



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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Valentine's Day - the popular festival of love and romance traces its origin to an ancient Roman festival. Valentine greetings were popular as far back as the Middle Ages, though written Valentines didn't begin to appear until after 1400. In the second half of the 20th century, the practice of exchanging cards was extended to all manner of gifts. Such gifts typically include roses and chocolates packed in a red satin, heart-shaped box. In the 1980s, the diamond industry began to promote Valentine's Day as an occasion for giving diamonds.

The U.S. Greeting Card Association estimates that approximately 190 million valentines are sent each year in the US. Half of those valentines are given to family members other than husband or wife, usually to children. When you include the valentine-exchange cards made in school activities the figure goes up to 1 billion, and teachers become the people receiving the most valentines.

The rise of Internet popularity at the turn of the millennium is creating new traditions. Millions of people use digital means of creating and sending Valentine's Day greeting messages such as e-cards, love coupons, or printable greeting cards. The amount the average consumer spends on Valentine's Day is \$116.21.

Save the Date

- February 11, 2015-Valentines for Vets-JWCC 10am-noon
- February 24,2015-News & Views 8:00am at Senior Ctr
- March 7, 2015 - 20th Annual Gardner's Palette at JWCC
- May 21, 2015- Senior Expo Quincy Senior & Family Resource Center, 10-2pm



The Winner Is...

Roger Hull won for November and **Martha Biallas** won for December in our monthly contest. RSVP staff draw a name from all the pink Timesheets turned in for each month. **Since the pink Timesheets are due by the 7th of each month**, the drawing will take place the middle of each month for the prior month's timesheets.

Jack Miller is the winner in our **Refer a Friend Contest** for the fourth quarter of 2014. We track all the names of those current members who referred a new volunteer who turned in their first Timesheet.

Prizes will be awarded!



Valentines for Vets



On Wednesday, February 11, 2015 from 10:00am to noon we will be partnering again with JWCC to create as many valentines as we can to be delivered to the veterans at the IVH. Students who are members of the JWCC Student Government Association will drop by to help out between classes. We will have supplies available on tables set up outside of the JWCC Bookstore. Our RSVP manager, Barb Casady, will be there to lend a helping hand. So if you're looking for something fun and meaningful to do, please stop by and make a few valentines!

In The News

Ray Johnson was featured in a picture which appeared on the front page of the 12-18-14 Quincy Herald Whig about the Good News of Christmas campaign. Ray and his wife, Donna, have been active in the Good News campaign for the past six years and are both very active in RSVP.

Barb Richmiller was spotted in a picture in the 1-11-15 Quincy Herald Whig. She was attending the Health and Wellness Expo at the Oakley Lindsay Center on Saturday. She happened by the Blessing Hospital Heart and Vascular Center booth.

Pam Arnold was spotted at the Quincy Mall on 12-11-14. She along with 6 other volunteers split shifts and rang the bells for the 2014 Red Kettle Campaign for the Salvation Army on 12-10 and 12-11 and raised \$124.12! Alisa Elkins, Seasonal Events Coordination for The Salvation Army, sent a letter to the RSVP office expressing thanks to our volunteers on behalf of all the individuals and families they serve.



VITA Free Tax Preparation

Free tax help may be closer than you think

Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA)

What to Bring:

- Proof of identification (photo ID)
- Social Security cards or Individual Taxpayer Identification Numbers (ITIN) for you, your spouse, and/or dependents
- Proof of foreign status, if applying for an ITIN
- Birth dates for all on the tax return
- For married filing joint, both spouses must be present
- All Forms W2, W-2, 1099 and 1098
- A copy of last year's federal and state returns
- Proof of bank account and routing information if choosing direct deposit of refund (e.g. voided check)
- Total paid to daycare provider and their tax ID
- Health insurance exemption certificate, if received
- All Forms 1095 Health Insurance statements

One-on-one Tax Return Preparation Services

Each year, the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program offers free, face-to-face tax help to people with low-to-moderate income (\$53,000 or less annually). IRS-tax law certified volunteers provide this free service with electronic filing to all people who qualify. All you have to do is bring your documentation, and we'll do the rest.

Make plans to come see us soon! We will be glad to assist you with your tax preparation needs.

Appointments: #217-222-5020



United Way
of Adams County, Inc.

**936 Broadway,
Suite F,
Quincy, IL**

**January 28 – April 15
Monday – Friday,
Day & Evening Availability**

Message from Barb Casady, RSVP Manager

2015 is the Year of the Volunteer – “You Are the Difference!”

Martin Luther King, Jr. said that “Life’s most persistent and urgent question is: what are you doing for others?” People in Adams County answer this question each day by helping their neighbors and building their community through their volunteer activity. Volunteerism is the answer to Dr. King’s appeal.

In recognition of the state of Illinois strong commitment to volunteers, 2015 has been designated the Year of the Volunteer by the Illinois Senate with Senate Resolution 1002. The theme for the year is **“You are the Difference”**. Volunteerism will be celebrated across the state by celebrating community service and connecting and strengthening the already extensive network of organizations involved in civic engagement.

Each day in Adams County, youth and adults just like **you** work together to make a **difference**. Whether it is shoveling snow for a neighbor, reading with a child, walking a dog at the Quincy Humane Society, driving a senior citizen to a doctor’s appointment or helping to serve a hot meal to a family, you touch a life in a positive way that makes an enormous difference. There are 600 + RSVP volunteers who understand the importance of being there to “do for others”.

Thank you for your commitment to your neighbors and your community. Thank you for being an active RSVP volunteer.



41st Recognition Banquet Survey Results

SURVEY QUESTIONS	YES	NO	NEUTRAL	TOTAL
DID YOU ATTEND?	39	5		44
NO- SCHEDULE CONFLICT	3			
NO- OTHER REASON	2			
DID YOU LIKE THE LOCATION (JWCC)?	38		6	44
DID YOU LIKE THE START TIME (NOON)?	39		5	44
DID YOU ENJOY THE FOOD (TONY'S TOO)?	34	2	8	44

Thanks to those of you who responded to our survey about the Recognition Banquet. We received 44 responses from our volunteer base. The breakdown shows that the majority favors keeping the event at the same location and time. Based on several specific comments, we will be researching different caterers for this year. If you had comments you wanted to make, but were unable to return the survey; please feel free to call our office or send us an email. Thanks again for participating in our survey!

Volunteer Opportunities

JWCC: Needs 9 volunteers to help at the Community Action Poverty Simulation exercise. The program will take place on Saturday, February 28 at JWCC 1301 S 48th St in Quincy. Volunteers will be at individual stations representing community resources and services. The volunteers will have information provided to share with the participants and will check off the individuals as they come through each station. Hours are from 10:a.m. until noon and lunch will be provided.

American Red Cross: Seeking volunteers to act as disaster responders who will work longer hours providing direct aid to disaster victims; general office assistance a few hours a week; and outreach positions that are just a few hours a year. The local Red Cross is located at 3000 N. 23rd St. in Quincy. Additional volunteer resources can be found at redcross.org.

Blessing Hospital : Needs help in the ICU waiting room, patient flower/mail delivery, shuttle drivers, surgical waiting room, nurse server replenisher, and Blessing Health Center substitutes.

Quincy Senior & Resource Center: Needs help with the bulk mailing of News and Views beginning at 8:00am on Tuesday, February 24.

Historical Society of Quincy: *Tour guide* needed for the Visitor's Center at 12th & State beginning March 1. Leads visitors through the Mansion and the Lincoln Gallery from a script; sells tickets/takes donations and sell souvenirs. Hours: Tues-Sat 10-12 and 12-2pm-can be two shifts or only one per day. Also needs *Newsletter Coordinator* to assemble the Society newsletter and emails from information provided. Needs knowledge of Publisher, Excel, and Word programs along with email.



Volunteer Opportunities

Historical Society of Quincy: New location at 332 Maine St. needs volunteers to be a front desk greeter, information person, and to answer phones and take messages or transfer calls. This person may also work at crafts for sale in the Gift Shop while at the desk-such as crochet ornaments, fold corn husk ornaments, assemble greeting cards, etc. Other duties as needed to help in the Gift Shop or Museum.

Disaster Activation Team (DAT): Volunteers are trained and then called to assist with the Emergency Operations Center when opened to answer the phones and field questions and information to the public in the event of a large scale emergency.

Villa Kathrine: Immediate openings for Volunteer Hosts at the Villa. Duties include greeting visitors, answering questions, sharing information about the area, collecting admissions for tours, and souvenir sales.

JWCC: Room monitors needed for the 2015 Sophomore Career Fair to be held at JWCC on March 10, 2015. Duties include sitting in a room during a presentation to assist the speaker and to look for any issues from the students. 35 volunteers are needed for the full day. If you are unable to volunteer a full day, you can do a half day.

Adams Co Health Dept: Volunteer readers are needed in the WIC waiting room at the Adams Co. Health Dept. The Ready.Set.Grow program promotes kindergarten readiness. Readers needed for children 0-5 years. Volunteer hours are Tuesdays and Thursdays 9-11am and 1-3pm. If you can give one hour, two hours or more, please call!

If interested in any of these volunteer opportunities, please call our office.

VALENTINE'S DAY



N F S K V L H S I R E H C P E
 N O I S S A P W H Y O Z G F V
 J U I P W W L E C A R B M E M
 Y R A T E N D E R N E S S I K
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AFFECTION
 BALLOONS
 BELOVED
 BOUQUET
 BOYFRIEND
 CANDY
 CARD
 CHERISH
 CHOCOLATE
 COURTSHIP
 CUPID
 DARLING
 EMBRACE
 FEBRUARY
 FOURTEENTH
 GIFT
 HEART
 HOLIDAY
 INFATUATION
 KISS
 LOVE
 PASSION
 ROMANTIC
 ROSE
 SWEETHEART
 TENDERNESS
 VALENTINE

Adams County

RSVP

Lead With Experience

Corporation for
**NATIONAL &
 COMMUNITY
 SERVICE** 

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LIVE UNITED



United Way
of Adams County, Inc.

RSVP is a United Way Funded Agency