandusky
Hugh Race	Judith Phillips	Mary Alice Freeman	Annabelle Specchio
Richard J. Castor	Phyllis Bailey	Patricia Gardiner	Robert Burnside
Ruth H. Crandall	Rae Anderson	Gertje Turk	John Heebner
Rose-Marie Roberts	Janeth Richards	Pauline Waugh	Judy Scaptura
David Webster	Carol Fagnan	Madalyn Morgan	Manona Tuttle
Virginia Houseknecht	Mary Personius	Myrtle VanZile	Stella Fraboni
Alice M. Dinkins	Shirley Craver	Sally Hill	Marjorie Bleiler
Donna G. Wickham	Sally-Jo Smith	Keith Smith	
Ray Oliver, Sr.	Verna Shelford	David Kunzmann	

SILVER: 250-499 Hours

Fran Smith	Marjorie Fennell	Margaret C. Taber	Donald Scott
Eloise Velie	R. Joette McBride	Donald Kelly	Verna Shrout
JoLu Timblin	Kathryn "Kay" Hunsinger	Michael Mize	Donald Riley
G. Robert Harrison	Jean Y. Johnson	H. Irene Elkins	Virginia Beebe
Sandra Denise Teeter	Janne Williams	Silver cont.	Nellie A. Munroe
Patricia Larison	Jean P. White	Sam A. Fazzary	Clifton Hathaway
Gertrude (Molly) Leopard	D. Peter McBride	David Lisk	Dianne J. Grover
Henry Rocholl	Catherine VanZile	Helen Human	

BRONZE: 100-249 Hours

Joe T. Sevier	Beverly VanAmburg	Cindy Stillman	Marjorie Wilhelm
John Wildeman	Regina Tarshus	Robert J. Kelchner	Laurie Scullin
Wayne Chapman	Jean Vander Vliet	Joanne C. Smith	Helen Fries
Ruth Givin	Susan Rocholl	Chuck Tarshus	Elizabeth Schimizzi
Elena Richardson	Philip C. Smith	Sheryl C. Thurston	Alice Powers
Mary Lou Rappleye	Marion Nicastro	Doris L. Navestad	Joyce McKinney
Robert DeYager	Molly Lane	Dorothy Lamberson	

Yates County awards will be announced in October 2008