

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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Did You Know?


Summer hours for JWCC and for the RSVP offices will begin on Monday, May 22, and will end on Friday, July 28. Hours for Brown County are Monday through Wednesday from 8:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m. Pike County office hours will remain the same, 8:00 a.m.—12:00 Noon, Monday through Friday.

All offices are closed on Monday, May 29, 2023, for Memorial Day.

Message from Heath Richmond

Spring has definitely sprung in west-central Illinois—temperatures have risen and temperatures have fallen, all in the space of a day. We have highs in the 80’s and lows in the 30’s and nobody bats an eye. It’s called life in the Midwest. At the RSVP office, we are celebrating my one-year anniversary as Director, Nicole’s return from maternity leave, and the re-appearance of good old-fashioned sunshine.

Spring brings new beginnings in lots of ways. Instead of pressing our noses against the cold glass of winter, we can fling open our windows and let the warm air breeze in. One thing I hope all of you will do is encourage new people to join RSVP as volunteers and add to the outstanding impact you all have across our communities. To celebrate new volunteers, we will have a special prize drawing at our upcoming recognition luncheon. Any newly registered 2023 volunteer will have a chance to win as well as any current volunteer who has recruited a new volunteer this calendar year. There will also be door prizes, window prizes, floor prizes, and rafters’ prizes! We appreciate you and what you do every day for those in need. Thank you so much and Happy Spring!!!



In the Spotlight



Bruce Rush receives his Quilt of Valor—he is also an RSVP volunteer.

In 2018, members of RSVP began volunteering for the Quilts of Valor program in Brown and Pike Counties. In the past five years, they have created and given out 127 unique quilts to Veterans, averaging two quilt presentations per month. Shirley Kingery, Wanda Blacketer, and Margaret McDaniel, all RSVP volunteers, along with Gayle Willis of Roodhouse are the four women who put all the quilts together for Pike County veterans. Most presentations take place at the All Wars Museum in Pittsfield, but Shirley mentioned that they've even presented them at family reunions or other get-togethers. During the pandemic, the quilts were still presented, whether on the veteran's front porch or in the



This is one of the Quilts of Valor presented to Veterans.

front yard. Anyone interested in joining these quilt-makers is welcome to contact Shirley Kingery at **217-285-2729**.

"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"

The Recognition Luncheon for Brown and Pike Counties RSVP volunteers will be held on Wednesday, May 17, at the First Christian Church Crossroads Center at 125 West Jefferson, Pittsfield, IL. Doors open at 11:30 with lunch served at Noon. Call Kathy (Brown County) or Heather (Pike County) for reservations (numbers on page 4).

Volunteer Opportunities—Pike County

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 at **217-242-4253** or Bob Norris at **217-491-5146**.

Volunteer Opportunities—Brown County

Heritage Health Nursing Home in Mt. Sterling - Several opportunities are available. If you are interested, please call Tammy at **217-773-3377**.

Jensen Woods Camp at Timewell, IL - Volunteers are needed to mow, trim, clean up the landscaping, etc. They have a work day the second Saturday of each month May—October. If that time does not work for you, please call **217-773-2491**.

Mt. Sterling Crossing Thrift Store - Volunteers are needed to work several hours. To begin, you just need to hang up clothing. You may work as many hours as you can and the volunteers set their own schedules. Just call Kathy Ebbing at **217-641-4146** or contact Wanda Robertson at the Thrift Store at **217-773-3888**.

The Winner Is . . . Winners for January are **Mildean Dewitt (Brown Co)** and **Carole Bradshaw (Pike Co)** and for February are **David Hoelscher (Brown Co)** and **Melba Foster (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. Summer hours begin on May 22, 8:00-4:00.
- ◆ 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.

Save the Date - Pike County

All Wars Museum - The Pike County All Wars Museum will open for normal hours on May 6th, noon to 4:00 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday. They will be open to private tours upon request. "Morning at the Mess Hall" meets the 1st 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.

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 opened for the season on April 30th and are open Saturdays and Sundays from 12:00 noon to 4:00 p.m. Their season will end 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.

Pike County Senior Center - The center will be holding their fish fry May 11 and June 8 from 4:30-6:30 (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** M-Th. They will be having a Rules of the Road Class on June 14th at 1-3p.m.

Save the Date - Brown County

Friday, May 5 - Free perishables, fresh produce, baked goods, and bread! Sponsored by Quincy Catholic Charities and held at the Ripley Park in Ripley, IL, 10:30-11:30 a.m.

Friday, May 19 and Friday, June 16 - Brown County Food Basket—Old Versailles School Gym from 1:30-4:30

June 1 - Brown County Farmers Market will open 4:00-6:00 p.m. each Thursday in their downtown location. It is at the 4-way stop behind the Veterans' Memorial.

June 24 and June 25 - Timewell Lions Toy and Antique Tractor Show. Saturday, June 24, from 4:00-8:00 p.m. and Sunday, June 25, from 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. Pork chop meal served both days.

First Wednesday of the Month at Noon - "Community Connection" hosted by The Mt. Sterling Senior Center. Local leaders will speak on topics of interest. There is also a question and answer period. It is very informative and has been well attended. You may also eat lunch prior to the meeting at 11:00. Call Laura for reservations at **217-773-3241**.

Project Sunshine



Pike County RSVP volunteers assemble Project Sunshine kits for kids with long-term illnesses in hospitals across the nation. From left to right are Pat Casteel, Yvonne DiPrizio, Mary Pfyl, Karen Martin, Ann Ferguson, and Janet Daniels.

Brown County RSVP volunteers help Project Sunshine by putting together kits for kids across the country who are in hospitals with long-term illnesses. From left to right are Deanna Toncray, Doris Duvendack, Kelly Blackwell, and Jane Martin.



Brown & Pike Counties
Lead With Experience...



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AmeriCorps
Seniors



LIVING UNITED
STARTS WITH
US



RSVP is a United Way Funded Agency

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