



Volunteer Voice

Brown & Pike County Retired and Senior Volunteer Program

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RSVP is a program
of John Wood
Community College

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Did You Know?

We have a limited number of COVID Vaccination Card Holders. Keeping your card safe and in a convenient location is important. Contact the Brown or Pike County RSVP office if you would like one.

“Help one another. There’s no time like the present, and no present like the time.”

James Durst

Message from Barb Casady

A couple of weeks ago we received requests for volunteers from two non-profit organizations that we had not heard much from during the COVID-19 Pandemic. Both organizations were ready to move forward, re-energize their programs, and get back out into the community. They both needed volunteers to assist them and RSVP volunteers were there to help them do just that!

While there were many volunteer opportunities available during the pandemic, there were many things RSVP volunteers loved doing that were just not being offered. So, I will admit that when the phone call requesting volunteers to help deliver posters for an upcoming event came in and a few minutes later another call came in to help with a mailing, I wanted to shout **“We Are Back!!!!”** and it felt very good.

Many of you continued to volunteer throughout the Pandemic. You never missed a beat! You increased your volunteer time to meet the many needs of a community that was experiencing a crisis like nothing any of us have experienced before. **Thank you!!!**

Today, almost 25% of people in Adams, Brown, and Pike Counties have received vaccinations. We know that COVID numbers are still with us and are even rising. We want to keep ourselves, our families, and our communities safe and healthy. We know that face masks and the need to physical distance are still very important.

With everything going on, we hope you are still finding ways to safely volunteer. We hope you are interested in finding some new ways to be involved and engaged in your community.

(Cont. on page 2)

Message from Barb Casady—con't.

If you are looking for new experiences, read the volunteer opportunities in this newsletter. Take a few minutes and call Kathy Ebbing or Jack Pool at the Brown County RSVP Office or Heather Manwell at the Pike County RSVP Office to find a new volunteer opportunity that sounds interesting—an opportunity to work with an organization that needs your skills and years of experience and that will make a positive difference. If you are looking for somewhere to volunteer, whether from your own home or out in the community, the RSVP staff can help you find a meaningful and safe volunteer opportunity.

We also encourage you to invite friends and family to get involved, too. We know volunteering is good for your health—it lowers rates of social isolation and loneliness while, at the same time, giving you a way to make an impact for a cause and a community in which you believe.

Thank you for volunteering!

Save the Date

- **All Wars Museum**—the museum will be open Saturdays and Sundays beginning May 1st from 12:00 to 4:00 pm each day. They will also be having a fund-raiser BBQ in June.
- **Pike County Military Heritage Museum**—the museum will be open Saturdays and Sundays beginning May 1st from 12:00 to 4:00pm each weekend.
- **Pike County Senior Center**—May 13th and June 10th we will be resuming our monthly fund-raiser fish fry from 4:30-6:30pm—\$10 per person.
- **Brown County Food Basket**—Old Versailles School Gym, Fridays, May 21 and June 18, from 1:30-4:30pm. If you know of someone that could benefit from this, please let them know.

All Wars Museum Helps Veteran Celebrate 100th Birthday!



A celebration was held on April 9th at the Pike County All Wars Museum for Mr. Howard Sibley's 100th birthday. He is a WWII veteran who often joins the 'Morning at the Mess Hall' gatherings which the museum has just reinstated. These gatherings are scheduled for the first Friday of each month. Coffee, donuts, and comradery are provided and enjoyed. This was the first time the museum has been open for the monthly gathering this year and how appropriate that it coincided with a milestone birthday celebration! There were over 20 people in attendance not only to wish Howard a 'Happy Birthday' but also to view the many displays of military history.

"Volunteering is the ultimate exercise in democracy. You vote in elections once a year, but when you volunteer, you vote every day about the kind of community you want to live in." — Author Unknown



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.

American Red Cross - A need has been posted for Blood Drive Ambassadors to assist at blood drives in Pike County. 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. For more information or to volunteer, please email connie.dudgeon@redcross.org.

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.

Jensen Woods Camp at Timewell, IL - Volunteers needed to mow, trim, pick up sticks, clean landscape, put labels on jars, etc. They have a work day the second Saturday of the month in May, June, August, September, and October. If that time does not work, just call **217-773-2491**.

Volunteer Opportunities—Brown and Pike Counties



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.**

Red Cross of Illinois Virtual Open House-May 20, 2021, 5:30-6:30pm

Have you ever thought about joining the lifesaving mission of the Red Cross? You're invited to learn more, with no obligation, at our virtual volunteer recruitment open house series. The next session is May 20th from 5:30pm to 6:30pm. Please sign up here: tinyurl.com/RC-Illinois. Hear an overview of the Red Cross mission, learn about our lines of service and the different volunteer positions available, and have your questions answered. We'd love to meet you! If you have additional questions, please feel free to contact Connie Dudgeon at **309.277.4027** or connie.dudgeon@redcross.org.

The Winner Is . . .

Winners for January are **Rita Kitchell (Brown Co)** and **Diane Brown (Pike Co)** and for February **Mike Pritchard (Brown Co)** and **Wanda Neff (Pike Co)**. RSVP staff draw a name from all the pink timesheets submitted by the 15th of each month. Winners for January were drawn in February and winners for February were drawn in March. **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.
(Please note that the Brown County Office will go to summer hours as of May 17 and will close at 4:00pm)
- ♦ Pike County RSVP is open 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon Monday through Friday.
- ♦ We encourage RSVP volunteers to call the RSVP Office in your county 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. Phone numbers are listed below.

Spring has Sprung!



**AmeriCorps
Seniors**

Brown & Pike Counties

RSVP

Lead With Experience...

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