

RSVP

Lead With Experience

Inside this Issue

- Welcome Peter
- America Reads wrap-up
- Volunteer Opportunities
- Medicare and You
- Betty Christiansen
- Sandy's Fudge
- Day of Service

Welcome to our new
RSVP Volunteers!

Maureen Boyle
Hasu Dalwaldi
Jenny Greenwood
Keith Halloran
Carolyn Iborg
Barbara Leavy
Brian McDonagh
Tom Westheimer

Welcome to the
RSVP Volunteer
Program!

July 2013

From the Director's Desk

Greetings and Happy Summer!

In June, Suzette and I had the fortunate opportunity to attend the Points of Light's Conference on Volunteering and Service held in Washington, D.C. The conference theme was "Service Unites" and it was easy to see by the sheer volume of attendees - 5,000 people from 47 countries. There were politicians, corporate executives, innovative non-profit leaders and volunteers from all different walks of life and passions for causes across the gamut. It was a whirlwind three days packed full of inspirational speakers, workshops, events (and even a little sightseeing).

One of the most memorable speakers for me was Governor Chris Christie who vividly described the devastation of Superstorm Sandy and the amazing efforts of people coming together to assist with relief efforts. He emphasized that when people are suffering there should be no partisanship and that there was no way they could have dealt with it without volunteers from all over the country and the world.

For the most part, we are lucky to dodge disasters in our region. But they have occurred (for many the floods of 2005 and ice storm 2008 are still memorable) and it is essential for people to be prepared ahead of time to be the most resilient. RSVP is changing to meet our community's needs and to meet the new requirements under the Serve America Act, and one of the things we will be doing is working in the area of disaster services. With our partner agencies we will be recruiting and training volunteers to respond in a variety of roles locally and, possibly, throughout the country for those of you who have a sense of adventure.

I hope you will be as excited as we are about our new activities we are developing and invite you to unite with us in service to make positive, lasting change in people's lives. And yours too!

Have a safe and wonderful summer.

Best regards, Kathy

Welcome to Peter Moore– Program Coordinator



Welcome
Peter!

Welcome to Peter Moore, the newest member of the RSVP Team. His focus will be working with the Neighbors In Deed (NID) program, coordinating a new collaborative “Veterans Helping Veterans”, and working with Volunteers in the Western Hillsborough County area.

Peter spent over two decades as a Product Manager, Planner, and Corporate Sales Manager at EMS in Peterborough...and you can be sure he has a back room at home full of all the outdoor equipment he'll ever need! He has also worked for the Society for the Protection of NH Forests during a three year stint in their Concord Conservation Center, mostly in-the-field, in Outreach& Education and Business Membership Development. And, just to spice his career path up just a bit more, he worked in the natural products industry as a buyer and store manager, and as a Land-use Planner for the Town of Antrim.

He lives in Antrim with his wife, Schatze . He has been an active volunteer, serving on many of the municipal boards in town, including a term as selectman, community event committees, and as a fire fighter and EMT for 20 years. As he no longer responds to emergency tones, Schatze and Peter enjoy their spare time working on their old farmhouse, tending the gardens and landscape, performing timber-stand improvement and cord wood cutting in the back-40, and getting off the farm once in a while to hike the hills and mountains in and around our beautiful state whenever possible.

America Reads End of Year Wrap-up and Looking Ahead

Thanks to all the 70+ America Reads volunteers who participated at our 10 sites this year! The feedback from the teachers, principals and students was very positive. We conducted a year end survey with the teachers and they reported that 39% of students improved greatly and 63% improved somewhat over the course of the year. The main feedback, however, was how much they appreciate the time, talent and consideration the volunteers show to the students they work with each week.

Every teacher also requested the volunteer to return next year and work with them again. This is a tremendous tribute to the relationships that have formed over the past years.

America Reads will continue to expand in the coming years and Education has become our main focus area in recruiting and placing volunteers. We hope to expand our literacy program to include reading readiness with the five Headstart programs, and to add five new elementary schools in the coming three years.

Of course, all this means recruiting, training and placing more volunteers. If you know someone who would like to become a volunteer in America Reads, please let Suzette know. If you live in a town that currently does not have an American Reads program at the elementary school, it may be coming soon! And finally, here are some words that teachers used to describe the volunteers they work with: outstanding, dedicated, reliable, helpful, amazing. And some direct quotes from teachers—”She made a huge difference in the life of the student”, “The student’s love of reading increased so much”, “The students always look forward to Tuesday—the America Reads Volunteer is coming!”.

See all of you in the fall! We will be having a training for new volunteers in late September and a meeting for all new and returning volunteers in October. I'll keep you posted! *Suzette Borden, Coordinator*



Evelyn Fortune with her 1st grade students at Marlborough School.

**Thank you to our generous donors who contributed to our spring annual appeal!
We have raised almost \$1400 to date!**

Volunteer Opportunities for Everyone!

There are many volunteer opportunities for people of all ages in the Monadnock area. Please give us a call if you are interested in volunteering once a week, once a month or even once a year! We'd love to talk to you: In Keene 357-6893 and in Peterborough 924-7350.

Opportunities are available in:

Education – We are recruiting for the upcoming school session in our America Reads Program. We will be expanding to the Headstart programs. We also have opportunities to work with children outside the classroom on skills other than reading. If you like to tutor math, we have openings in this field also. Want to tutor an adult? Give us a call.

Healthy Futures – The Neighbors in Deed program is looking for volunteers to visit the elderly and help with transportation. We also have many elderly people who need small chores done on a one time basis.

Disaster Services – We will be working with the Red Cross and the Greater Monadnock Public Health Network to form a team of volunteers who are trained in disaster response to be ready if we need to open shelters, help with damage removal etc.

Veterans and Military Families – We will have a special day set aside to have Veterans help Veterans and their families. See the article below.

If you are looking for volunteers opportunities or special events other non-profits are conducting (and may need volunteers), please check our website at monadnockvolunteercenter.org.

Medicare and You

We will try to answer some questions you might have about Medicare in this column each newsletter. Submit your questions if you have any!

I want to visit my eye doctor for a routine checkup. Will Medicare pay for that?

Medicare generally does not cover routine eye care. It will pay for some eye care services if you have a chronic eye condition, such as cataracts or glaucoma. Medicare will cover:

- Surgical procedures to help repair the function of the eye
- Eyeglasses or contacts only if you have had cataract surgery during which an intraocular lens was placed into your eye
- An eye exam to diagnose potential vision problems.

If you have diabetes or you are a high risk for glaucoma, Medicare will pay for an eye exam once every 12 months to check for eye disease due to either condition. For more info call NH ServiceLink at 1-866-634-9412.

Betty Christiansen —America Reads Volunteer and Office Assistant

I love being an **America Reads** volunteer! I work with kindergarten students at Fuller School. What a joy it is to read with them. And how remarkable over the school year to see their reading skills improve and their confidence blossom. This year I also helped a student write her own story over several weeks. She took such pride in writing and illustrating her original mystery.

As the school year closes I tell students about the Summer Reading Program at the Keene Public Library. There are reading lists, family events, and fun activities to keep kids engaged in reading all summer long. I can't wait to return to kindergarten again next year! *Betty Christiansen*

(Betty is also a super volunteer at the RSVP office on Tuesday mornings!)

RSVP

Lead With Experience

Staff

Kathy Baird

Program Director
kbaird@mfs.org

Suzette Borden

Program Coordinator-Keene
sborden@mfs.org

Peter Moore

Program Coordinator-
Peterborough
pmoore@mfs.org

RSVP Offices

In Keene:

64 Main Street, Suite 212
Keene, NH 03431
Phone: (603)357-6893
Fax: (603)355-3833

In Peterborough:

9 Vose Farm Road, Suite 120
Peterborough, NH 03458
Phone: (603)924-7350
Fax: (603)924-4245



RSVP-Leading with Experience-Including experience in the Kitchen!

Sandy's Fudge

Looking for a easy delicious quick sweet to make? This is for you!

Ingredients

10 oz. package of peanut butter bits
6 oz. package of chocolate bits (any kind will do)
1 can sweetened condensed milk
1/2 stick butter (4 Tbs.)



Put all ingredients in bowl. Microwave on high for three minutes. Stir until blended. Pour into lines 9x13 pan. (If you want thicker fudge, use a 8x8 pan) Refrigerate overnight.



I will—find a fireman and thank him for his service.
I will—make food for my neighbors.
I will—help my elderly neighbor in their yard.
I will—be more patient.
I will—hug my mother. She's a great person.

WHAT WILL YOU DO?

Veterans Helping Veterans – National Day of Service - September 11, 2013

The Monadnock RSVP Volunteer Center, in conjunction with the National Day of Service on 9/11, is organizing a local effort to help veterans and their families that may need a hand-up around their homes as we near the fall and winter seasons.

Our goal in initiating this one-day service project event is two-fold:

To identify home-based projects that will enhance the living situation of veterans and/or their families, in need of such physical help around their home.

To recruit able-bodied veterans, 55 years of age and older, to work on such home projects in small teams.

Project ideas might include, but are not limited to:

Seasonal or maintenance-type landscape clean-up, cleaning windows and putting up storm windows and doors, minor home repairs, placing grab bars, or stacking cordwood for the winter. We are interested in other project ideas as well.

For further information please contact Peter Moore, program coordinator, at 283-1681 or 924-7350, or email him at pmoore@mfs.org. And, if you'd like, we'll can email you additional information about the day of service, and a volunteer application.