

# RSVP News for Southern Kane and Kendall Counties



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 630-553-5777

## RSVP concludes grant year March 31st, and reports Impact to communities served

### Special points of interest:

- *RSVP Partners with Aurora Interfaith Food Pantry, page 3*
- *Save the date for our Fashion Show, Autumn in Paris, Sept. 20, 2015*
- *BYOD Senior Tech Help continues throughout the year at Rush Copley Yorkville Campus on the second and fourth Wednesday of the month from 11:00 AM to 12:30 PM*

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The Retired and Senior Volunteer Program of Kane, Kendall & McHenry Counties concluded their grant year March 31, 2015, reporting 127,246 hours of service to the communities they serve, with assistance of 840 volunteers in the three-county service area.

Volunteers participating in RSVP are all 55 years of age or older. They are able to give back to their community with time earned knowledge or talents, or explore new avenues of service, in the program, which is the most diverse service component of the national Senior Corps. The RSVP grant report showcases the impact of volunteer involvement in the three-county area in several key service areas: Aging in Place assistance in companionship, transportation, and food delivery, access to care through information, assisting in bone building, and offering assistance to those in need due to obesity or food.

Regarding Aging In Place and assistance in companionship, 87 RSVP volunteers gave a total of 6,795 service hours, making weekly visits and friendly phone calls to 90 isolated seniors in the three-county area.

Regarding Aging In Place assistance through transportation, 184 RSVP volunteers gave over 6,500 hours of service as they

assisted approximately 500 seniors. Those seniors in need were given 6,475 one-way rides to dialysis, cancer treatments, grocery shopping, or other important appointments. The volunteers served through Senior Services Transportation Program, Senior Care Volunteer Network and Batavia's Transportation Program.

Regarding Aging In Place and assistance in Food Delivery, along with many other volunteers, 31 RSVP volunteers assisted with delivering meals to homebound seniors and reported 2,517 service hours.

Looking at Access to Care for seniors and the need to distribute information, 19 RSVP volunteers provided 590 hours of service as SHIP counselors at three locations. These volunteers assisted Senior Services staff which work with the senior population to help them apply for various programs such as the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), the Illinois Real Estate Transfer Declaration (PTAX), and the Illinois Department on Aging Benefit Access Application (BAA).

Volunteers gave service in Access to Care Leading or Assisting with Bone Builders. Twelve RSVP volunteers reported 590 service hours, as they alongside Senior Services staff members coached 93 seniors in Matter of Balance and

Fit & Strong evidence-based classes.

And in looking towards better health in the areas of Obesity and Food, 135 RSVP volunteers provided almost 27,000 hours of service at 10 food pantries.

The Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) is a program of the Senior Corps, with more than 40 years of service nationwide. Senior Services Associates of Kane, Kendall & McHenry Counties is the sponsoring agency for the local RSVP Program. More information on RSVP, other senior services programs, and important information for seniors is available at

[www.seniorservicesassoc.org](http://www.seniorservicesassoc.org).



Please share this announcement  
(in English and in Spanish)  
with all your friends!



## Senior Companion Program creates new friendships

The Senior Companion Program connects conversational and social volunteers with seniors who would enjoy a friendly visitor once a week.

A friendly visit once a week can help a homebound or socially isolated senior alleviate the effects of loneliness and increase socialization.

Volunteers or friendly visitors benefit by gaining a friend and having the satisfaction of knowing they are making a difference in a senior's life.

Do you know a senior that may be in need of a friendly visitor?

Would you be able to include visits to a lonely senior in your social life as a volunteer?

If so, please contact the Senior Companion Program Coordinator **Ana D. Meneses, 630-897-4035**

Senior must be 60 years of age or older and independent living in the community. Volunteers must be 18 years of age or older.

El Programa de Compañerismo de la Persona de Edad Avanzada crea la conexión de un voluntario sociable con una persona de edad avanzada a quien le gustaría recibir una visita amistosa por lo menos una vez a la semana. Una visita amistosa, una vez a la semana, puede beneficiar a la persona de edad avanzada quien se encuentra aislado(a) en su hogar al disminuir o sobrellevar los efectos de soledad y aumentar su motivación para estar socialmente activo. Los beneficios también serán para el voluntario, ya que obtendrá un amigo y la satisfacción de saber que marcaron una diferencia en la vida de la persona de edad avanzada.

Conoce alguna persona de edad avanzada que necesite de visitas amistosas de un voluntario?

Usted podría incluir visitas a una persona de edad avanzada que se siente solo y abandonado en su vida social como voluntario?

Si es así, por favor póngase en contacto con la Coordinadora del Programa de Compañerismo

**Ana D. Meneses al 630-897-4035**

\*Se considera de edad avanzada al los mayores de 60 años.

\*Para ser voluntario, debe ser mayor de 18 años.

**Thank you!  
Gracias!**

## NEW LIFE FOR OLD BAGS turns trash to treasure and brings new friends together to help the homeless in the community



New Life for Old Bags is a new group of volunteers working in the Beecher Center in Yorkville, to connect hearts with the homeless in a very special way.

The New Life for Old Bags phenomenon is sweeping Chicagoland, with crochet enthusiasts taking recycled

garbage bags and creating bed mats that are truly works of art. Men and women enjoy this new craft phenomenon, and share their time together to give a gift that will offer comfort and warmth to a stranger the whole year through. NLOB meets at the Beecher Center, 908 Game Farm Road in Yorkville on the second and fourth Wednesday of each month, from 2:00 to 3:30 pm. Participants bring

their materials along each week, and create plastic yarn called plarn, to crochet into mats 3'x6'in size. Those interested should bring a scissor and a size Q crochet hook. For more information contact volunteer coordinator Barb Nadeau at 630-553-5777.



## Aurora Interfaith Food Pantry Partners with RSVP

Aurora Interfaith Food Pantry has partnered with the Retired and Senior Volunteer Program of Kane, Kendall & McHenry Counties in order to connect with active volunteers looking for meaningful service projects.

Since 1981, concerned citizens in the Aurora area have attempted to provide canned goods and other groceries to persons in need of food assistance. That movement, known as the Aurora Area Interfaith Food Pantry, has seen substantial increases in the requests from year to year. Those who receive food include the unemployed, families and single parents caring for children, seniors on

fixed incomes, persons with disabilities or chronic illness, victims of violence and emergency situations, employed individuals who still are in need of supplemental food supplies, or anyone who cannot afford to purchase enough food to adequately meet their nutritional needs.

The Pantry distributes food on Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday, from 11am to 2pm. Volunteers are needed to assist on distribution days, with parking of clients, shopping assistants, front desk registration and reception, child care for clients

while waiting and shopping, stocking of shelves, and other duties.

Those needing food may visit the Pantry one time each week. For further information about distribution, please contact the Pantry office at (630)897-2127. For information on volunteering through RSVP at the Aurora Interfaith Food Pantry, contact Barb Nadeau at 630-553-5777.



## RSVP program saved seniors over \$1.9 million in fees and helped return over \$5 million in tax returns

Retired and Senior Volunteer Program Volunteers helped seniors in the State of Illinois save over \$5 million dollars this year!

Yes, that's right. Through the Tax Assistance Program, volunteers with RSVP served at local senior centers throughout the state, and throughout the income tax season. The volunteers assisted seniors with preparing and filing their income tax documents in this free program.

Locally, through RSVP of Kane, Kendall and McHenry Counties, free income tax assistance appointments were offered throughout tax season at each of the senior centers operated by Senior Services Associates, the sponsoring agency. A total of 3,094 seniors were assisted with their tax preparation and filing. The senior clients combined tax returns totaled \$742,560.00.

Illinois currently benefits from just 18 RSVP programs, which offer volunteer opportunities for seniors aged 55 and older, in a variety of service avenues, from delivering meals and visiting isolated seniors, to manning food pantries, and helping in local non-profits. The RSVP Tax Assistance Program incorporates the volunteer service of just a small portion of the state's RSVP volunteers. Dedicated volunteer tax assistants, in nine of the state's 18 RSVP programs, helped 8,306 seniors prepare their taxes, bringing returns totaling \$5,037,469.00 back to the seniors to spend in their communities, an average of about \$626.00 per client.

In 2014, the average tax preparation fee was \$240.00 per client according to data provided by <http://www.cpapracticeadvisor.com/news/12065684/average-income-tax-preparation-fees-increased-in-2015>. Based on



those calculations, RSVP volunteer tax assistants saved the 8,306 participants a total of \$1,993,440.00 for their 2014 income tax preparations alone.

The RSVP programs which participated in the free income tax assistance program include: RSVP of Coles County, RSVP Adams, Brown & Pike Counties, RSVP Sangamon & Menard, RSVP of Kane, Kendall & McHenry Counties, RSVP of NW Suburban Chicago, RSVP of the Belleville Area, RSVP of Champaign, Douglas & Piatt Counties, RSVP of Western Cook & Northern DuPage, and RSVP of McLean County.

The Retired and Senior Volunteer Program, RSVP, is a national initiative of the Senior Corps, celebrating over 40 years of service. More information on this and other programs offered through the Senior Corps and RSVP is available online at the Corporation for National and Community service, <http://www.nationalservice.gov/>

RSVP of Kane, Kendall and McHenry Counties is a sponsored program of Senior Services Associates, with more information available at [www.seniorservicesassoc.org](http://www.seniorservicesassoc.org).

*For the clients at AID, your volunteer time is priceless. AID has been finding ability in disability since 1961.*

## SENIOR SERVICES ASSOCIATES, INC.

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*We are a non-profit agency serving over 28,000 seniors, their families and caregivers annually. We are here to help you find answers to your questions and to ensure that you and/or your loved ones live the best quality of life possible. With offices in Kane, Kendall and McHenry counties, our caring and trained staff are here to assist you in accessing information and services.*

RSVP IS ONE OF THE LARGEST VOLUNTEER NETWORKS IN THE NATION FOR PEOPLE 55 AND OVER. YOU CAN USE THE SKILLS AND TALENTS YOU'VE LEARNED OVER THE YEARS, OR DEVELOP NEW ONES WHILE SERVING IN A VARIETY OF VOLUNTEER ACTIVITIES WITHIN YOUR COMMUNITY.

## Fundraising efforts support Senior Programs



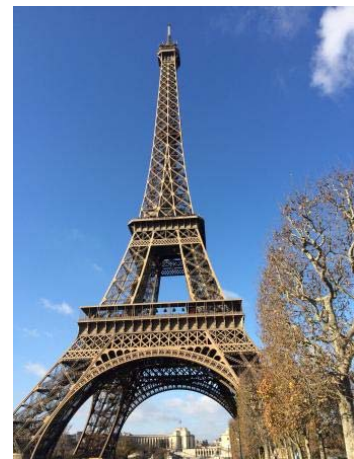
Join us Sunday, September 20, 2015 for Autumn in Paris, our annual Fall Fashion Show to benefit programs and services in the Kendall County region of our three-county service area.

The afternoon offers a formal luncheon, raffles of a variety of valuable items, a silent auction, and balloon pop surprises. Fashions for all ages are featured at the Senior Services Associates annual fashion show. Men and women, Youngsters through seniors model clothing from local and regional businesses.

Reservations can be made for the individual up to a table of ten! It's the perfect place to enjoy a family reunion or a day out with the girls!

The support that Senior Services Associates receive ensures the necessary support to seniors in your community. The fall fashion show is just one of several yearly fundraisers that help us to help your friends and family every day. Senior Services Associates also hosts a Pie Auction in Aurora in November, and a fashion show in Crystal Lake, each to support services to seniors in those communities. Donations and endowments are also always welcome. Thank you for your continued support of Senior Services Associates, Inc.

For more information contact your local senior Services office.



Save the date for our

Fall Fashion Show,

**An Afternoon in  
Paris,**