



## Adams County Retired and Senior Volunteer Program

# Volunteer Voice

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RSVP is a program  
of John Wood  
Community College

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St. Patrick, or the “Apostle of Ireland,” actually started out in the pagan religion. He was born around 460, and by the 600s, he was already known as the Patron Saint of Ireland. There are many legends associated with St. Patrick. The symbol of the shamrock used for St. Patrick’s Day comes from the story of St. Patrick using the shamrock to illustrate the Holy Trinity. The three-leaved plant coincided with the Pagan religion’s sanctity of the number three and is the root of the green color theme. Another popular belief is that St. Patrick banished the snakes from Ireland. The story says that while St. Patrick was fasting, snakes attacked him, so he chased all snakes into the ocean. However, there have never been snakes in Ireland during the post-glacial period. The absence of snakes and symbolism involved with snakes is believed to explain the story.

American immigrants brought St. Patrick’s Day to the United States. St. Patrick’s Day was first celebrated in America in 1737, organized by the Charitable Irish Society of Boston, including a feast and religious service. This first celebration of the holiday in the colonies was largely to honor and celebrate the Irish culture that so many colonists had been separated from.

## Save the Date

- **Wed. 5-21-14 Annual Carry-In Luncheon starting at noon at Salem Church—BE THERE!**

The first celebration of St. Patrick’s Day in New York City was held at the Crown and Thistle Tavern in 1756. In 1780, General George Washington, who commanded soldiers of Irish descent in the Continental Army, allowed his troops a holiday on March 17. This event became known as The St. Patrick’s Day Encampment of 1780. Today, St. Patrick’s Day is widely celebrated in the United States by Irish and non-Irish alike. Many people, regardless of ethnic background, wear green-colored clothing and items. Traditionally, those who are caught not wearing green are pinched.

## Valentines for Vets



Jessie Boston and Barbara Bockhaus, RSVP Volunteers

On Monday, February 10, volunteers from RSVP along with students of JWCC worked to create hand-made valentines for the residents of the Illinois Veterans' Home. Over 100 valentines were created!

## MLK Jr. Day of Service



In recognition of the Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service, the Adams County RSVP office collected more than 2,500 personal care and food items that were donated to Horizons Social Services of Adams County. JWCC employees and retirees brought in donations when attending their annual Holiday Party at the college.

## VITA

Vita is a FREE, United Way funded IRS sponsored program. Adams, Brown and Pike County RSVP along with the Area Agency on Aging have partnered with the United Way to offer this free service. Trained and friendly volunteers prepare all tax returns. For further information please visit: [vita@unitedwayadamsco.org](mailto:vita@unitedwayadamsco.org)

**VITA** MARK YOUR CALENDARS!  
TAX TIME IS COMING!

United Way  
of Adams County, Inc.

**VOLUNTEER INCOME TAX ASSISTANCE**

**Taxpayers earning \$50,000 or less are eligible  
for FREE tax preparation services.**

CALL 217-222-5020 TO  
SCHEDULE YOUR FREE  
INCOME TAX PREPARATION TODAY!

Convenient daytime, evening, weekend, and drop-off  
appointments available from  
January 29- April 15.

### VITA SCHEDULE for 2014

Site Location Name and Address	Hours of Operation
United Way of Adams County 936 Broadway, Suite F Quincy, IL 62301 217-222-5020 or email: <a href="mailto:vita@unitedwayadamsco.org">vita@unitedwayadamsco.org</a>	M – 10:00am to 4:30pm T – 10:00am to 8:00pm W – 10:00am to 8:00pm R – 10:00am to 8:00pm F – 10:00am to 4:30pm Sat – by Appointment January 29 – April 15, 2014
Quincy Senior & Family Resource Ctr 639 York St. Quincy, IL 62301 217-223-5700 or 800-252-9027	8:00am – 3:30pm Feb 24-27, March 10 & 13, April 2, 3 & 7
Pike County Senior Services @ John Wood Community College 1308 W Washington Pittsfield, IL 62363 217-285-6150	9:30am-3:30pm March 24, 2014
Mt. Sterling Senior Center 115 N Capitol Mt. Sterling, IL 62353 217-773-3241	9:30am-3:30pm March 27, 2014

## Thrivent Financial for Lutherans



Mary Turner along with Ron Lerner, acting as representatives from Thrivent Financial for Lutherans, presented Julie Bates with a check for \$1,000 as a contribution for our Annual Recognition Banquet held in December. Their original donation was \$500; however, they came to us later and generously donated another \$500 to bring the total to \$1000!



### Thrivent Financial for Lutherans®

**Adams County RSVP would like  
to Thank  
Thrivent Financial  
for Lutherans for their  
generous fundraising match  
of \$500 to help support  
volunteerism in our  
community!**



## Table Sponsorships at Recognition Banquet

We would like to thank our generous table sponsors for our 2013 Recognition Banquet. Please thank these companies for their support the next time you visit their establishment.



**CURTIS CREEK RETIREMENT  
RESIDENCE**  
823 South 36th Street  
Quincy, IL 62301  
217-221-9081



**GOOD SAMARITAN HOME**  
Of Quincy, Illinois  
2130 Harrison Street  
Quincy, IL 62301  
217-223-8717

*Where there's a helpful smile in every aisle!*



**1400 Harrison Street**  
Quincy Illinois  
217-224-9442

**Quincy University**  
Learning Caring Connecting  
1800 College Avenue  
Quincy Illinois  
217-222-8020

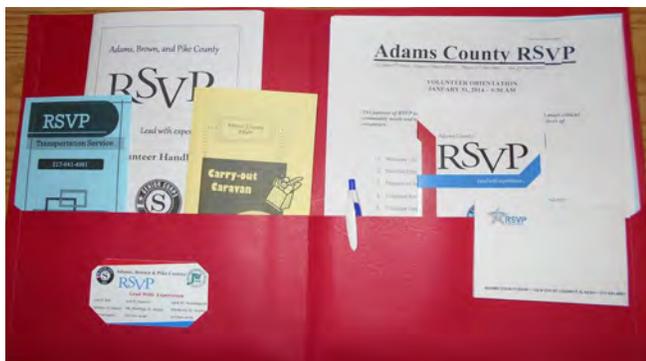


- Adams County Project Lifesaver** is a collaborative effort of the Quincy Police Department, the Adams County Sheriff's Office and the Quincy Senior and Family Resource Center, whose goal is to assist clients and families of individuals with Autism, Downs Syndrome, Alzheimer's and related diseases and disabilities. Project Lifesaver utilizes electronic technology to locate missing persons suffering from dementia-type disorders that wander. The normal monthly lease, which includes monthly battery change, is \$25. A screening process is in place to identify those clients/caregivers who would qualify for participation in the program at no cost.
 

**Please contact the Project Lifesaver coordinator at:  
217-222-1189 or 1-800-252-9027**

## Volunteer Orientation

**J**anuary 28 was the date of our Volunteer Orientation held at the Adams County RSVP office. There were 20 in attendance including new and current RSVP members and guests. Staff spoke on various topics including RSVP history and program, volunteer recruitment, volunteer opportunities, time and expense report, reimbursement policies-mileage/meals, insurance benefits, recognition, and much more. Jack Pool and Kathy Ebbing from our Mt. Sterling office were also in attendance. Additional Orientations will be held in the oncoming months.



## **Volunteer Opportunities**

### **Adams County Health Department:**

The Medical Reserve Corps needs help at safety events in Adams County.

**Meals Plus for Seniors:** Volunteers needed to deliver Meals on Wheels. Deliveries made daily, pick up at 10:45am-11:00am, takes an hour to complete. Free meal at the Senior Center provided for all volunteers.

**JWCC:** GED and ESL tutors

**JWCC-Public Relations Office:** volunteer to scan documents into computer.

**QPS:** Mentor for a 7th grade student meeting at the GED Center from 3pm-4pm on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

**Villa Kathrine:** Volunteer hosts needed with duties including greeting and helping visitors, collecting admissions for tours, and handling souvenir sales.

**Sunset Home:** Help needed in the Ice Cream Shop.

**Blessing Hospital:** Tea Room waitresses and cashiers, Hospitality House host, Surgery Center, Health Center lobby, Nurse Server/Replenisher, Diagnostic Center, ICU Waiting Room, Radiation Therapy

**RSVP:** Drivers needed for local and long distance medical transportation. Need volunteers for Disaster Activation Team to answer phones in the event of a disaster.

## In The News

- Alisa Elkins of The Salvation Army sent a thank you to all the RSVP volunteers who participated in the Bell Ringing Campaign on December 19th. A total of \$82.82 in donations was collected.
- Brothers Harold and Gerald Mast were showcased in an article in the Quincy Herald Whig highlighting their combined 90 years of volunteer service at Quincy Notre Dame and Quincy University. Both brothers are active in RSVP.
- Ray and Donna Johnson appeared in an article in the Quincy Herald Whig about the Good News of Christmas campaign. The Johnsons have been active in the Good News campaign for the past five years and are very active in RSVP.
- Gena Awerkamp was highlighted in the Your Turn column of the Quincy Herald Whig on December 7th. Gena volunteers as a literacy tutor through RSVP.
- Barb Richmiller manned an information table at the Quincy Mall on December 10th, and handed out bottles of water to members of the walking group sponsored by the Blessing Hospital Heart and Vascular Center called the Pace Setters.



## Volunteer Opportunities

**John Wood Mansion:** Volunteers needed to give tours of the Mansion and work in the gift shop. Hours vary.

**Unity Point Hospice:** Volunteers needed to help in a variety of ways: provide respite care, clerical, sharing special skills (music, massage, art).

**American Collectibles Museum:** Needs help scanning buttons for the catalog and sorting sports cards.

**Quincy Art Center:** Volunteer to keep the entry foyer “pretty and inviting” for visitors.

**Illinois Veterans Home:** Volunteers needed to push wheelchair residents from the various units to the multi-therapy building and back. Volunteers to help the activity personnel with dementia patients. Volunteer to visit 90 year old retired teacher and WWII Navy Veteran. He’s wheelchair bound and very hard of hearing. His mind is sharp and he loves to talk.

**State’s Attorney Victim-Witness Program:** Sandy Winner-Brown, Adams Co. Victim-Witness Coordinator, State Attorney’s office, always is in need of volunteer help in the courtroom and with restitution. No prior experience is needed as she is a great teacher.

**Community Foundation:** Volunteer to answer phone, take messages, be a presence in the office for the next month.

**If interested in any of these opportunities, call the RSVP office.**

**Please Like us on Facebook**



**Adams, Brown & Pike County RSVP**

## The Winner Is...



**D**oris Nelson is the first winner in our new monthly recognition drawing contest. RSVP staff will draw a name from all the pink sheets turned in for each month. **Since pink sheets are due by the 7th of each month**, the drawing will take place the middle of each month for the prior month's pink sheets. So...**turn your pink sheets in on time** and you could be the next big winner!

## Refer a Friend Drawing

**W**e have yet another way to win great prizes! All you need to do is tell all your friends how great it is to be a member of RSVP. Convince them to join. Be sure you tell them to mention your name or better yet, write it on their Volunteer Registration form. Then encourage them to report their volunteer hours each month. Beginning with the first quarter of 2014, we will be entering all the names of those current members who referred an actively reporting new volunteer in a drawing. On or around April 1st we will have the drawing and announce the winner. The prize is a surprise!



*Adams County*

# RSVP

*Lead With Experience*

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Phone: 217-641-4961

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[jbates@jwcc.edu](mailto:jbates@jwcc.edu)

[bonness@jwcc.edu](mailto:bonness@jwcc.edu)

Corporation for  
**NATIONAL &  
COMMUNITY  
SERVICE** 

**LIVE UNITED**



United Way  
of Adams County, Inc.

RSVP is a United Way Funded Agency