



Volunteer Voice

Adams County Retired and Senior Volunteer Program

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Susan Abbott, Editor

RSVP is a program of John Wood Community College

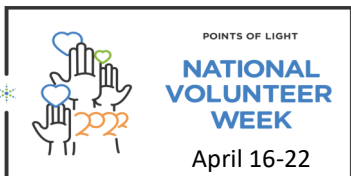


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Things to Remember

“News & Views”—Volunteers need to prepare newsletters on Tuesday, April 24, and on Tuesday, May 30, 2023.



National Volunteer Week is April 16—April 22. Thank you to ALL RSVP Volunteers!

Message from Heath Richmond

It is hard to believe that April has arrived and so has Spring. For me, Spring is that time of year that signifies new beginnings and growth. At the RSVP office, we are celebrating my one-year anniversary as Director as well as Nicole’s return from her maternity leave (Susan and I were counting down the days). We are so glad that everything went well and the Havermale family has a new, healthy addition, Aurora Dannan. Now, Nicole is supporting her RSVP family once again so feel free to drop by and welcome her back! She may even have some pictures to show you!

Nicole’s little one and my anniversary remind me that spring brings new beginnings in lots of ways. One thing I hope all of you will do is to encourage your friends, family members, and/or colleagues to join RSVP as volunteers so that they, too, will add to the outstanding impact you all have across our community. To welcome our new volunteers, we will have a special prize drawing at our carry-in luncheon on May 18 in the JWCC Cafeteria. Any newly registered 2023 volunteer and any current volunteer who has been busy recruiting in 2023 will have chances to win! There will be other prizes as well so wear your lucky hat!

Thanks again for all you do and the huge difference each one of you makes in the lives of others.

Heath

Millions receive services through regional Better Business Bureau office in 2022

Better Business Bureau (BBB) St. Louis remained a steady advocate for marketplace trust in 2022, serving consumers across Eastern and Southwest Missouri and Southern Illinois nearly 21.4 million times, a 37.9% increase from 2021.

“Our results reflect the dedication of BBB staff members and volunteers who serve consumers and businesses across the region, including from regional offices in Cape Girardeau, Mo., Columbia, Mo., Springfield, Mo., and Quincy, Ill.,” said Michelle L. Corey, BBB St. Louis president and CEO. “As we continue to rebound from the COVID-19 pandemic and the economic instability surrounding it, we stand ready to provide BBB Business Profiles and Charity Reviews, help companies and customers resolve disputes and provide standards for business practices, and other valuable services that promote marketplace trust.”

Technology allows BBB to provide many of its services online, around the clock. [BBB.org](https://www.bbb.org) had nearly 5.9 million visits from consumers in the St. Louis region last year. An additional 7.9 million consumers interacted with BBB electronically through newsletters and social media, and thousands more telephoned to speak with BBB specialists. Businesses earning BBB Accreditation totaled 8,715 at year’s end, with 130 of those businesses in the Quincy region.

Requests to check out a company through [BBB Business Profiles](#) topped 3.2 million. Inquiries about vehicle service contract companies led the list of requests at 377,805, followed by inquiries about roofing contractors and general contractors.

When consumers call or check BBB’s website, they can learn whether businesses received customer complaints, and, if so, how they satisfied their customers. BBB Business Profiles display a rating from A+ to F, tell how long a company has been in business, and give contact information and details such as products or services a company offers.

Many consumers requested further information from [BBB Accredited Businesses](#) through BBB’s [Get A Quote](#) service, which reached 53,377 last year. [BBB Customer Reviews](#) posted on [BBB.org](#) numbered 18,498.

Local consumers reported 956 potential scams to [BBB Scam Tracker](#) last year. BBB received 14,696 complaints filed against companies in Eastern and Southwest Missouri and Southern Illinois, and 80% of complaints were resolved.

Complaints against vehicle service contract companies led the list of business categories with the most complaints in BBB St. Louis’ service area. The second highest number of complaints were against businesses providing auto repair.

Accredited Charities meeting BBB’s [20 Standards of Charity Accountability](#) numbered 302 at year’s end.

BBB challenged 130 local ad claims that appeared to be in violation of [BBB’s Code of Advertising Standards](#) or state or federal laws and regulations. Companies were requested to cease using the ads, modify them, or offer substantiation to support their claims.

BBB issued 126 press releases, including 30 warning the public of substandard business practices uncovered in some of the 355 investigations conducted by BBB St. Louis. Other releases advised consumers on consumer tips on various topics.

Through BBB’s International Investigations Initiative, BBB released an in-depth investigative study covering payday loan scams. Updates also were released for previous studies on government grant scams, online purchase scams, and online puppy scams.

News coverage of releases and studies reached an estimated 226 million people.

BBB experts made 85 presentations on marketplace ethics topics to various groups last year. “In Pursuit of Ethics,” BBB’s free ethics education program for high schools, had a total enrollment of 149 schools at the end of 2021.

Consumers can check out businesses or charities by calling 888-996-3887 or at [BBB.org](#).

Don O’Brien is the regional director for the Quincy Better Business Bureau. He can be reached at 217-209-3972 or dobrien@quincybbb.org.

[Volunteer Opportunities—please share with friends and family!](#)

This is just a sample of opportunities. Call the RSVP office to find the right fit for you!

[Quincy YMCA](#) - They are looking for volunteers for the following opportunities:

- April 1—Easter Egg-Citement Hunt from 1:00-3:00p.m.
- Youth Volleyball Referees
- Youth Baseball Umpires Please call Kelsey Thompson, Community Outreach Coordinator, at
- Youth Soccer Referees **217-222-9622, ext. 225**, for more information.

[Horizons](#) - Volunteers are needed to work in their food pantry at 224 S. 8th St. on Sundays, Mondays, and Thursdays. Please call **217-224-5530** or email Eric Thorsen at eric@horizonsquincy.com with any questions.

[Arts Quincy](#) - Volunteers needed who would be willing to sit in on our after-school program sessions to provide assistance to our service providers with anything they may need, such as taking attendance, passing out supplies, keeping the kids focused and listening to directions, cleaning up after the class, or helping out during pick-up time. The sessions will be at four of the Quincy public schools: Iles on Monday, Denman on Tuesday, Rooney on Thursday, and Baldwin on Friday. Will start at 3:15 pm and end at 4:15 pm with 15 minutes allotted for pick-up of the students. Our quarter 4 starts on 4/17 and ends 5/12. Please email the Arts Quincy Office at office@artsquincy.org or call **217-222-3432** and ask for Jaycie.



[The Quincy Museum](#) - Currently looking for volunteers for greeters and tour guides—there will be training provided. Shifts would be during operating hours only (Tues.—Sun. 1:00PM-5:00PM) and they will work around any scheduling conflicts you may have, meaning you can pick your own day(s)! There are event volunteer opportunities as well. They can find the right task for you! If interested, please call the Museum at **217-224-7669**; email Nancy@thequincymuseum.org; or visit them at 1601 Maine. They can't wait to hear from you!



[Meals on Wheels](#) - Taking a route for Meals on Wheels not only is a great way to learn more about the community but it is also a tangible way to help those in need. It would only require an hour of your time once a month. You might want to encourage a friend to volunteer as well—one person drives and the other person delivers! 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.

[Blessing Hospice](#) - Volunteers become a part of the Hospice team and serve in several Illinois counties. Volunteers can provide emotional support and practical assistance which will enhance the comfort and quality of life for Hospice patients and families. Hospice volunteers receive specific training to prepare for this rewarding opportunity. Other requirements may apply. Call **217-223-8400 ext. 4706** if interested in becoming a Hospice volunteer.

[Nature Trails Volunteer Days](#) - Madison-Davis Bicycles and the Quincy Park District are looking for volunteers on Sundays from 11:00 am—3:00 pm at the Quincy Park District Office located at 1231 Bonansinga Drive in Quincy. The days for volunteering are April 2, April 16, April 30, and May 7. Text or call Alex Adams, Nature Trails Coordinator, at **217-316-2732** for more information.

[JWCC Adult Literacy Tutor](#) - Tutors meet weekly with students needing to improve skills in reading, math, or learning English. No prior teaching is necessary. We provide free training and materials. Must have high school diploma or GED credentials. Tutors meet with students at a public location convenient to both tutor and student, such as JWCC education centers (Quincy, Pittsfield, and Mt. Sterling), public libraries, online, etc. For more information, call Tina Jett at **(217)641-4153** or visit <https://www.jwcc.edu/programs/ged-literacy-esl/>.

[Villa Kathrine](#) - Volunteers are needed as hosts—shifts are flexible and available Monday through Sunday with a special need for volunteers on Saturdays. The Villa Kathrine is home to Quincy's Tourist Information Center and welcomes and provides information to visitors and residents. Training is provided. For more information, please call Betty Poore, Volunteer Coordinator, at **217-224-6922**.

[Quincy Community Theater](#) -

Costume & Scene Shop Open Hours

Date: Every Thursday **Time:** 3-5pm

Come help in our costume or scene shop with a variety of projects ever-changing depending on our current production. Contact Costume Shop Manager Vicky Vail (vicky.vail@1qct.org or **217.222.3209**) or Harrison Clarke (harrison.clarke@1qct.org or **217.222.3209**) with questions and to arrange other days/times as your schedule allows.

[Illinois Veterans Home](#) - Here are volunteer opportunities from the Illinois Veterans Home:

- **CDL Driver** (with passenger endorsement)

Our residents love to go for bus rides! Times vary depending on units. Activity bus is a 16 passenger vehicle that holds 2-3 wheelchairs and up to 14 walk-ons.

- **Bus Driver**

Ability to drive a 10-wheelchair bus. Does not require a CDL but experience in driving large vehicles a plus! Assist with transporting residents to special events, Wal-Mart or just a bus ride around town.

- **Trolley Driver**

Can you drive a tractor? Our residents enjoy trolley rides around grounds. Rides are offered Tuesday, Wednesdays, and Thursdays at approximately 9 or 10 am. Depends on weather, too!

- **Medical Appointment Escort**

Assist residents to medical appointments, to sit with them while they wait for their appointment, and to help them to get back to their unit. Requires arriving 45 minutes prior to appointment, ride with security & resident to appointment location, and return to unit following appointment. Hours vary depending on weekly appointment schedule and/or type of appointment.

- **Welcome Corner Assistant**

Help accept clothing donations, push carts, lift boxes, and sort through clothes. Assist residents with shopping for clothes. Tuesdays from 1 pm to 3 pm

If you are interested in any of these volunteer opportunities or would like more information, please feel free to contact—Sara Colgrove **217-640-2260** or email: sara.colgrove@illinois.gov.

[Chaddock](#) - Volunteers needed to send encouraging cards and notes to the Chaddock kids. “Our kids LOVE to receive mail! This could brighten the days of some of your volunteers as well as our kids.” Please call or email Rev. Shawna Bunnell, Outreach and Church Relations Manager, Chaddock Children’s Foundation, at **217-592-0330** or email her at sbunnell@chaddock.org.

[AmeriCorps Seniors Pledge](#)



I will get things done for America – to make our people safer, smarter, and healthier. When faced with a pressing challenge, I will bring Americans of all generations together to strengthen our communities.

When faced with children at risk, I will help them stay in school and on track for a brighter future.

When faced with older adults in need, I will provide support and compassion so they may age with grace and dignity.

Working for the greatest good, I will use my lifetime of experiences to improve my country, my community, and myself through service.

I am an AmeriCorps Seniors volunteer, and I will get things done.

AmeriCorps Week, March 13-18

“if . . .”

If . . . you possess the dedication and courage to be the light for those who may live in darkness, you are following your true calling.

If . . . you should have the ability to see the problem and, also, the ability to work toward the solution, you will not only find the energy to complete the task but also the stamina to keep going.

If . . . you understand that the value of the things you do cannot be categorized into ‘more’ important or ‘less’ important, then you will know that the people you help see the value as **MOST** important and they will thank you.

If . . . you realize that it’s the little things that make the biggest difference—that the simple act of sharing your umbrella shields others from the rain—then you will see that every opportunity has the power to change a life.

If . . . you lend your support, others may find their true direction, and, if you provide a strong shoulder, others may find comfort. It is then that you discover that the true meaning of volunteering is based not on speed or strength but on caring and love.

If . . . you have the expectation that, when you open your eyes, you may see a new friend, then you will know that what you are doing is right and good.

If . . . you keep trying to make someone’s life easier, success will eventually be yours. If you continue to do the right thing, then you are destined to see progress. And the world will be a better place—and you will smile.

If . . . you have an understanding heart, a willingness to give of yourself, an abounding love for others, and the inner strength to carry it through, you will become the definition of a true volunteer.

Sometimes, the world can be scary
And our steps falter with anguish and fear—
But we can always find courage and beauty
In the heart of a volunteer . . .

written by Susan Abbott in honor of our volunteers for
“National Volunteer Week” April 16-22, 2023

*Volunteering is an act of heroism on a grand scale.
And it matters profoundly.
It does more than help people beat the odds;
it changes the odds.*

William J. Clinton

Did You Know?



◆ JDub Academy is John Wood's summer program for students in grades K-12. We offer hands-on learning through classes like Crime Scene Investigation, Follow the Paw Prints and Be a Veterinary Assistant, Pokémon, Let's Get Cooking, Intro to Game Design, Sewing, and more! Classes run from June 12-30, 2023. We are looking for volunteers to serve as teacher assistants during morning classes from 8 AM-10 AM or 10 AM-12 PM. If interested in volunteering, please contact Deborah Riddell at driddell@jwcc.edu or call **217-641-4963**.

- ◆ JWCC and RSVP will be closed on Friday, March 31, for a College-wide Blazer Summit.
- ◆ JWCC and RSVP will be closed on Friday, April 7.

Save the Date

April 21—April 23 & April 27—April 30 - Quincy Community Theatre presents **Rent**

Saturday, April 22 - Quincy Symphony presents "Pines of Rome" at 7:30 p.m. at QJHS Morrison Theater

Friday, April 28 - The Salvation Army presents "Unmasking the Singer" at The Atrium on Third at 6:00p.m.

Thursday, May 18 - RSVP Annual Carry-In on JWCC campus (more information to come)

The Winner Is . . .

Winner for January is **Joyce Mester** and the winner for February is **Mary Shiley**. 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 \$20.00 Hy-Vee gift card. We suggest calling before you come—217-641-4961.

Adams County

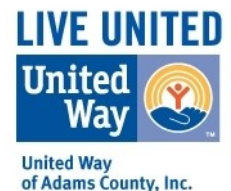
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