

# 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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**“The function of education is to teach one to think intensively and to think critically. Intelligence plus character - that is the goal of true education.”**



**JWCC and RSVP will be closed on Monday, January 15, for Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.**

**Message from Heath Richmond**

WOW, where did 2023 go! It is hard to believe that we just celebrated the New Year, and we are surging forward into 2024. We had so many great things happen in 2023 with recruiting new volunteers, serving our neighbors and communities working with all our station partners and learning even more about the needs that surround us every day. RSVP helps makes an impact on all these things and in 2023, 232 Brown and Pike County Volunteers contributed 31,924 service hours to individuals and agencies across our counties. Both numbers represent increases from the same time period in 2022. As I have said many times before, it is you, our dedicated volunteers who are the Retired and Senior Volunteer Programs biggest champions and cheerleaders. The example you set with your service in the community and the message you share when you talk to others about what RSVP is and does provide way more visibility to our program, then the 5 members of the RSVP staff is able to accomplish.

In 2024 I want to challenge us all to continue to share the RSVP message and help uncover more ways we can provide service by identifying new volunteer opportunities and encouraging other people 55 and older to register and join the RSVP team. I am sure in the volunteer work you are already doing and in your everyday lives you interact with many likeminded individuals who have yet to sign up for the RSVP program. You are our biggest recruiters and through your efforts and good works 2024 can be another year of growth for RSVP in Brown and Pike Counties. Thank you again for all you do and here’s to another great year.

*Heath*

## Martin Luther King, Jr., Day of Service to Help

### "Sleep in Heavenly Peace"



**NO KID SLEEPS  
ON THE FLOOR  
IN OUR TOWN!**

Martin Luther King, Jr., Day of Service will be Monday, January 15, 2024. We are once again asking for donations for the ***Sleep in Heavenly Peace*** Chapter in Liberty, IL.



All children deserve a safe, comfortable place to lay their heads. Too many boys and girls go without a bed – or even a pillow – to sleep on. These children end up sleeping on couches, blankets, and even floors. This can affect their happiness and health. That's where ***Sleep in Heavenly Peace*** comes in. They are a group of volunteers dedicated to building, assembling, and delivering top-notch bunk beds to children and families in need. **No kid sleeps on the floor in our town!®**. According to numbers collected by SHP, roughly 2-3% of American children are without beds.

If you would like to donate to this very worthwhile organization, they are in need of new twin-sized sheet sets and comforters, pillows, mattress protectors, and any other bedding items such as new quilts and blankets. Donations will be accepted beginning on Monday, January 8th and finish on Friday, January 19th.

Please bring contributions to the Brown County RSVP Office located at 108 N. Capitol, Mt. Sterling, IL 62353, or to the Pike County RSVP Office located at 39637 260th Ave, Pittsfield, IL 62363. Contact information and office hours are on the back of this newsletter. We will gladly get them delivered to the Liberty Chapter. RSVP had a very successful drive last year—let's see if we can do the same in 2024!



**MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.**  
SOCIAL ACTIVIST | 1929–1968

**"Use me, God. Show me how to take who I am, who I want to be, and what I can do, and use it for a purpose greater than myself."**

## ***Volunteer Opportunities—Pike County***

**Illini Community Hospital** - Seeking volunteers for the following roles- Runner-Escort patients to departments, Outdoor Landscaping/Beautification/Clean Up, Water/Care for indoor plants, Cleaning (high touch surfaces at hospital & fitness), Events Assistance, Food Pantries, Hostess in waiting room on MRI and Ortho days, Make blankets for Infusion Center.

To be a volunteer at Illini there are some requirements before becoming a volunteer. If interested, please contact Becky Meyers at 217-285-2113 ext. 3170.

**Barry Food Pantry** -Volunteers & food donations needed. Volunteers show up either Tuesdays from 4:30-6:30 or Fridays from 8:30 to noon and they'll give you a task. The second Monday of every month they could use men to help unload a trailer around 12:30 and 1:00. Please contact Kathy Young at 217-257-0004 with any questions.

**Barry Community Care Center** - Looking for music entertainment on the weekends, BINGO prizes of all kinds (no breakables, please), or any other kind of entertainment. This could be anything from dancers to singers to magicians. The residents at Barry Community Care Center are wanting some weekend fun! Please give Hailey, the activity director, a call at **217-335-2326**.

**Eastside Health & Rehab** - Volunteers wanted to assist with weekly bingo on Mondays and Thursdays at 2pm. They also would like help with the monthly birthday parties held for the residents. Contact Gabby Buffington, the activity director, at 217-285-4491 to volunteer or for more information.

**Griggsville Estates** - Seeking volunteers to visit with residents, play games, and/or provide music. Contact Lori Bradshaw with any questions at **217-833-2369**.

**All Wars Museum** - Volunteers wanted to clean, help set up displays, and sort items that are loaned or donated. They have work nights three or four times a month. They are also seeking someone to take video interviews of veterans. Contact Richard Michel 217-248-2094 or Bob Norris at 217-491-5146 for more information.

**Liberty Village** - Looking for volunteers for all types of activities as well as BINGO prizes of all kinds (no glass items, please). Suggestions are costume jewelry, body spray for women and men, shampoos, conditioners, lotion, Word Search, books for all ages, notebooks, craft supplies. Please call Melissa Sevier at **217-285-5200**.

**Pike County Military Heritage Museum "Where history comes alive."** : Located at 340 N. Illinois St. in Pittsfield. Looking for anyone interested in participating in living history events, working on military vehicles or presenting first or second-hand military stories to schools or civic organizations. Please contact Denny Dodd 217-242-1706, Jeff Snyder 573-406-2510 or Richard Stickman 217-248-1856.

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

## ***Volunteer Opportunities—Brown County***

**Brown County RSVP** - is collecting plastic shopping bags. We have 4 volunteers who take the bags, process them and turn them into mats for the homeless to put under their sleeping bags. It takes between 500-700 bags to make one mat, so many bags are needed. Just bring them to the RSVP Office.

**Brown County Food Basket** - Volunteers are needed to set up on Thursday and distribute food on Friday. It is held the third Friday of the month at the Old Versailles School Gym. Contact Doris at 217-773-3773.

**The Crossing Thrift Store** - Volunteers are needed to hang clothing. You choose the amount of time and day that works best for you. Contact Wanda at **217-773-3888**.

### Save the Date - Pike County

**All Wars Museum-** The museum is closed for the season. They will be open to private tours upon request. Morning at the Mess Hall meets the 1<sup>st</sup> Friday of each month from 9-11am & all are welcome to join them for coffee and donuts. The museum also supports the Quilts of Valor presentations each month.

**Pike County Military Heritage Museum:** This group of volunteers does living history presentations to schools and civic organizations. They utilize clothing and equipment from the time of the Revolutionary War to the present day. If you would like to tour the museum they open for the season April 30<sup>th</sup> and are open Sat. and Sun. from 12-4pm and will close on Oct. 30<sup>th</sup>. Please contact Jeff Snyder at 573-406-2510, Denny Dodd 217-242-1706 or Richard Stickman at 217-248-1856 if you would like to schedule an event or tour.

**Pike County Senior Center:** The center will not be holding their fish fry in January or February. They also would like to remind everyone that they are a storage place for used medical equipment. If anyone is in need call 217.285.4969 M-Th.

### Save the Date - Brown County

**Brown County Senior Services:** Call Laura for the VITA tax dates. 217-773-3241 (dates not set yet)

**Brown County Food Basket:** Third Friday of the month at the old Versailles Gym.

**FUNNY:**

1. Going to Bed Early
2. Not Leaving My House
3. Required Naps

**My childhood punishments are now my adult goals**

**Community-Based Outreach at John Wood Community College** offers noncredit personal enrichment and professional development classes. Our goal is to provide a wide range of programs to meet community needs and interests. Registration for spring classes will open January 4, 2023. Classes starting in January include *Basic Cake Decorating*, *Knife Skills*, *Gardening with a Twist—All Year Long*, and *Creative Ideas for Eating More Plant-Based Foods*. Please visit our website anytime January 4<sup>th</sup> or later to find a complete list of course descriptions and registration: [www.jwcc.edu/cbo](http://www.jwcc.edu/cbo).

**The Winner Is . . .** Winners for September are **Tana Parsano (Brown Co)** and **Teresa Frazier (Pike Co)** and for October are **Audrey Ham (Brown Co)** and **Mark Winner (Pike Co)**. RSVP staff draw a name from all the pink time-sheets submitted by the 15th of each month. **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 \$20.00 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.
- ♦ 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.

Brown & Pike Counties  
Lead With Experience...

Brown County RSVP  
108 N. Capitol  
Mt Sterling IL 62353

Phone: 217-641-4146  
E-mail: [kebbing@jwcc.edu](mailto:kebbing@jwcc.edu)

RSVP



RSVP is a United Way Funded Agency



AmeriCorps  
Seniors

Pike County RSVP  
39637 260th Ave.  
Pittsfield IL 62363

Phone: 217-641-4273  
E-mail: [hmanwell@jwcc.edu](mailto:hmanwell@jwcc.edu)