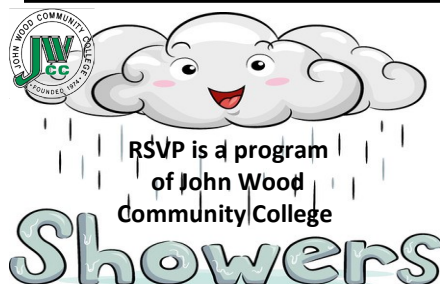




# Volunteer Voice

## Adams County Retired and Senior Volunteer Program

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Susan Abbott, Editor



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### Things to Remember

- “News & Views” - Volunteers needed to prepare the newsletter mailing on Tuesdays, April 27 and May 25.
- We have face masks and disposable gloves available at the RSVP office for volunteers.

## Message from Barb Casady

### National Volunteer Week

April 18- 24, 2021

*“Every problem that the country faces is being solved in some community by some group or some individual. The question is how to get connected so that the whole nation can solve problems. A volunteer is a person who can see what others cannot see; who can feel what most do not feel. Often, such gifted persons do not think of themselves as volunteers, but as citizens – citizens in the fullest sense; partners in civilization.”*

*President George H.W. Bush  
Founder, Points of Light*

**Thank you Adams County RSVP Volunteers!** While we hope we are always sharing the importance of volunteering with the community, **National Volunteer Week** provides a wonderful platform to focus on the essential impact of volunteer service and the power of volunteers to tackle critical needs and make a positive difference.

At no time has that been more apparent than during the Covid-19 Pandemic. The tremendous work that you - the Adams County RSVP volunteer – have done over the past year speaks volumes about how vital an experienced and willing volunteer force is to meeting the critical needs of a community. At the great risk of leaving something out, the following are real examples of how RSVP volunteers are meeting critical community needs every day in Adams County:

*Con't. on page 2*

## *Message from Barb Casady*

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- Making sure community members are fed — by assisting with one of the counties food pantries; Horizons Soup Kitchen; Carry-Out Caravan; and Meals on Wheels.
- Helping to decrease the feelings of social isolation and loneliness — by being a Friendly Caller; caring for a neighbor; sending cards and calling people who live alone or in a care center.
- Keeping the community healthy and safe — by volunteering with Blessing Hospital, the Red Cross, the Adams Co. Health Dept, and Rapid Testing Site; wrapping diapers for Covered Bottoms Diaper Bank; making face masks; and helping the Quincy Police Dept.
- Supporting non-profits and Government Agencies — by helping to make it possible for them to meet their missions – Salvation Army; Ladies of Charity; Catholic Charities; United Way – VITA Program; Friends of the Quincy Public Library; Adams County States Attorney; Adams County Ambulance; and Emergency Management.
- Keeping the economy active — by keeping Quincy visible through Friends of the Log Cabin; Villa Katherine; Quincy Museum; and the Quincy Chamber of Commerce.
- Supporting education — by tutoring/mentoring youth and adult students online and in person.
- Providing technical training and support — by teaching people how they could stay home and stay safe and still communicate with family, friends, organizations, and churches through the use of smart phones, tablets, and computers.

Thank you for your tremendous work as a volunteer making our community strong and a wonderful place to live, raise a family, and retire. ***Happy National Volunteer Week!***



### *for New RSVP Volunteers*

A New RSVP Volunteer Orientation will be held on Friday, April 30, beginning at 9:00 a.m. in room D-129 on the John Wood Community College Campus. You are invited! If you are a new volunteer, if you would like to bring a friend who wants to volunteer, if you want to reconnect with what RSVP has to offer – join us! A lite brunch will be served, each volunteer will receive a small RSVP gift, you will meet other volunteers, and you will be able to ask questions and learn more about volunteer opportunities across our community. We are taking reservations so give the RSVP Office a call at **217-641-4961**. We will observe social distancing and masks should be worn.

## **Volunteer Opportunities—please share with friends and family!**



**Carry Out Caravan Grocery Shopping Program** needs a volunteer willing to fill groceries orders for people who are unable to grocery shop on their own. This opportunity takes place on Tuesday mornings at the HyVee on Harrison. Volunteers begin shopping at 7:15 a.m. This opportunity takes a little more than an hour a week. So, if you are a morning person, who would like to get exercise, work with a great group of volunteers, and you enjoy grocery shopping - Contact Nicole at **217-641-4961** for more information.

### **Friendly Caller Program**



Friendly Caller is a volunteer opportunity that can be done from your home. Volunteers will make phone calls to individuals who have requested either a supportive/listening/social call or a safety and well-being call. Depending on your availability and interest, you may call once or twice a week – or you might call five days a week. Volunteers will receive training. This program is designed to help address social isolation and loneliness. Volunteers will be matched with an individual to call. Contact Barb Casady at **217-641-4960** for more information.

**News & Views** - RSVP volunteers gather at the Quincy Senior and Family Resource Center on the last Tuesday of each month to prepare the West Central Illinois Area Agency on Aging “News & Views” for mailing. The newsletter is mailed to 5,000 households in the six county area that WCIAAA serves. Interested in helping? Give the RSVP Office a call at **217-641-4961**. Physical distancing is arranged and face masks should be worn.



**Meals on Wheels** – Would you be able to give about an hour of your time once a month delivering a Meals on Wheels route? Not only is it a great way to learn more about the community but it is also a tangible way to help those in need. You might want to encourage a friend to go along—one person drives and the other person delivers—teamwork! If you aren’t able to deliver, please mention this need at your church or other organization. Together we can fill the needed slots. The process for delivering MOW is designed so that volunteers stay safe. Call **217-223-7904** for more information or to volunteer.

**Salvation Army** - The Salvation Army has limited volunteer opportunities that vary based upon the current status of the COVID-19 Pandemic. Please contact Jeremy Koren at **217-231-5633** or [jeremy.koren@usc.salvationarmy.org](mailto:jeremy.koren@usc.salvationarmy.org) to inquire about these opportunities.



**Adams County Health Dept. Annual Drug Take Back Day** - Volunteers are needed on Saturday, April 24, to work with health department staff to receive unused prescription and over the counter drugs from the general public. Proper disposal of unused drugs saves lives and protects the environment. We will need two RSVP volunteers from 10:00 a.m. to Noon and two from Noon until 2:00 p.m. If you are interested, contact the RSVP Office at **217-641-4961**.



**Villa Kathrine** - Do you LOVE meeting new people? Are you PROUD of Quincy and enjoy sharing what we have to offer? You would make the perfect tour guide! Meet people from around the world, locals just passing through, and long-time residents as you share the beautiful views and castle atmosphere with our guests! Interested? Email: [melissamhess@gmail.com](mailto:melissamhess@gmail.com) Text: **(217) 209-1536**

## **Volunteer Opportunities (con't.)**

**Illinois Veterans' Home** - Volunteers are now considered essential staff so we can have everyone back. . . . that is, if they are willing to get tested every day they come out and if they agree to wear a mask/face shield and eye protection such as goggles when on the units and/or around residents.

- Need volunteer/s to escort residents to our therapy building for appointments on Wednesdays. The volunteer/s must be able to push wheelchairs and to walk to various units. Times vary depending on the appointment schedule and the number of residents that can be escorted by volunteers.
- Need volunteer in the Welcome Corner on Wednesday afternoons from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. to assist with accepting clothing donations, assisting residents with clothing needs, and labeling items to be sent to the laundry. Requirements include being able to lift boxes full of clothes and to push carts.

Contact Sara Colgrove at **217-222-8641 ext 386** or [SARA.COLGROVE@Illinois.Gov](mailto:SARA.COLGROVE@Illinois.Gov) for more information.



### **RSVP Tech Team**

During the COVID-19 Pandemic, we found many individuals who were unable to connect with family members because they did not have the knowledge or skills to utilize a smart phone, tablet, or computer. This was especially difficult when they had a family member living in a care center where they could not visit face-to-face. We would like to have a small group of RSVP volunteers – interested in technology – discuss how we might be better prepared to assist people in these communication methods for now and into the future. Does this sound interesting to you?

A good example of this – A woman living independently in her own home was unable to visit her husband of 70 years because he was living in a memory care center. While the husband had the assistance of an activity staff person at the care center who could help him connect with loved ones via Zoom or Facetime, the wife did not have the technology devices, the skill, the knowledge, or a family member in the area to help her. A trained RSVP volunteer would be able to help her learn how to use a tablet, purchase a tablet, and navigate a Zoom call — and we want to be ready to offer this kind of service in the future.

If you are interested, please give Barb Casady a phone call and we can discuss. **217-641-4960**.

*“Volunteers are the only human beings on the face of the earth who reflect this nation’s compassion, unselfish caring, patience, and just plain loving one another.” Erma Bombeck*

## *What If There Were No Volunteers?????*

The worth of something is most-likely determined by what it costs just as a higher salary determines how valuable an employee is perceived to be. Competency, ability, and integrity can become secondary to the perception of worth when that worth is based on income. It is not surprising, then, that volunteering is all too often regarded as valueless. “Just a volunteer”—we hear it from people in our organizations, schools, offices, corporations, and, sometimes, from the volunteers themselves. “Oh, that’s Susie—she doesn’t work here, she’s just a volunteer” or “Him? He’s just a volunteer—I don’t even know his name” or “I’m Anna, I just volunteer here.”

But let me ask you this—what if everyone who is “just a volunteer” in any capacity suddenly disappeared? What if one morning, Susie, Anna, What’s-His-Name, and millions of volunteers across the country just decided that their volunteering days were over? What if there were no volunteers in...

- ...education? It’s volunteers who come to tutor, mentor, help out with sports and cultural enrichment. Students who need extra reading time or extra time being read to may depend on a volunteer to give them individualized help. A volunteer’s very presence is an example showing children what it is like to give of one’s time and talents without expectation of payment.
- ...human services? Volunteers are instrumental in helping to feed the hungry. Soup kitchens, shelters, heated areas for the homeless—all have an army of volunteers to help with their care. People who are homebound need that volunteer who can do their grocery shopping or run essential errands for them.
- ...health care? Blood banks are replenished each and every day by volunteers who roll up their sleeves and give the gift of life. People going through tough times receive support and guidance from those who know what they are going through and are willing to share experiences.
- ...animal rescue? Volunteers are a big part of helping control the feral population and making sure that animals are spayed/neutered and vaccinated. They are primarily the ones who check on animals that may have been abused or neglected. Volunteers who care deliver bags of food to homes that may not be able to feed their pets. They take them blankets and straw and make sure they have shelter from the weather.
- ...the arts? Community Theaters, free music and arts festivals, symphony orchestras, park bands—volunteers are very involved in the arts and love to share their appreciation with others. Here are the actors, the music-makers, the artists, the writers doing what they are called to do and, in so doing, becoming role-models for the young (and the not-so-young) at heart.
- ...disaster relief? When a catastrophe occurs, it’s the volunteers who respond. Hurricanes, floods, earthquakes, tornados—all leave pain and suffering in their wake. Victims must be fed, clothed, sheltered — they must have blankets to keep warm, clean water to drink, help in finding loved ones. The Red Cross, the volunteer electricians who restore much-needed power, the volunteer doctors and nurses, those that provide the very essentials of survival—all lead the charge like the Calvary coming to the rescue.

Volunteer fire fighters are instrumental in fighting rural fires. Volunteers feed the hungry, clothe the homeless, befriend the lonely and the forsaken. Volunteers work to raise funds for charities, libraries, schools. Americorps and RSVP mobilize volunteers to fight floods, man virus testing sites, carry meals and deliver groceries to the elderly, the infirm, the ill, the hurt. This country is built on volunteerism—on those who are willing to go that extra mile, on those who are not afraid to stand up and be counted when the need is great—volunteers who always put others before themselves.

So. . . . do we say, “Oh, that’s Susie—she’s just a volunteer” or do we say, “Oh, that’s Susie—she keeps this place going. She, Anna, and Bob (That’s-His-Name) are the backbone of this place. We couldn’t do what we do without our volunteers. . . their work is priceless.” *(from charitychannel.com with additional input from Susan Abbott)*

*And so we say to our Adams County Volunteers —  
“We need you, we depend on you, we value you. . .  
your work is priceless!”*



### *Did You Know?*

- ♦ RSVP and JWCC will be closed on Friday, April 2, 2021, for the spring break holiday.
- ♦ JWCC (and RSVP) Summer hours will begin on Monday, May 17. The hours will be Monday through Thursday 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and on Fridays from 8:00 a.m. to noon.
- ♦ We encourage RSVP volunteers to call the RSVP Office when you plan to drop by. We love to see you and spend time visiting, however, there are times when staff are out of the office and we don't want you to be disappointed. Call us at 217-641-4961 and we will be sure to be here when you stop by.
- ♦ At the time of the writing of this newsletter, the State of Illinois is still limiting groups gathering in numbers larger than 50 people. Because of this limitation—we will not hold the annual Adams County RSVP Carry-In Luncheon again in 2021. We greatly missed this annual event in 2020 and we will miss it again this year. We are very much looking forward to gathering in the future—hopefully, by October, 2021, for our annual Adams County RSVP Recognition Luncheon.
- ♦ Check out the Adams, Brown and Pike Counties RSVP Facebook page. There is information about community events and opportunities. If you have something you would like to post, please send it to Susan Abbott at [susan-abbott@jwcc.edu](mailto:susan-abbott@jwcc.edu).

### *The Winner Is . . .*

Winner for January is **Becky Dawson** and the winner for February is **Betty Poore**. RSVP staff draw a name from all the pink timesheets submitted by the 7th of each month. **Remember—if you turn your pink sheets in by the 7th of the month, you may be a winner!**

**Winners, please stop by the RSVP office on the JWCC Main Campus to pick up your \$15.00 Hy-Vee gift card**  
**We suggest calling before you come—217-641-4961.**

Adams County  
RSVP

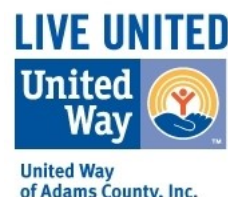
*Lead With Experience...*

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