



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!

- March is a busy month for all of us!
- March is Women’s History Month
- March 17 is St. Patrick’s Day
- Spring begins Tuesday, March 19
- Take a Walk in the Park March 30

Message from Heath Richmond

It is hard to believe that we are already into March. Our April Recognition Luncheon will be here before we know it. Please save the date for this event, April 23, at the Knights of Columbus Hall in Mt. Sterling. Doors will open at 11:00 a.m. with the program starting at 11:30. We will celebrate all the great things we accomplished in 2023 and we all look forward to all the great things yet to come in 2024. 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, and I am looking forward to celebrating with you all on April 23.

As we move into the Spring of 2024, I want to challenge us all to continue to share the RSVP message by helping to uncover more ways that we can provide service by identifying new volunteer opportunities and encouraging other people who are 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 like-minded 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. Thank you again for all you do for our communities and for each other.

Heath

"Sleep in Heavenly Peace " Answers the Call

"Sleep in Heavenly Peace" is a national organization answering the call to a national problem. Many children in this country do not have a safe, comfortable place to lay their heads. Across the United States, too many boys and girls go without a bed—or even a pillow—to sleep on. We fully believe that a bed is a basic need for the proper physical, emotional, and mental support that a child needs. When it was brought to our attention that the need for beds went far beyond our own neighborhoods, we stepped up and took the initiative.



That's where "Sleep in Heavenly Peace" comes in. We're a group of volunteers dedicated to building, assembling, and delivering top-notch bunk beds to children and families in need. Our organization has grown steadily over time, and we're working on opening more chapters in different states to serve more people.

NO KID SLEEPS ON THE FLOOR IN OUR TOWN!®

Plastic Shopping Bags

Brown County RSVP is still collecting plastic shopping bags for the mats for the homeless. Thanks!

The Winner Is . . .

The Winner Is . . . Winners for December are **Mary Anne Kerley (Brown Co)** and **Mary Pfyl (Pike Co)** and winners for January are **Kenneth Haynes (Brown Co)** and **Pat Brown (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.

An Important Volunteer Opportunity

Are you looking for a meaningful way to contribute to your community without overwhelming your schedule? Join us as an Adult Literacy Tutor! With just 1-2 hours per week, you can make a significant impact by helping adults to enhance their essential literacy, math, or English language skills. Meet with learners near you or online. We provide the necessary training, resources, and materials; no prior teaching experience is required. We value your time and understand your busy lifestyle. We offer flexible volunteer hours to suit your availability. To apply or ask questions, contact Tina Jett, Coordinator of Literacy, at cjett@jwcc.edu or **217-641-4153**.

"It's called **READING**. It's how people install new software into their brains."

Sun-gazing.com

Volunteer Opportunities—Brown County

Mt. Sterling Senior Center - Needs help serving meals on Wednesdays 10:30—1:00. Call Laura at **217-773-3241**.

Mt. Sterling Health and Rehab - Needs volunteers for various activities. Call Tammy at **217-773-3377**.

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

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 Infusion Center

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

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. The second Monday of every month, they could use men to help unload a trailer around 12:30 and 1:00 p.m. 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 **John Toubms**, 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 **Richard Michel** at **217-248-2094** or **Bob Norris** at **217-491-5146**.

Save the Date - Brown County

Each Tuesday - Two Rivers Food Pantry, 206 SW Cross, Mt. Sterling, IL. 9:00a.m.— Noon and 1:00p.m.— 4:00p.m.

Friday, March 8 - Catholic Charities - 10:30—11:30a.m., Ripley Park, Ripley, IL. Free Perishables: Please bring a container to carry food.

Tuesday, March 12 - Mobile Food Pantry - 10:30— 11:30a.m, Ripley Park, Ripley, IL. Register with Patty at **217-653-5530**. **Brown County Residents only**.

March 15 and April 19 - Brown County Food Basket - 1:30—4:30p.m., Old Versailles Gym, Versailles, IL. Please bring a container for food.

Save the Date - Pike County

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 first 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.

March 14 and April 11 - Pike County Senior Center - The Center will be holding their fish fry March 14 and April 11 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 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 to schedule an event or tour.

Save the Date - Brown & Pike County

April 23 - Brown & Pike Recognition Banquet - Tuesday, April 23, 2024, Knights of Columbus Hall in Mt. Sterling, IL. Doors open at 11:00a.m.; program starts at 11:30a.m. All registered RSVP volunteers are welcome to attend at no cost. Guest meals are \$10.

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Brown & Pike Counties
Lead With Experience...



AmeriCorps
Seniors



RSVP is a United Way Funded Agency

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