

**Lead with  
Experience!**



**Get  
involved!**

*Coulee Region RSVP Newsletter*

*Summer/Fall 2010*

## *Inside this issue*

- Letter from the Director 1
- New Volunteers 2
- Meet your Board Member 2
- Wellness Expo 2010 3
- Disney Give a Day ~ Get a Disney Day 3
- Who Will be Smarter than a 5th Grader? 4-6
- Volunteer Opportunities 7
- Thank you Volunteers 7
- Onalaska PARTNER Program 8
- One Time Event Volunteering 8
- Volunteering to Help, for Help 8
- Volunteer Driver Program 9
- In Memory 9
- Foster Grandparent Program 10
- STEM 10
- Study Buddy Program 11
- Handcrafters 12
- Handcraft Needs 12
- Friendly Caller 12
- Donations & Contributions 13-14
- Volunteer Survey 14
- Your Support Welcome 15
- Please Keep Us Informed 15
- Calendar of Events 15
- RSVP Staff 16
- RSVP Board of Directors 16

## *From the Director*

Volunteers are the only human beings on the face of the earth who reflect this nation's compassion, unselfish caring, patience, and just plain love for one another.  
~Erma Bombeck

## *Summer Greetings!*

At least I believe it is summer. It is ironic that on this exact date last year I was at my desk, contemplating what to say in the newsletter. And as always, because of the view, I find myself looking out the window, staring at the bluffs hoping for just a bit of inspiration. Like last year, as I stare out the window, the weather is dismal, raining, and a mere 62 degrees on the 8th of June, and like last year, we know that the weather will change in just a matter of days.

Ahh...Wisconsin...the Coulee Region. We love it here! The weather, the scenery, and yes the people, our people; volunteers who help make our community a great place to love, live, learn and serve. Thank you all for everything you do to make the communities in which you live and volunteer a better place. Reading through the newsletter, it is quite evident of the care and commitment RSVP volunteers have for the community. You all have been quite busy serving in so many ways that make a difference for someone everyday. Whether it was reading, providing transportation, tax preparations, taking photos at the DMV; sewing special request items, answering the phone at the RSVP; whatever the deed, it does not go unnoticed. Thank you for all that you do, for answering the call to serve.

Speaking of serving, thank you to Stacy Swatek for her board service to RSVP, we will miss you. Also, I would like to extend a warm welcome to our newest board member, Beth Curtis. Although not new to RSVP, Beth has been a volunteer driver for us for quite some time; she answered the call and agreed to serve on our board. Thank you Beth, we look forward to your service as a board member and yes, still as a volunteer driver.

Congratulations are in order for volunteer driver, Jerry Niedfeldt, handcrafter, Pat Blanchard and board member and president emeritus, Herb French. Jerry and Pat were recognized at the annual Coulee Region Volunteer Coordinators breakfast in April for their volunteer service and Herb is being recognized this month by the Women In Philanthropy for his community service over the years. Congrats Herb, Jerry and Pat.

Also, congratulations to J. Michael Hartigan, MD and his fifth grade partner Shafee Rayhan of Eagle Bluff Elementary School. Mike and Shafee answered the final question to become the reigning champions of our "fun"draising event, Who Will be Smarter than a Fifth grader?

Wow, so much to say and so little space to say it in. That being said, I hope you will enjoy this newsletter and reading about everything you have been doing as RSVP volunteers in our community.



Thank you all. Happy Summer!  
~ *Lynnetta*

# New Volunteers

*Names from January 1st, 2010 through May 31st, 2010*

Ardelle Adamson  
Karen Butler  
June Christman  
Linda Dayton  
Marge Dennison  
Sharon Green  
Carol Haefs  
Diane J. Hanson  
Norm Hermanson

Diane Hoch  
Wesley Hurlburt  
Carolyn Kowalke  
Sharon Kay Lintelmann  
Sr. Rose Therese Mc Mullin  
Sr. Eileen Neumann, FSPA  
Myrna Patschull  
Caryl Pederson  
Ginny Pollert

Barbara Quillin  
James Rouse  
Robert Shapiro  
Kathy Steele  
Patricia L. Tschumper  
Janet Virata  
Margaret Wells  
Leah Wisnewski  
Sr. Frances Yanisch

*Do you know someone who might like to volunteer? Our volunteers are our best recruiters as they spread the word about why they like to volunteer and the need for more volunteers. For a sampling of current requests, see our Volunteer Opportunities section. We currently have needs at over 120 different locations throughout La Crosse and Monroe counties. Please pass this news letter on to a friend or neighbor and tell them about RSVP and our many programs!*

**RSVP is placing an order for blue polo shirts. The cost is \$30. If you would like one please send your money and shirt size to RSVP by August 1st. This will allow you to pick up your shirt at the Recognition Event. What a great way to promote RSVP!**

## Meet your Board Members!

**Name:** Beth Curtis

**Hometown/Family:** Beth is originally from Sterling, IL. Beth and her husband, Dave of 39 years, moved to the La Crosse/Onalaska area in 1971. They have two boys, one granddaughter and one grandson.

**Job:** Beth is a retired first grade teacher from Irving Pertzsch Elementary School in Onalaska, WI.

**Civic Involvement:** Volunteering at RSVP as a Volunteer Driver; assisting in the schools through the Onalaska PARTNER Program, church and donating her time at Causeway.

**Favorite part of the Coulee Region:** The beauty of the Coulee Region. As an avid bicyclist, Beth enjoys all the scenery she sees while riding.

**Why did you become involved as an RSVP Board Member?** Having enjoyed being a volunteer driver since 2003, when asked to be on the board of directors Beth thought it would be the perfect opportunity to contribute more in a positive way to a great cause.

**What do you hope to see happen for RSVP in 2010?** Being new to the board; her first goal is to learn about all of the programs, organizations and individuals that RSVP serves.

**What would be your ideal retirement?**

"I am living it!" Beth enjoys traveling and bicycling; being a volunteer driver is the perfect fit because RSVP works around her schedule.

**What is your favorite color and why?**

Beth's favorite color is blue. She thinks it is a soothing color and represents her Norwegian heritage.

**What is the most interesting thing about you?**

People are often surprised by Beth's extensive traveling and the many different places she has visited.

**What is your greatest achievement thus far?**

Participating in and completing an all women's fundraiser triathlon for Breast Cancer Awareness in 2006, 2007 and 2008, where she successfully swam a half mile, biked 13 miles and ran three miles.

**Anything else you would like to add:** "RSVP has been such a good fit for me. I am doing something to help, but I am not tied down and don't feel guilty when I leave town!"



# Wellness Expo 2010

The 2010 Wellness Expo was held on Friday, April 23rd from 8:30am to 1:00pm at the Onalaska OmniCenter. This year's event included a Healthcare Reform Panel with guest speakers Jeff Thompson, MD, CEO Gundersen Lutheran and Robert Nesse, MD, President and CEO of Franciscan Skemp Healthcare, Yoga Chair Exercises demonstrated by Linda Larson, Registered Clinical Exercise Physiologist, Gundersen Lutheran and a presentation by Anthony Villare, DO, Franciscan Skemp Healthcare on options for hip and knee arthritis. Over 350 participants took advantage of the information and displays offered by the many exhibitors, free health checks including; functional fitness testing, lung function testing, blood pressure, bone density, eye, hearing, chiropractic, and massage; and a CarFit check offered by trained specialists. Grumpy Old Men performed during the free meal that was offered to all attendees. Once again the Wellness Expo was able to share, demonstrate, and encourage living healthy, living active in the Coulee Region.



## Remember to report your hours...

All volunteers who serve 25 or more hours during the last year will receive an invitation to our Volunteer Recognition Banquet in September. So please keep sending in your hours to the RSVP Office, we are looking forward to seeing all of our volunteers there!

## Give a Day. Get a Disney Day.

On January 1st, 2010 Disney began offering free passes to people who volunteered a day with participating organizations. RSVP was one of the only local organizations to partner with Disney. We are happy to report 245 people received a Disney pass after volunteering with RSVP. Volunteers assisted with bulk mailings, in the schools, at the American Cancer Society, Riverfront, as volunteer drivers, handcraft volunteers and during Neighbors Day in La Crosse. By March Disney had given out one million Give A Day Get A Disney Day tickets. Thanks to everyone who volunteered and became a friend of RSVP. Hope you enjoyed your Disney day! Congratulations!



# Who will be Smarter than a 5th Grader?

Who will be smarter than a fifth grader? Well we all found out on May 27, when J. Michael Hartigan, MD and his fifth grade partner, Shafee Rayhan from Eagle Bluff Elementary School in Onalaska answered the final question to become the reigning champions on Saturday. What a great “fun”draising event. 16 teams of community celebrities and fifth graders from La Crosse, Onalaska and Aquinas Catholic schools squared off at Valley View Mall for the second annual RSVP Who Will Be Smarter than a Fifth Grader fundraiser.

We extend our thanks to our Founding Partners, our sponsors, all of the donors who “voted” for the contestants, our host Valley View Mall and to everyone who assisted us in making this event a huge success; Nancy Sikorsky, Ruth Dejarlais, Jenny Ruetten and Linda Hansen from the School District of La Crosse; Jac Lyga, Stephanie Rice and Molly Ferris from the Onalaska School District and Kay Berra, Dennis Ross, Linda Birkle, Marge Weiske and Maureen Grenisen from Aquinas Catholic Schools.

Each of these individuals helped in the selection of the students and preparing the questions that challenged the knowledge of our contestants as well as those in the audience. Thanks also Ruth, Stephanie, and Jenny for agreeing to be judges this year, and we would be remiss if we didn't give a shout out to Mr. Memory, Brad Williams for being a fantastic host. To Brandon Holt and Dan Weise, what would we have done without your audio visual expertise? You both did an awesome job in helping us to not only look good, but sound good as well. Eric Sabo, thanks for videoing and Steve Kopp, thanks for your computer expertise. Thanks also to Amanda, Heather and Julie; together each and every one of you made it work. Thanks!



Awards

Winners

Congratulations to our Grand Prize winners, J. Michael Hartigan and Shafee Rayhan. Mike received a \$500.00 travel voucher courtesy of Travel Leaders, and a gift certificate courtesy of Edwardo's Pizza Wagon. Shafee received a \$75.00 gift certificate to Target, donated by UCare, a La Crosse Loggers Party Package, courtesy of the La Crosse Loggers, prizes from Pepsi, a Pizza Doctor's Pizza Party courtesy of Pizza Doctor's, a gift certificate from Quillin's IGA, and a \$500.00 cash prize for his school. Runner-ups received prizes courtesy of Quillins IGA, Wal-Mart of Onalaska, Marcus Theatres of La Crosse, Pepsi Cola Bottling Company of La Crosse, and Three Rivers Lodge. Congratulations.

We are excited to continue this event next year and if you think you are “smarter than a fifth grader” and want to be a contestant, let us know, we'd love to have you!



Judges

# Who will be Smarter than a 5th Grader?

## Contestants ....



Cheryl M. Gill, Attorney, Johns, Flaherty & Collins, SC & Ben Short, State Road Elementary



Joe Kruse, Vice President, Franciscan Skemp Healthcare & Abbie McDonald, St. Patrick's School



Scott Hackworth, WXOW News 19 & Ruth Hallstead, Northern Hills Elementary



Kara M. Burgos, Attorney at Law, Moen Sheehan Meyer, Ltd. & Devyn Martinez, Emerson Elementary



Dr. Penny A. Reedy, Principal, Longfellow/SOTA II Middle School & Conner Hansen, Spence Elementary



Kay M. Mazza, Store Manager, Herberger's & Sara Brekke, Coulee Montessori



John Burnett, Superintendent, School District of Onalaska & Zoe De Boer, Irving Pertzsch Elementary



J. Michael Hartigan, MD, Riverfest Commodore 2008 & Shafee Rayhan, Eagle Bluff Elementary



Lee Rasch, President, Western Technical College & Elizabeth Caya, Franklin Elementary

# Who will be Smarter than a 5th Grader?

## Contestants continued....



Gregg A. Cleveland, Fire Chief, La Crosse Fire Department & Mackenzie Klaeser, Hintgen Elementary



Dyanne Brudos, Vice President - Private Banking, U. S. Bank & Asya Her, Southern Bluffs Elementary



Dr. Rick Artman, President, Viterbo University & Daniel Volden, North Woods International Elementary



Dr. Ken Merkitch, Gundersen Lutheran & Mikaela Schlesinger, Blessed Sacrament School



Jen O'Brien, Program Director/Middays, Z93 & Tyanna Washa, Summit Elementary



Dirk Gasterland, Coulee Bank & Hunter Hefti, Sand Lake Elementary



Judy Bouffleur, Community Volunteer & Kelsey Paulus, SOTA

Thank you to our Founding Sponsor!



# Volunteer Opportunities

There are plenty of volunteer opportunities, please contact our office or check out our website at [www.rsvplax.org](http://www.rsvplax.org) to find out more about how you can get involved! Check out the Senior Edition each month for updates and a listing of new volunteer opportunities.

## Blood Center of Wisconsin

Are you interested in helping at local blood drives? How about being certified to help with any of the Blood Center of Wisconsin's events statewide? By signing up to be a Blood Center Volunteer you will receive the required training to be a certified blood drive volunteer for any event the Blood Center holds. Once you receive the training, volunteering is coordinated on an on-call basis so you can sign up for the blood drives that are closest to you or fit into your schedule. Call Amanda at 608.785.0500 for more information.

## Hillview Greenhouse Life Center

The Hillview Greenhouse is an indoor, handicap accessible greenhouse that meets community needs by growing local high quality organic produce. They are in need of volunteers to assist with planting, harvesting, and office support. The Greenhouse is fully functional all year long and is customized to incorporate the needs of seniors and individuals with disabilities allowing them to take partake in all activities. Contact

Amanda to learn more today, 608.785.0500.

## La Crosse City Hall

Volunteers are needed to staff the front lobby information desk at La Crosse City Hall on Mondays, Tuesday, and Wednesday Mornings. Volunteers assist citizens with directions and provide information about City Hall and the offices and services in the building. Find out more about this opportunity by calling Amanda at 608.785.0500.

## La Crosse County Historical Society

The La Crosse County Historical Society is looking for volunteers to serve as museum greeters, provide tours, and occasionally operate the cash register on Tuesdays and Wednesdays. The Swarthout Museum is located in the La Crosse Public Library. Please contact Amanda at 608.785.0500 for more information.

## Meadowood Assisted Living

Meadowood is seeking volunteers to help with activities, play games with residents, and engage in friendly visiting or outside walks. For more information call Amanda at 608.785.0500.

## Riverfront

Have great office skills, interested in clerical work; enjoy answering phones, filing, or typing. If so,

then Riverfront has some great opportunities to put your office skills to use. They are currently seeking clerical and receptionist volunteers and are very flexible with scheduling. Call Amanda at 608.785.0500 to find out more.

## Summer School Volunteer Programs

Our office recently received a request for reading partners to assist children attending camp this summer. The camp is a five week program which serves youth ages 5 – 12 by providing a safe environment for youngsters who are home alone throughout the day. The camp curriculum includes literacy enhancement, Spanish language, music, art, social skills and life skills. The goal of this summer program is to facilitate a paradigm shift in thinking that will create a higher standard of excellence and an overwhelming sense of self-confidence in each child. To find out more contact Julie Diermeier at 608.785.0500 or [jdiermeier@rsvplax.org](mailto:jdiermeier@rsvplax.org).

## WAFER

RSVP is partnering with WAFER in their Seniors Helping Seniors initiative. We are looking for a few drivers to transport packaged food from WAFER to the local meal sites once or twice a month. We need drivers for the La Crosse, Onalaska, Holmen, and West Salem sites. Call Heather at 608.785.0500 to find out how you can help.

## Thank you volunteers!

Thank you for helping Riverfront. The RSVP volunteers were terrific and contributed a lot to the phonathon. As always, we look forward to working with RSVP folks in the futures..

~ The Riverfront Team

I want to thank you girls at RSVP so much for the head bands you gave me. They are very nice and will come in handy during my Chemotherapy. It is wonderful to have people in this world like you.

~ Kathie

I selected one of your lovely quilts at the Onalaska Food Basket on a day when I needed some comfort. What a blessing! When I think of all the love and care that went into making it, it is a lovely reminder that the world is full of kind people. Thank you.

~ Anonymous

I would be DELIGHTED and HONORED to have Molly and Darlene back again next year. They have done an OUTSTANDING job and the students have developed very SPECIAL relationships with the grandmas. Thanks for all of your support this past school year.

~ Marilyn Arndt  
Roosevelt Coulee  
Montessori Elementary

Burleigh Randolph has become a true friend to Emerson students, faculty and families - I truly can't imagine our school without him here!

~ Regina L. Siegel  
Principal, Emerson  
Elementary School

# Volunteer Opportunities

## Onalaska PARTNER Program

The Onalaska PARTNER Program is off to a great start! Since the inception of this program in November, RSVP has placed 41 volunteers in the Onalaska School District, of those individuals seven volunteered weekly, assisting a total of 71 students. RSVP volunteers have served over 165 hours helping in the classrooms, reading one on one with students, tutoring, and with one time events such as; book fairs, fun runs, and jump rope for heart. If you or someone you know is interested in getting involved in the Onalaska Schools, making a difference in the lives of children and our community; this summer is the time to start thinking about it. Contact Amanda at 608.785.0500 to get signed up for the 2010/2011 school year.

### Here are some things that Onalaska School teachers and administrators had to say about our volunteers:

The volunteers have been exemplary and I have been impressed with their timeliness and commitment. Please know that we are very pleased with the volunteers to date.

*~ Maria Runge  
PTO - Eagle Bluff Elementary School*

Thank you for sending Jolene, Dee and Sally. They were wonderful workers and completed the task quickly and efficiently.

*~Onalaska School District Office*

Thank you for scheduling Jeanne to work with us. She did an outstanding job.

*~Onalaska School District Office*

Thanks for sending Rosemary to our office. She had lots of experience with scanning so she was very efficient.

*~Onalaska School District Office*

Diane has brought some awesome story props to go along with the stories she has read.

*~Mrs. Holley  
Eagle Bluff Elementary School*

I just wanted to express my thanks to you and the volunteer program! My two volunteers (Terry and Sue) did a great job. They were punctual, willing and dedicated!

*~Mrs. Makowski  
Eagle Bluff Elementary School*

## One Time Event Volunteering

Are you busy this summer; traveling, visiting family, camping or going to graduation parties – but still wishing you could get involved without a long term commitment? The RSVP One Time Event program is perfect for volunteers with busy schedules. One Time Event volunteering operates on an on-call basis making it a convenient option for you. RSVP volunteers have assisted over 30 events, projects, fundraisers, and performances, so far this year, serving at the following organizations: La Crosse Symphony, American Cancer Society, Coulee Region Humane Society, Eagle Bluff Elementary School, Onalaska School District, American Red Cross, Riverfront, Blue Stars Drum & Bugle Corps, Family Resources, Blood Center of Wisconsin, La Crosse Convention & Visitor's Bureau, Clearwater Farm Foundation, Irving Pertzsch Elementary School, and the La Crosse Concert Band.

If your organization can use One Time Event volunteers or you are a volunteer who would like to find out more about how you can serve at a variety of community events through our program please contact the RSVP office at 608.785.0500.

## Volunteering to Help, for Help

Cass Street Pharmacy is offering a new incentive for volunteering! In exchange for your volunteer services at any local organization, Cass Street Pharmacy will help pay your medication copays. RSVP is excited to partner with Cass Street Pharmacy on this new initiative. If you are a volunteer with RSVP, here's how you can take advantage of this great new opportunity.

1. Pick up verification of volunteering forms at Cass Street Pharmacy



2. Contact RSVP to schedule volunteer duties and times.
3. Perform volunteer activities. Have director/supervisor verify your volunteer duties and times by signing a verification form. Make sure they provide a phone number.

4. Return verification form to Cass Street Pharmacy after volunteer work is completed. For every hour of volunteering that you perform, Cass Street Pharmacy will apply \$6.00 towards your copays.



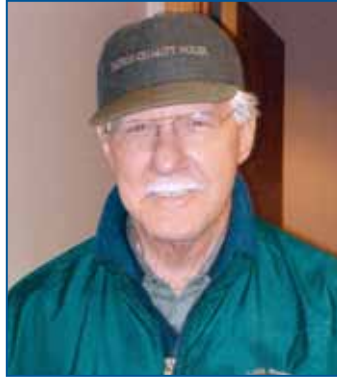
# Volunteer Driver Program

Thank you to all our volunteer drivers for sharing your time to provide transportation for so many people in our community. Each month we select a driver to feature in the Senior Edition. Listed below are the drivers who have been selected in 2010.



**January~Minnie Bolcerek:**

Minnie has been a volunteer with RSVP since 1993 and has given 1,427.75 hours of her time between driving and assisting at the Bangor meal site.



**February~Ken Botcher:**

Ken has been a volunteer with RSVP since 1996 and has given over 15,500 hours of his time as a driver, volunteering at the Harry J Olson Center and Gundersen Lutheran.



**April: Jerry and Diane Hoch**

were selected as April Drivers of the Month. Jerry has been a volunteer with RSVP since September of 2008. Diane joined after retiring in January 2010. They have given over 692 hours of their time as volunteer drivers and volunteering in the schools.



**May: Gordon Knudson** is one of our newer volunteer drivers, joining RSVP in November of 2009 after 33 years at G. Heileman Brewery. Gordon has given nearly 55 hours of his time and driven nearly 1,300 miles. Gordon stays very busy through volunteering, golfing and attending his grandkids extra curricular activities.



**March~Jerry Niedfeldt:**

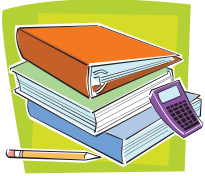
With less than 2 years as a RSVP Volunteer Driver, Jerry has given over 1345 hours of his time and logged over 14,000 miles not only driving during the day but helping out in the evening or on the weekend for a special request. He also volunteers at the Harry J Olson Center. Jerry was nominated for the Coulee Region Volunteer Coordinator (CRVC) Outstanding Volunteer of the Year – Senior category. He, along with many other nominated volunteers, was honored at the CRVC breakfast on April 13th. Congratulations Jerry!

## In Memory

It is with great sadness that we say good bye to one of our volunteer drivers. On Wednesday, May 26, 2010 William “Bill” Fancher passed away at Gundersen Lutheran Medical Center at the age of 77. Bill joined RSVP as a driver in March 2004 to, as he put it, “try it out for a while” which led to six years of active service to our community. Prior to retiring Bill was employed at Western Printing, Golden Book Publishing in Racine, Wisconsin for over thirty years. He returned to La Crosse to be closer to his daughter and sister. As a volunteer driver he gave more than 5,400 hours of his time safely driving numerous people to medical and personal appointments. We will miss Bill, his fishing stories and his smile. He was a wonderful person and a great friend to RSVP and the community.



A memorial service will be held on Tuesday, June 1, at First Baptist; burial took place in Oak Grove Cemetery.



# Education Corner

## WELCOME JON AND BEULAH

In March we welcomed Jon and Beulah Hollmann into the Foster Grandparents program. Jon and Beulah have been placed as Foster Grandparents at Saint Patrick School in Sparta. Transferring their life experiences to opportunities within the school, Jon and Beulah are assisting children with their reading, math, and even geology. While students were studying geology, Jon was able to enrich their studies by bringing in his rock collection and sharing facts with the St. Pat's students. When time permits, Beulah uses her computer skills helping out in the school library. Jon and Beulah also assist with the after school care, focusing on homework help, which brings many thanks from the parents of St. Patrick students. After the homework is done, you will find Jon and Beulah reading with the children or teaching them how to play chess. When asked what she likes about being a Foster Grandparent, Beulah responded "I really look forward to getting up in the morning and having a job to do; knowing I am making a difference."



As a Foster Grandparent, those who meet income guidelines are able to receive a tax free stipend as well as meals while on duty, reimbursement for transportation and monthly training. If you would like to make a difference in the life of a child and are 55 years of age or better contact Julie Diermeier, 785-0500 or [jdiermeier@rsvplax.org](mailto:jdiermeier@rsvplax.org) to find out more.

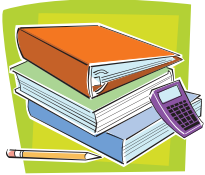


## Success with Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM)



This spring, 5th grade students in La Crosse and Onalaska schools got the opportunity to hear first hand about surgery in a presentation by Dr. Chris Leach. When Dr. Leach tells the story about how he became a heart surgeon he engages the students fully. He shares with the students his experience as a school age boy, he talks about wondering what he would be when he grew up, and he shares how he reacted the first time he observed a surgery; the presentation is more like a conversation with a little bit of show and tell. Responding to the student's questions and stories with solid answers and tales about his experiences, Dr. Leach brings medical items that are used in heart surgery for the children to see and touch. These visual aids help the students learn and understand the surgical processes, piquing their interest and leading them to ask more questions. This is the second year Dr. Leach has partnered with RSVP in the STEM program, which encourages students to explore careers in science, technology, engineering and math that they may not have considered otherwise. By utilizing professionals in our community we are able to create an engaging opportunity to help prepare our future leaders with for tomorrow's occupations. Contact Julie Diermeier to find out how you can share your career experience with the young people of our community. [jdiermeier@rsvplax.org](mailto:jdiermeier@rsvplax.org) 608.785.0500





# Continued... Education Corner

## Study Buddy Len Schleh is awarded Volunteer of the Year

Congratulations to RSVP Study Buddy Len Schleh on being honored with the Greater La Crosse Volunteer of the Year Award. Len was presented with this award in recognition of his involvement in youth sports through the City of La Crosse Recreation Department and his writing contributions to the La Crosse Area Sports Magazine. He received his recognition at the annual Sports Connection Awards Banquet which was attended by over 400 people and featured guest speaker Dick Bennett. Although, he is very proud of his award, Len insists that he does not volunteer for recognition, but because he wants to. As Len puts it, volunteering is something we all can do and one person can make a difference. He has made a difference in the lives of Onalaska school children each week for the past six years by participating in the RSVP Study Buddy program. We extend our Thanks to Len for making a difference in our community and invite you to contact Julie Diermeier at 608.785.0500 or [jdiermeier@rsvplax.org](mailto:jdiermeier@rsvplax.org) to find out how you can make a difference too.



## Summer Sign Up

Ahh...summertime; gardening, traveling and enjoying all of the outdoor activities our area has to offer. Now is the best time to sign up to be a volunteer in local area school this fall. There is a need for volunteers who are willing to serve as mentors to students in our area schools. As a school volunteer, you will assist students with reading and math, provide encouragement and help children to grow academically and socially. You may sign up to volunteer as little as one hour per week or as often as every day. The RSVP school volunteers make a difference in the academic success of the students with whom they work. Contact Julie Diermeier at [jdiermeier@rsvplax.org](mailto:jdiermeier@rsvplax.org) or 608.785.0500 for more information about what school program will compliment your interests.



Check out our website for more information [www.rsvplax.org](http://www.rsvplax.org)

# ~ Handcrafters ~

Once again thank you for your hard work and commitment to our program and the community. So far this year, RSVP has distributed 1,465 handcraft items to local hospitals, long term care facilities, cancer centers and social service agencies. If you are currently working on the Sew Angelic Surgical Caps or the Breast Cancer Drain Pouches, they require special material, which is available in our office. If you are interested in either of these projects please call ahead so we can make sure to have enough material in stock. Save the Date, Thursday, November 18th; this is the day RSVP will hold the annual Handcraft Open House. Please try to have all your handcraft items into the office early so we can set them out for agencies to take and distribute to those in need. While you are busy knitting, sewing or crocheting this summer; remember it is your talent, patience, compassion and commitment that provides so many individuals, families, hospital patients, and long term care residents with hope and comfort throughout the year. Thank you!



~Amanda

## Special Recognition

Congratulations to Pat Blanchard for being nominated for the CRVC 2010 Outstanding Volunteer Award in the Senior Category. Pat has volunteered with RSVP since 1999 and serving over 5,700 hours, making a difference at various organizations in La Crosse County. Besides being active in her church, at the Onalaska Library, and helping with many community functions, Pat is an avid hand crafter for RSVP. In 2009 she made over 150 pairs of mittens and hundreds of handmade greeting cards and bookmarks. Recipients of Pat's beautiful cards include; Lakeview Heath Center, the Onalaska/Holmen Food Basket, Monday Meals at St. Luke's Methodist Church, the Tomah VA Hospital, The Villas Assisted Living, and RSVP. Pat, thank you for everything you do for RSVP and the community. You are an inspiration to us all.



## Current Handcraft Needs

- Friendship Dolls
- Wheelchair/Walker Bags
- Adult Clothing Protectors
- Shrugs/Shawls
- Baby Loveys



## Handcraft Donations Welcome!

- Batting
  - Stuffing
  - White Thread
  - Material – Kid Friendly
  - Yarn
- Patterns

**Are you missing a pair of prescription glasses? If so, we have them! At last year's recognition event at the Radisson a pair glasses were left behind. Please call RSVP to claim them~608.785.0500**

## Friendly Caller

Would you or someone you know benefit from a daily call? If so, the RSVP Friendly Caller Program may be just the key. This daily call allows individuals to stay in their own homes and reassure families that someone is checking on their loved ones.



Individuals in La Crosse or Monroe Counties are welcome to use the program free of charge. Participants receive a phone call, Monday-Friday between 8:30am-10:00am. If after several attempts to contact a participant with no response, RSVP will call their emergency contacts. If you are interested in becoming a Friendly Caller volunteer or need information about the program for yourself or a family member contact RSVP at 785-0500.

# Donations & Contributions

Thank you to all who have supported the Coulee Region Retired & Senior Volunteer Program in 2010. The following list includes donations received from January 1st, 2010 through May 31, 2010. Without your gifts RSVP would not be able to offer as many wonderful volunteer services as it does. THANK YOU! Please know that we have made every attempt to include all donors in this list. If we inadvertently missed your name for any reason, please contact us and we will include your name in our next newsletter. Thank you for being a friend of RSVP!

A+ Imaging	Dr. Charles R. & Lu Cagin	Mai Chao Duddeck	Mary Ann Gschwind,	Johns, Flaherty &
Frank & Jenny Aberger	Mark & Pat Carpenter	Robert Dunlap	FSPA	Collins, SC
Brett Abernathy	Central High School	Tim & Sue Durtsche	Sigurd B & Jean Ann	Mike Johnson
Ad Aids	Sister Georgina	Randy Eddy	Gundersen	Gretchen Johnson
Paul P. Albrecht	Christensen, FSPA	Dr. Robert & Carole	Gundersen Lutheran	Renee Johnson
Altra Federal Credit	Roger & Kenna	Edlund	Health System	Debra Johnson
Union	Christians	Edwardo's Pizza Wagon	Gundersen Lutheran	Regina Jones
Anonymous	Russ & Jessica	Howard Eglash	Medical Center	Jane Jorstad
Aquinas Catholic	Christianson	Karen Eichorst	Laurie Haake	Diane Josephson
Schools	Citizens State Bank	Christopher J. Eickman	Jean Haas	Kaplan Professional
Peder Arneson	Gail K. Cleary	Jill Emerich	Wade & Amy Hackbarth	Education
Rick & Joan Artman	Dave Clements	Bret Emmel	Jeanne Halderson	Gerald & Nanette
Heather Artman	Marv & Darryle Clott	Employees of Coulee	Hale, Skemp, Hanson,	Kember
Toni Asher	Kari Cocoran	Bank	Skemp & Sleik	Teri Kendhammer
Katie Bagniefski	Lynn Collins	Engelson and Associates,	Jessica Hall	Tom Kennedy
Bank of Galesville	Terry & Karolyn Collins	LTD.	Shirley A. Hallberg	Patrick & Linda Kerrigan
Kathy & Tom	Collins & Associates, SC	Katherine Erickson	Mary & Wes Hallstead	Randy Ketelhut
Susan Batell	Mary Kay Colsch	Roger & Judith Erickson	Mark & Susan Halter	Loretta B. Kilmer
Jon Baudek	Dr. Mark V. & Jeanne P.	Todd M. Ericson	John & Linda Hamilton	Dan & Sally King
Sandra Baumgartner	Connelly	Rick Evans	Lorraine Hammes	Donna King
Beadle-Ewing Insurance	James Conway	Mary Faherty	Renee Hammes	Maureen Kinney
Agency, Inc.	Father Robert J. Cook	Family Radio Group/Z-	Jeff Hansen	Jessica Kirchner
Diane Begeman	Patricia Copps	Care	Frank & Melanie	James & Patricia Kirchner
Keith Belzer	Coulee Bank	Steven Fanelli	Hansman	Judy L. Kirkpatrick
Gretchen Benjamin	Cowgill Dental	Tracy Fell	Chuck & Cheryl Hanson	Kathleen H. Kitzke
Richard & Patricia	Jan Crandall	Steve Fleis	Troy Harcey	Gary & Melissa Klein
Berendes	Gail Cunningham	Pam Foegen	Frank & Heather	Kathy Klock
Kirsten Bernardo	Thomas & Marla	Dennis & Lauri Ford	Harpenau	Thomas Knothe
Gerald & Ruth Berns	Cunningham	Fran & Sue Formanek	Andrew & Jennifer	Tim & Jennie Kolek
Dennis & Kay Berra	Beth Curtis	Fox 25/48	Hartigan	Kenneth Kopp
Diane Bess	Eva Dahl	Stephanie Fraase	Harter's Quick Clean Up	Laurie Kopp
Bethany Riverside	Kris & Mindi Dahl	Franciscan Skemp	Services, Inc.	Steven & Lynnetta Kopp
Maren Bingham	Dairyland Power	Healthcare	J. Michael & Vicki	Linda Kramer-Mader
Marilu Bintz	Lary & Barb Dalton	Carl & Eileen Francksen	Hartigan	Peter & Krin Krause
Roger Bjorge	Kari Davidson	Ellen M. Frantz	Danielle Hartman	John Kreinbring
Jill Blackbourn	Sally Davis	Robert Frechette	Ruth Hartmann	Barbara Kroner
Greg & Beth Bonney	Jerry & Tricia Davis	Herb & Lorraine French	Doug & Connie Hauser	Jim & Debbie Kroner
Dr. Christopher & Mrs.	Melissa de Boer	Kirk Nolan Friedline	Sarah Havens	Benjamin M.Y. Kruse
Vicki Born	Dan Deetz	Roger Fruit	Shirley Heeter	Jack & Marcella Kruse
David & Judy Bouffleur	Wayne & Amy Delagrave	Steven J. Fulton	Beth Heffernan	Jean Kruse
Sandra Jo Brauer	Designz, Inc.	Vivian Gabower	Ellen M. Heinecke	Joseph & Barb Kruse
Sandy Brekke	Dean Dickinson	Barbara Gayle	Bud Hendrickson	Charles & Mary Kulas
William & Elizabeth	Rick & Julie Diermeier	Kathleen Gebhard	Geri Hengst	Kwik Trip
Brendel	DigiCopy	Jim & Elaine George	Pauline Hogan	La Crosse Loggers
Brenengen Chevrolet, Inc.	Susan Dillenbeck	Jacinda M. Gerrard	Brandon Holt	Foundation, Inc.
Diane Brimmer	Dave Dinger	Mary Geske	HSR Associates, Inc.	La Crosse Riverfest
Tom & Jan Brock	Andy Dittman	Michael Gill	Janice Hutchens	Commodores, Inc.
Madonna Brooks	Frank Doherty	Cheryl Gill	Florence Hyatt	La Crosse School District
Ward & Patty Brown	Michael & Laurie Dolan	Alex & Jolene Goodman	Sharon Imes	Mathew La Fargue
Bob & Betty Brudos	Jayne Dow	Peter Grabow	Sharmin Islan	Mary Lansing
Dyanne Brudos	Gloria Doyle	Carol Greene	Jan Janiszewski	Edna Larson
Kara Burgos	Mark & Karen	Liz Greenwald	JFK Associates, Inc.	Joan Le Roy
Dale & Lisa Butterfield	Drazkowski	Pat Gross		Doug LeClaire

# Donations & Contributions

Graciela Lee	Moen Sheehan Meyer, LTD	Richard Record	Pat & Joannie Smith	UCare
Jeff Legler	David & Shelia Momont	Gary & Penny Reedy	Brent Smith	US Bank
Dorothy Lenard	Dawn Montague	Rick Renwick	Robert Smyth	Valley View Mall
Lewis Valley Lutheran Church	Kathy Moritz	Andy Reshel	Tracy Snowberger	Michael & Jane Van Norstrand
Linda Liljedahl	Linnea Mueller	Drs. Robert & Silvana Richardson	Dody Sobeck	Vantage Architects, Inc
Local 127 La Crosse Firefighters	Nancy Muller	Jaralee Richter	Harold E. Sprain	Kathy Vehrenkamp
Jean Londergan	Paula Murphy	Robert Ruitzel	Randal Staats	Janet Virata
Longfellow Middle School Staff	Kris Nandory	River Town Dental, Inc.	Staff of La Crosse Public Library	Dianne Volden
Longfellow Middle School Sunshine Club	John Nash	Janet Robillard	Mary Stanek	Wal Mart of Onalaska
Stuart Lonning	Jim Naugler	Janet Rosseter	State Bank Financial	Chip Wall
Mary Lund	Sandra Nelson	Robert Roth	Anne Stekel	Dale Walter
Vicki Lyons	Robert & Rebecca Nesse	Jack & Judy Rusch	Barbara Stermer	Brian Walter
Robert Madrigal	Marie Northup	Kial Rushlow	Ann Steuer	Donald & Roxanne Weber
Carolyn Manke	James Novotny	Ed & Joni Rydell	Blythe Stillwell	Steve & Katie Webster
Brian & Nancy Manske	Oak Forest Dental Partners	Eric Sabo	Michael Stoker	Daniel Wiese
Marcus Theaters of La Crosse	Onalaska School District	Lindon E. Saline	Richard & Pam Strauss	Corinne Weis
Market & Johnson, Inc.- La Crosse Office	Marlis O'Brien	Karen Sandmire	Katherine Strong	Chris & Beth Weiss
Deborah Markos	Audrey Ortloff	Todd & Jennifer Saner	Dorothy Stuhr	James L. Welander
Karen Markwardt	Ronald Paczkowski	Marion A. Schaller	Brad & Lynn Sturm	Shawn & Mary Jo Werner
Russell Marsh	Pamela Padesky	Tom Schlesinger	Signe Susdorf	Western Technical College Foundation, Inc.
Patricia Marshall	Nick Passe	Dave Schlichte	Bruce Swanwick	Dan & Gerianne Wettstein
Sharon Martin	Daniel & Annette Paulus	Kathryn Schnitzius	Chris Swenson	Kathy Wewerka
Nancy Matchett	Lyle & Dee Peacock	Michelle Schreck	Heather Sysimaki	Raymond & Joyce Wichelt
Kimberly Mayer	Kimberley Pearson	Lisa Schreiner	Carol Taebel	Jodi Widuch
Barbara Sue McBride	Leticia Pena	Barb Schultz	John & Katherine Tafuri	Woodrow Wiedenhoef
Sandra McCormick	Pepsi Cola Bottling Company	Susan & Michael Schultz	Edward & Miriam Tanke	Bethany J. Wiege
Eileen McKenzie	Sue Peterson	Rebecca J. Schumacher	Glena G. Temple	Brad Williams
Tom & Lois Meinking	Pizza Doctors	Ronald & Barbara Secord	John-Peter & Joan Temple	Katie Wilson
Merchants Bank Onalaska	PM Sleep Center	Angela Seeger	The Insurance Center	Nancy Wilson
Ken & Janine Merkitch	Leanne Poellinger	Kathy Shaw	Geva Thole	Robin G. Wilson
Marie Merkitch	Poellinger, Inc.	Molly Shaw	Jeff & Sandy Thompson	Lisa M. Wolfe
Steve Michaels	Potato King, Inc	Leon & Pat Sheehan	Three Rivers Lodge	Xcel Energy Center
Midwest Family Broadcasting	Deb Prath-Schute	Jennifer Short	Melanie Timmerman	Jamie Zavoral-Brown
Annette Mikat	Debra Pringle	Jason & Kari Showen	Amanda Tischer	Belinda Zenk
Carl & Carlee Miller	Phil & Barb Quillin Quillins, Inc	Michael S. & Kelly Krieg Sigman	Braxton & Lexi Tonniges	Cindy L. Zenke
	Carol Ramsey	Paul & Nancy Sikorsky	Steven Tope	Kathy Zillmer
	Lee Rasch	Bruce & Mary Simones	Tostrud & Temp, SC	
	Ready Bus Lines of Wisconsin, Inc.	Dave & Barb Skogen	Travel Leaders, owned & operated by Golis Avenue of Travel	
		Jerry & Ruth Skroch	Connie Troyanek	
		Shelia Slayback	Deb Tucker	
		Tom & Judy Sleik		
		Carol Smith		

## Volunteer Survey!

Help us serve you and our community better! Take our brief online survey at <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/NP2MNRV>. Your answers will help us gain a better perspective of how you as volunteers feel our program is running. Your input will allow us to see what works well and how we can improve in areas such as volunteer placements, matching interests and areas of volunteering, programs, and services. Also, there will be a section to enter your email address, which allows us to send newsletters, volunteer opportunities and updates via email. Thank you for being a part of RSVP; we look forward to hearing your ideas to help us improve our program. If you have any questions with this process call Amanda at 608.785.0500.

*Thank  
you for  
being a  
friend of  
RSVP!*

# Your Support Welcome

Please consider helping RSVP with a tax-deductible donation.

RSVP is a 501(c)(3) non profit organization



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Yes, I would like to make a donation to RSVP in the amount of:

\$500     \$250     \$100     \$75     \$50     \$25     Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

This gift is IN MEMORY OF \_\_\_\_\_

This gift is IN HONOR OF \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to: Friends of Coulee Region RSVP  
2920 East Avenue South, Suit 104 La Crosse, WI 54601



Please cut and mail

# Please keep us Informed!

- I have a change of address or new phone number
- I know of a fellow volunteer who has moved, is sick, or has passed away
- I would like to start volunteering at a new station
- I know a non profit group that would like to become an RSVP station

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Information \_\_\_\_\_



Please cut and mail

# 2010 Calendar of Events

## Saturday, July 24th – Sunday July 25th

52nd Annual AAUW Art Fair on the Green at UW – La Crosse Campus starting at 10:00am, admission is \$4 per adult, free for children 12 and under. For information call 608.788.7439.

## Wednesday, September 8th

Annual Volunteer Recognition Banquet at the Radisson Hotel Downtown La Crosse at 3:00pm

## Wednesday, September 29th

Heritage Night at the La Crosse Center, Doors open at 4:30pm

## Thursday, November 18th

Handcraft Open House at the RSVP Office from 9:00am – 3:00pm

## December

Please remember to send in all 2010 volunteer hours so we can successfully complete our end of the year reports.



# Coulee Region RSVP, Inc.

2920 East Avenue South, Suite 104  
La Crosse, WI 54601



**Phone:** 608.785.0500  
**Toll Free:** 1.888.822.1295  
**Fax:** 608.785.2573  
**Email:** info@rsvplax.org  
**Website:** www.rsvplax.org

PRSR STD  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
DPC



## RSVP Staff

**Heather M. Harpenau**  
Office Manager/  
Volunteer Driver  
Coordinator  
hharpenu@rsvplax.org

**Julie J. Diermeier**  
Educational Volunteer  
Coordinator  
jdiermeier@rsvplax.org

**Amanda J. Tischer**  
Volunteer Coordinator  
atischer@rsvplax.org

**Lynnetta P. Kopp**  
Executive Director  
lpkopp@rsvplax.org



## *Friends of Coulee Region RSVP, Inc. Board of Directors*

**President**  
**Terry Collins, Attorney**  
Johns, Flaherty & Collins, SC

**Past President**  
**Sarah Havens**  
Director of Community and  
Preventative Care Services  
Gundersen Lutheran

**Vice President**  
**John Hamilton**  
Retired ~ Vice President  
Western Technical College

**Secretary**  
**Sister Fran Browning, FSPA**  
Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual  
Adoration

**Treasurer**  
**Herb French**  
Retired ~ Vice President  
Coulee Bank

**Robert Brudos**  
Retired ~ B&B Ceramics

**Beth Curtis –**  
Retired ~ Onalaska  
School District

**Loren Krueger**  
Retired ~ Trane Company

**Dottie Miller**  
Event Planner

**Lyle Peacock**  
Retired ~ Community  
Camera & TV

**Myrna “Dee” Peacock**  
Retired ~ Community  
Camera & TV

**Fran Pollard**  
Retired ~ CenturyTel  
Past Mayor ~ Tomah



*Printing Services donated by Dairyland Power Cooperative*