

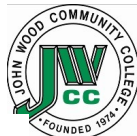


Volunteer Voice

Brown & Pike County Retired and Senior Volunteer Program

Barb Casady, Manager / Kathy Ebbing & Jack Pool, Brown County/Heather Manwell, Pike County/
Susan Abbott, Editor

RSVP is a program
of John Wood
Community College



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Save the Date

Brown County Food Basket

Old Versailles School gym,
Friday, March 19, and Friday,
April 16, from 1:30—4:30p.m.

Brown County Senior Service

VITA tax preparations will be
held on March 25. Call Laura at
217-773-3241 for information.

Pike County Senior Services

VITA tax preparations will be
held on March 4th at Findley
Place Apts. in Pittsfield. Please
call Connie at 217-285-6150 for
more information.

Message from Barb Casady

**"It just makes me feel good and it makes my heart
beat super big."**

-Dempsey Wagnor, five year old from Lee County, Iowa

Dempsey Wagnor is a kindergartner from Lee County Iowa who decided that instead of receiving birthday gifts she wanted to do a fundraiser to purchase a rescue boat for the Lee County Sherriff's Department. (Daily Gate City, 1/21/2021). When asked why she replied, "It just makes me feel good and it makes my heart beat super big."

When I read the newspaper article and her quote – it made me smile, it made me laugh, it made me cry a bit, and it sure made my heart beat super big, too! It was wonderful to read about this young lady and her family who are teaching all of us the importance of doing for others. I also realized that is exactly how I feel about you – the Brown and Pike Counties RSVP volunteer – my heart beats super big!

Every day I have the great opportunity to see and be involved in the work you do in your community—work that would simply not be done if it were not for your dedication, commitment, energy, and heart.

At the end of each calendar year, I share the number of Brown and Pike Counties RSVP volunteers who were active volunteers in their communities (24 or more volunteer hours per year), how many volunteer hours were contributed, and the economic impact of these volunteer hours. While Covid-19 most certainly required us to look at different ways to volunteer, it **did not** stop you from volunteering! Nothing can keep good volunteers from supporting their community :).

con't. on page 2

Message from Barb Casady—con't.

In 2020 – 244 Brown and Pike Counties RSVP volunteers contributed more than 24 hours of volunteer service to 30 non-profits, schools, government agencies, and faith based organizations.

Volunteers contributed a total of 22,091 hours of service.

Value = \$564,425

Based upon the average value of volunteer time for IL, IA, and MO
set by the Independent Sector (\$25.55)

(Independent Sector brings together a diverse set of nonprofits, foundations, and corporations to advance the common good. Each year in April they provide an estimate of the value of volunteer time for the nation and individual states. This figure is used as a consistent dollar figure by grant-making organizations and those seeking funding.)

Thank you for contributing your time, your energy, and your care to your communities!



**AmeriCorps
Seniors**

New Name—New Logo

With this newsletter you will notice some changes in logos and names for our programs. *No worries – we are still known as the Adams, Brown, and Pike Counties Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP).*

However, you will note that other names have changed.

Our major federal funder is now AmeriCorps – and the RSVP programs are a part of the AmeriCorps Seniors programs. (Our major funder was formerly known as the Corporation for National and Community Service and we were a part of the Senior Corps Program).

For more than 50 years, Senior Corps programs have served communities nationwide. In so doing, we have made immeasurable impact across the country, connecting older Americans with the people and organizations that need them most.

Under the new name – AmeriCorps Seniors – more than 200,000 volunteers nationwide, age 55 and older who have made service their “second act,” will continue to carry the torch of volunteerism forward throughout the next 50 years. The Adams, Brown, and Pike Counties RSVP program will continue to bring out the best for our communities.



**AmeriCorps
Seniors**



Volunteer Opportunities—Pike County

Barry Community Care Center - Seeking volunteers to help with Bingo or individual activities in residents' rooms. Please call Diana Castleberry at **217-335-2326**.

All Wars Museum - Volunteers wanted to clean, help set up displays, sort items that are loaned or donated. They have work nights three or four nights a month. They are also seeking someone to take video interviews of veterans. Please contact Lloyd Lawber at **217-242-4253** for more information.

Liberty Village - Seeking crafting supplies, craft paint, Bingo prizes (no glass), and word search books for resident activities. Call Christy Davenport at **217-285-5200** with any questions.



Pike County Senior Services - Volunteers are needed to deliver Meals on Wheels. **They also need someone to deliver homebound frozen meals, weekly.** Please contact Connie Lerch at **217-285-6150** for more information.

Griggsville Estates - Seeking donations of mouthwash which their residents use daily and bird seed for their feeders. They are also looking for volunteers to help them plan and landscape around their gazebo in the backyard this spring.

Volunteer Opportunities—Brown County

Heritage Health Nursing Home in Mt. Sterling - The nursing home would appreciate donations of ink pens and stationery. You may call to drop off the items at **217-773-3377** or you may leave the items at the Brown County RSVP Office at 108 N. Capitol in Mt. Sterling and they will be delivered. It would also be greatly appreciated if volunteers could send "thinking of you" cards to the nursing home to be distributed among the residents who do not receive mail. The address is Heritage Health Nursing Home, 435 Camden Road, Mt. Sterling, IL 62353. Please mark it to "Resident" and write RSVP as the return address. These may also be dropped off at the nursing home or the RSVP office.

Brown County Public Library - Volunteers are needed to set up for the book sale that will be held April 12 - April 17. Please call ahead at **217-773-2013**.



Brown County Food Basket - Volunteers are needed to set up on the third Thursday and distribute on the third Friday of each month at the Old Versailles School Gym. Contact Laura Simmons at **217-773-3668**.



Mt. Sterling Senior Center - Drivers are needed for the Meals on Wheels program. Contact Kathy at **217-773-3241**.

Take Back Drug Day - "Take Back Prescription Drug Day" is on April 24th. Sheriff Groesch is looking for volunteers to hang flyers at local businesses a couple of weeks prior. Volunteers will also be needed on the 24th at the IGA in Mt. Sterling to receive drugs and weigh the boxes to be shipped to Springfield. Please contact Jack Pool or Kathy Ebbing at the RSVP Office in Mt. Sterling at **217-641-4146** for more information or to volunteer.



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. **Do you know people who would benefit from a weekly call? Contact your county RSVP Office.**

[Volunteer Opportunities—con't.](#)

[American Red Cross](#) - An urgent need has been posted for Blood Drive Ambassadors to assist at blood drives in Brown and Pike Counties. These volunteers would greet donors, do temperature and intake screening, set up and maintain cleanliness in reception and hospitality areas, and schedule donors for future drives. A short training is provided and you may sign-up to work as many or as few blood drives as you would like. **Highest COVID protocols are followed.** Two volunteers are needed in Pike County and one volunteer is needed in Brown County. For more information or to volunteer, please email connie.dudgeon@redcross.org.



[Volunteer Spotlight](#)

The annual Brown County Christmas Food Basket is a project sponsored by the Two Rivers Council and the Ministerial Alliance of Brown County with the help of the area churches, United Way, Dot Charities, and many donations from the community. In December, 2020, three hundred Brown County families were served. Because of COVID-19, neither the prisoners from the work camp nor the PE classes from Brown County High School were able to participate. However, the CEO class for the high school, other high school students, and adults of all ages were able to be a part of the all-volunteer workforce. RSVP senior volunteers contributed several hundred hours as they have done for many years. All of this was accomplished following COVID safety guidelines. This very important project would not have been possible without the dedication of volunteer workers.

Pastor Steve Surratt/First Christian

[The Winner Is . . .](#)

Winners for November are [Linda Fanshier \(Brown Co\)](#) and [Lloyd Lawber \(Pike Co\)](#) and for December [Laura Simmons \(Brown Co\)](#) and [Joyce Allensworth \(Pike Co\)](#). RSVP staff draw a name from all the pink timesheets submitted by the 15th of each month. Winners for November were drawn in December and winners for December were drawn in January. **Remember—if you turn your pink sheets in by the 15th of the month, you may be a winner!**

Winners, please stop by the Brown or Pike RSVP office to pick up your \$15.00 gift card during the hours listed below.

Brown County RSVP is open 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday-Wednesday.

Pike County RSVP is open 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon Monday through Friday.

Brown & Pike Counties

RSVP

Lead With Experience...



**AmeriCorps
Seniors**

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