



# Volunteer Voice

## Adams County Retired and Senior Volunteer Program

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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, June 27, and on Tuesday, July 25, 2023.

All JWCC campuses (including RSVP offices) will be closed on Monday, July 3, and Tuesday, July 4, 2023.



### Message from Heath Richmond

Summertime is here and after months of complaining about the cold and wind, we will soon be complaining about the heat and humidity. What would we do if we didn't have something to complain about? The human condition is one of always looking for something different and better instead of taking the time to appreciate all the good things we have. And while having millions of dollars in the bank or living in a tropical paradise would be nice, most of us really do have it pretty good.

As volunteers with RSVP, you all demonstrate this by your willingness to give back to our communities all year long. As the year 2023 nears its mid-point, I would like you all to consider how recruiting someone to join you as a RSVP volunteer can multiply the positive impact you are already making. I am sure you all know someone who would make a wonderful volunteer or even someone who is already volunteering but is not yet registered with RSVP. If so, reach out and ask them to join us or simply pass their contact info on to us and we will reach out for you.

Thanks again for all you do and, hopefully, we will soon have some more registered volunteers out there helping with your favorite projects as well.

*Heath*



## WHY WORLD ELDER ABUSE AWARENESS DAY IS IMPORTANT

### OLDER AMERICANS MAY BE UNABLE TO ADVOCATE FOR THEMSELVES

Many seniors are not in a place to stand up for themselves, whether it's because they're physically frail or because they're scared of speaking up and fear repercussions. It's crucial for all of us to be on the lookout for signs of elder abuse, and to speak up if something seems wrong.

### SENIORS DESERVE OUR RESPECT AND OUR ATTENTION

In so many cultures, elders are revered—and rightfully so. Their experiences, memories, and perspective on life are valued for the lessons that younger folks can learn. And if older people aren't encouraged to pass along the skills and wisdom they have accumulated during their lives, then the culture as a whole suffers. We owe it to older generations to ensure that their so-called Golden Years are not tarnished by neglect.

### IT REMINDS US TO LOOK OUT FOR EACH OTHER

It's easy to see bad things and not say anything—whether that's senior abuse or a mugging on the street. But this day reminds us just how important it is to look after, and look out for, our fellow humans. It reminds us to exercise compassion on a daily basis, and care about others rather than just ourselves.

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World Elder Abuse Awareness Day aims to provide an opportunity for communities around the world to promote a better understanding of the abuse older people suffer by raising awareness of the cultural, social, economic, and demographic processes affecting them. Globally, we have an aging population, with the number of older people in the world expected to be 1.4 billion by 2030. Research suggests that 4 to 6 percent of the elderly suffer from some kind of abuse, most of which go unreported. This day is to make sure we remain focused on our elders, ensuring they lead a life of high quality and dignity.

*Please wear PURPLE on Thursday, June 15, to support*

*World Elder Abuse Awareness Day*

2017-2023 by National Today



#### Message from Golden Bridges

Golden Bridges is looking for staff—not volunteers, and retired people who want to make a difference in the community are our best employee pool! Actually, most of our staff is composed of retired teachers and healthcare workers. Our positions are part-time and episodic with most of the staff working 2—3 days a week in 4—6 hour shifts. Sometimes, they work for three weeks in a row and, sometimes, they don't work for three weeks in a row. Staff may choose their own schedule and must be able to lift up to 30 pounds and do stairs. If interested, please contact Susan Scholz, Senior Move Manager, at (888) 922-6368 ext. 6, (217) 316-6887, or [Susan.Scholz@goldenbridges4you.com](mailto:Susan.Scholz@goldenbridges4you.com). (Please remember that paid hours do not count as volunteer hours.)

## [Tips on Timeshares and Vacation Clubs from the BBB](#)

Timeshares and vacation clubs can be known for their high-pressure sales. With the sun out and their guard down, vacationers can quickly find themselves on the hook for a lifelong commitment. And while they're easy to get into, these contracts are often difficult to escape.

Some predatory companies and scammers are taking advantage of consumers looking for deals on travel according to customer complaints, reviews, and other data from a new BBB study.

Many people have great experiences with their timeshares or vacation clubs. BBB's study is intended to help consumers spot potential red flags and help businesses improve.

From 2020-2022, BBB received thousands of complaints related to travel companies. Most commonly, consumers said they felt reality didn't match the big promises made in timeshare pitch meetings.

Consumers also reported that their timeshares were nearly impossible to sell, and that they felt misled about the amount of maintenance fees for their property.

Some unhappy customers turned to timeshare exit companies to sell their timeshares, only to find that the exit companies were unable to follow through or failed to honor a money back guarantee.

BBB recommends careful research before working with any timeshare or exit company. Read reviews, get references, and investigate the company before signing a contract or making any payments.

### **BBB tips for anyone considering a timeshare or exit company:**

- **Research carefully.** Extensively investigate timeshare properties, vacation clubs, or exit companies before working with them. Check their BBB Business Profiles to see customer reviews, ratings, and complaints that can help you make an informed decision.
- **Read before you sign.** Thoroughly read contracts for language about lifetime commitment, heirs' obligations, maintenance fee increases, or guarantees.
- **Beware of high-pressure sales tactics.** If you feel like someone is trying to push you into a deal, walk away.
- **Sell with the company you bought from.** To sell a timeshare, contact the resort directly and see if they have a resale or buyback program.
- **Be realistic** about what you can get for your timeshare. Most of these contracts are not investments and may return considerably less than you paid.
- **If it sounds too good to be true, it is.** There are deals to be found on travel, but scammers know consumers want to save money and take advantage.
- **Don't pay fees up front.** Be wary of paying timeshare exit companies all fees up front. Wait until services are rendered.
- **Report it.** If you suspect you may be the subject of fraud or dishonest business practices, you have a few avenues to report your case:

- \* [Better Business Bureau Scam Tracker<sup>SM</sup>](#)

- \* [Federal Trade Commission \(FTC\)](#)

- \* File a consumer complaint with the [Missouri Attorney General](#) or [Illinois Attorney General](#)

- \* [American Resort Development Association \(ARDA\)](#), timeshare trade association - email [customerservice@arda.com](mailto:customerservice@arda.com)

Don O'Brien is the regional director for the Quincy Better Business Bureau. Contact him at [dobrien@quincybbb.org](mailto:dobrien@quincybbb.org) or (217) 209-3972. Consumers can check out businesses or charities by calling 888-996-3887 or at [BBB.org](http://BBB.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!



**[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](mailto:Nancy@thequincymuseum.org); or visit them at 1601 Maine. They can't wait to hear from you!

**[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](mailto:eric@horizonsquincy.com) with any questions.



deliver a difference

**[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 safe. Call **217-223-7904** for more information or to volunteer.

**[Catholic Charities](#)** - Seeking volunteers to assist clients through our food pantry which is open on Mondays from 2:00-3:30p.m., Wednesdays from 9:00-11:30a.m., and Fridays from 2:00-3:30p.m. Duties include assisting clients as they walk through the pantry and sorting and stocking items as inventory becomes low. You must be able to be on your feet for over an hour and complete training and orientation. You must also complete a background check. Please contact Kevin Williams, Area Director, at **217-222-0958**.

**[Quincy Art Center](#)** - A big need is for energetic volunteers to help with free art activities, specifically in the Art for Everyone Tent at the Midsummer Arts Faire held on Saturday, June 24th, and Sunday, June 25th. Volunteers may sign up for shifts by going to the following web address: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0c4aaba62ea6f8ce9-midsummer#/>

**[Salvation Army](#)** - The Salvation Army Family Services is recruiting volunteer(s) to help out at their Family Shelter Monday through Friday from 4:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. to help get ready for the evening meal.

The Salvation Army Kroc Center is recruiting volunteers to help with their Summer Food Service Program Monday through Friday from 10:50 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Please contact Tina Lewis at **217-231-5626** or [tina.lewis@usc.salvationarmy.org](mailto:tina.lewis@usc.salvationarmy.org)

**[Villa Kathrine](#)** - *Be a part of a group of dedicated volunteer hosts that welcome the world to Quincy.*

Friends of the Castle is celebrating 45 years of working to restore, maintain, and operate the Villa Kathrine located on the banks of the Mississippi River. This beautiful Moroccan castle that dates back to 1900 opened up as Quincy's Tourist Information Center 36 years ago. We have had over 175,000 people visit the Villa from all over the United States and 100 countries. A brand new walk way has been added to the Villa Kathrine grounds overlooking the river with benches for a peaceful visit. If you love history, architecture, people, and helping to boost tourism in Quincy, then this is the volunteer place for you. We have a full training program that will help you be comfortable in this most rewarding position. We operate 7 days a week and shifts are flexible to accommodate volunteer schedules. Contact Betty Poore, Volunteer Coordinator, at **217-224-6922**.

**[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](mailto:sbunnell@chaddock.org).

[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](mailto:sara.colgrove@illinois.gov).

## *Carry-in Luncheon a SUCCESS!*



The Annual RSVP Carry-in Luncheon was held on the JWCC main campus on Thursday, May 18, 2023. There were approximately sixty attendees. Everyone had a good time seeing each other! Prizes were won and the food was great! Thank you all for coming—it was a truly fun time!



**Did You Know?**

- ◆ JWCC and RSVP will be closed on Monday, July 3rd, and Tuesday, July 4th, for the Fourth of July.
- ◆ JWCC and RSVP are now on Summer Hours—8:00a.m. to 4:00p.m. Monday-Thursday and 8:00a.m. to Noon on Friday. Summer hours end on Friday, July 28th.

**Save the Date**

**Friday, June 9** - 5:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. Blues in The District with the Mary Jo Curry Band in Washington Park

**Thursday, June 15** - World Elder Abuse Awareness Day is Thursday, June 15. Please remember to wear

**PURPLE!**

**Friday, June 23** - 5:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. Blues in The District with The Stephen Hull Experience in Washington Park

**Wednesday, June 28** - Diaper wrapping for Covered Bottoms Diaper Bank from 9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.

**217-641-4961** for more information

**The Winner Is . . .**

Winner for March is **Judy Tribbett** and the winner for April is **Angie Thompson**. 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

Lead With Experience...

*America the Beautiful*



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Funded Agency

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**RSVP**

