



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

**A big THANK YOU for all the donations to Sleep in Heavenly Peace through Brown and Pike County RSVP! We have several bags of bedding that have been donated. We appreciate everything!!!**

*Message from Heath Richmond*

Rain, tornados, 65-degree weather, subzero temps, snow, and bitter wind chills. Mother Nature sure can't seem to make up her mind about what season we are in. However, according to the calendar, we won't hit Spring until March 20 so we have a week or two of Winter left. It's hard to believe that we are already into March and warmer weather is just around the corner. March also means I have almost completed my first year of being the director of the Adams, Brown, and Pike County RSVP program. I am so grateful for all the great volunteers that I have had the pleasure to get to know and for all the great programs to which our volunteers have contributed.

Every day we see more people coming forward and asking for help and more agencies looking for ways to provide it. The RSVP program is in a unique position to reach out to our volunteers and let them know where the need is greatest. You always come through and you do it with a selflessness that is rarely seen. I hope that each of you reading this knows what an impact you have on our communities. You are our best spokespeople, our best role models, and our best recruiters. As the 2023 calendar continues to move forward, please talk about what you do so the community is aware of RSVP! Ask your friends and neighbors to join you in volunteering so we can increase that incredible impact you are already having on the people and organizations that RSVP helps every day. Thanks for all you do and have a great 2023!

*Heath*

## *In the Spotlight*

Don Newenham has been volunteering as the crossing guard at the intersection by the Brown County Elementary School in Mt. Sterling for the past 17 years. "When my grandkids were let out of school, I would watch the kids, and semis wouldn't even slow down," Newenham said. He decided to do something about it and approached the school and the police department about volunteering as a crossing guard. Ever since then, Newenham has been watching out for the kids at the elementary school, much to the community's relief.

Newenham also circles the school in his truck three or four times a day to make sure no suspicious people are around. Don has lived in the area his whole life. "It's a little community, and I like that," he said. "My grandfather had a farm about six miles out of town, and I would walk to school."

Don expressed his love of children and that is why he does what he does. Whether it is the warm weather of spring or he dons his coveralls in winter, Don can always be seen at his post, smiling at the children of the community and keeping them safe.

*from the Brown County Democrat Message Jan. 4, 2023*



**The Winner Is . . .** Winners for November are **Phyllis Akright (Brown Co)** and **Carol Schwartze (Pike Co)** and for December are **Jean Zackey (Brown Co)** and **Eileen Davis (Pike Co)**. RSVP staff draw a name from all the pink timesheets 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 on page 4.

## *find your purpose*

According to author and life coach Richard Leider, "Purpose is the glue that holds the good life together." Met Life, the insurance company, wanted to find out if that was really true so they asked 1000 people between the ages of 45 and 74 the big question: "Hey, guys, why do you get up in the morning? What really matters in the end?" Contrary to the message we get blasted everyday in the media, folks reported that a sense of purpose was what was truly important—even more so than money or health. And as people age, a sense of purpose becomes even more important.

So, get a purpose, no matter how big or small: recycling the plastic bags of everyone in your apartment complex, providing free babysitting for your daughter so she can have a date night with her husband, spoiling your grandchildren with ice-cream, or visiting a lonely neighbor once a week. It doesn't have to require lots of time, energy, money, or brain power. All you need is a little motivation and a touch of kindness.

*News & Views, West Central Illinois Area Agency on Aging, February 2023 edition*

*"Be a lamp, or a lifeboat, or a ladder. Help someone's soul heal.  
Walk out of your house like a shepherd." — Rumi*

## Volunteer Opportunities—Pike County

**Illini Community Hospital** - To become a volunteer at Illini Community Hospital, you will first need to contact Shelly Martin at **217-285-2113 ext. 3800**. Here is how you can help:

### Volunteer Roles and Assignments Options

- Runner-Escort patients to departments
- Outdoor Landscaping/Beautification/Clean-up
- Water/Care for indoor plants
- Cleaning (high touch surfaces in the hospital and fitness)
- Event Assistance
- Food Pantries
- Hostess in waiting room on MRI and Ortho Days
- Make blankets for Oncology patients

**Barry Food Pantry** - Volunteers and food donations needed. Volunteers should show up on Tuesdays from 4:30-6:30 p.m. or on Fridays from 8:30 a.m. to Noon and you will be given a task. Please contact Kathy Young at **217-257-0004** with any questions.

**Barry Healthcare & Senior Living** - 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 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, 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**.

**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."** - 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.

**All Wars Museum** - Volunteers wanted to clean, help set up displays, and sort items that are loaned or donated. They have work days/nights three or four times a month. They are also seeking someone to take video interviews of veterans. Contact Lloyd Lawber **217-242-4253** for more information.

## Volunteer Opportunities—Brown County

**Heritage Health Nursing Home in Mt. Sterling** - Need donations of ink pens, stationery, LARGE print Word Search Books (found at Dollar General), and body wash for sensitive skin. Items can be taken to the nursing home or left at the RSVP office in Mt. Sterling.

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

**Mt. Sterling Crossing Thrift Store** - Volunteers are needed to hang up clothing. The volunteers set their own schedules. Contact Wanda Robertson at **217-773-3888**.

### Save the Date - Pike County

March 9 and April 13 - Pike County Senior Center - They will be holding their fish fry March 9th and April 13th from 4:30-6:30pm (subject to change). 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** Monday thru Thursday.

April 11 - Pike County Senior Center - The Attorney General is holding a Consumer Fraud and Identity Theft call at 1:00pm in the auditorium. The class is open to the public and all ages are welcome to attend.

All Wars Museum - The Pike County All Wars Museum is closed for the season, however, 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 and all are welcome to join them for coffee and donuts. The museum also supports the Quilts of Valor presentations each month. Check local newspaper for dates and times of their monthly Speaker series.

April 30 - 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 present day. If you would like to tour the museum, they will open for the season on April 30th and their hours are Saturday and Sunday from 12:00 noon-4:00pm. They will close on October 30th. Please contact Jeff Snyder at **573-406-2510**, Denny Dodd at **217-242-1706**, or Richard Stickman at **217-248-1856** if you would like a private tour.

March 2, 10, and 17 - Pike County Senior Services - VITA tax preparations will be held at Findlay Place. Call Connie at **217-285-6150** for an appointment.

### Save the Date - Brown County

**Mt. Sterling Center: Please join the Center for some fun, food, and laughter!**

March 1 - Community Connections (community leaders talk about relevant topics)

March 8, 14, 22: BINGO

March 10 - Craft Day

March 17 - St. Patrick's Day Party

March 24 - Coloring

April 5 - Community Connections

April 7 - Easter Party

April 12, 19, 26 - BINGO

April 14 - Craft Day

April 21 - Coloring

#### **We're looking for JDub Academy Instructors!**

Do you have experience teaching children?  
Become a JDub Academy Instructor this summer!

JDub Academy will be held June 12-30, 2023. JDub Academy helps children explore how their hobbies, interests, and strengths might connect with a future career through hands-on academic and enrichment workshops at JWCC.



Contact Community-Based Outreach at [cbo@jwcc.edu](mailto:cbo@jwcc.edu) or 217.641.4941 to learn more!



Brown & Pike Counties  
Lead With Experience...

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**AmeriCorps  
Seniors**



RSVP is a United Way Funded Agency

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