

RSVP Connections

Our Connection to the Community from Steuben County RSVP

"RSVP Volunteers Lead with Experience"

January 2012

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Phone- 664-2298

www.staubenconylrsvp

www.volunteermatch.org

Baby Boomers: A Great Asset

By Martha Pendino, RSVP Volunteer

Are you at least fifty-five years old? Do you have at least one hour a week to spare? Do you want to make a difference? The baby boomer generation is our greatest asset within our communities. We have years of knowledge and skills to bring to the table. Many of us, instead of retiring, are looking at what we are going to do with the rest of our lives which could result in decades of productivity. For those who have retired, once the novelty of not having to be anywhere at any given time has worn off, they start looking of things to do. Why not volunteer?

Steuben County RSVP pairs individuals with non-profit agencies and organizations in search of help. They take into consideration one's areas of interest, knowledge, and skills and arrange contacts. Currently there are 540 volunteers placed in 150 non-profit agencies within Steuben County.

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Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service

In 1994, Congress designated the Martin Luther King Jr. Federal Holiday as a national day of service and charged the Corporation for National and Community Service with leading this effort. Taking place each year on the third Monday in January, the MLK Day of Service is the only federal holiday observed as a national day of service – a "day on, not a day off". The MLK Day of Service is a part of United We Serve, the President's national call to service initiative. It calls for Americans from all walks of life to work together to provide solutions to our most pressing national problems. The MLK Day of Service empowers individuals, strengthens communities, bridges barriers, creates solutions to social problems, and moves us closer to Dr. King's vision of a "Beloved Community."



January 16, 2012 will mark the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. federal holiday. This milestone is a perfect opportunity for Americans to honor Dr. King's legacy through service.

Steuben County RSVP is working with Trust in the Lives of Older Women support groups to discuss community needs and provide services to meet those identified needs.

Do you have a project for MLK Day 2012? Register it online at <http://mlkday.gov/index.php>

These volunteers meet a critical community need and quite often a volunteer can remain within his or her own town or village.

But you don't have to be retired to join the volunteer movement. I am a Reading Buddy at the Wayland Cohocton Elementary School. I spend three hours a week with kids from grades 2-4 and we read for twenty minute blocks, one or two kids at a time. I work with the school and plan my reading day around my employment as a Respiratory Therapist at Ira Davenport Memorial hospital in Bath and at Thompson Health in Canandaigua, NY.

Working with WACO Elementary has been great. The staff is very cooperative and welcoming and the students are very well behaved. This school is the shining star of what can be accomplished with this program. My interactions are ones of accomplishment and caring. I arrive with a smile on my face and leave the same way. It is truly the highlight of my week.

The Reading Buddy program was put in place in our county in 2004. It was created as a response to the America Reads Challenge, a program instituted in 1996 by President Bill Clinton. Reading is such an essential skill that if children do not read well by the end of the third grade they fall far behind their peers in every aspect of their education. Because I love to read, love kids, and love books, becoming a Reading Buddy was a perfect match for me.



This is just one of the volunteer opportunities available. Currently Meals on Wheels is desperate for drivers in Hornell. This program is one of several that allow older people to remain in their own homes. Termed Aging in Place, it is what most of us want to do. I don't know of anyone who wants to go to a nursing home. By volunteering to deliver meals to the elderly we help them remain in the homes they love and enable them to retain some form of independence and self-sufficiency. All too soon we may find ourselves in a similar situation.

Too busy with your job? There are several companies, Corning Inc. being one, who allow their employees time during the day to volunteer in the community. Ask your Human Resources Department if this is an option for you. There are also companies that encourage staff to volunteer. Both hospitals that I work for do so and keep track of employee efforts.

Volunteering not only benefits others it also benefits the volunteers. It keeps us involved, it allows us to do meaningful work, and it provides us with socialization especially for the older volunteer who may tend to be isolated.

All too often people wait to be invited to volunteer. Please don't be one of them. Take the initiative and contact Steuben County RSVP. They are a resource to programs and opportunities many are not even aware of. I am sure there is one that is a perfect fit just for you. Contact Mary Dugo, Volunteer Coordinator, at 607-664-2298 or through her email at maryd@co.steuben.ny.us.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

DAY OF SERVICE

JANUARY 16TH

Make it a day on, rather than a day off! Develop one-day service projects that will engage and excite volunteers.

NATIONAL VOLUNTEER WEEK

APRIL 15TH THROUGH APRIL 21ST

It's not too early to start thinking about recognizing your wonderful volunteers! Stay tuned for more information from us. If you are planning a volunteer recognition event, please let us know your plans so we can also congratulate your volunteers.

TRUST IN THE LIVES OF OLDER WOMEN® FACILITATOR TRAINING

**CENTENARY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
BATH, NY**

APRIL 24TH 9:00 AM-4:00 PM

New Facilitators will be trained to lead Trust groups throughout the county. Trust in the Lives of Older Women® is a unique support program designed to assist older women in dealing with common issues they face in our aging society and pass their collective knowledge and wisdom to their fellow participants. Please contact [Kathy Burns](#) if you would like more information or if you would like to sponsor a Trust Group through your agency.

Looking Ahead- Save the Date!



In 2012, Reading with RSVP Week will coincide with Children's Book Week on May 7th through May 13th. This week is about volunteers and staff sharing the love of reading with people of all ages throughout Steuben County. In previous years, RSVP volunteers have read to residents of nursing homes, to elementary school students, and at after-school programs. If your agency would like volunteers to come share the joy of reading, please contact [Mary Dugo](#) by email or by phone at 664-2298.

*If I can help somebody as I pass
along, if I can cheer somebody
with a word or song, if I can show
somebody he's traveling wrong,
then my living will not be in vain.*

~ Dr. Martin Luther King

NEWS YOU CAN USE

What If A Volunteer Gets Hurt? We certainly hope that none of our volunteers get hurt, but accidents do happen! If an RSVP volunteer gets hurt while participating in their volunteer assignment, we are asking all partner agencies to insist that the volunteer complete an accident claim form **even if the volunteer says that they are not hurt**. You can get a claim form by contacting [Deanna Hibbard](mailto:Deanna.Hibbard@steubencony.org) by email or at 664-2298 or you can access the form on the internet at www.cimaworld.com. Please complete the form and forward to Deanna so we can submit it to the insurance company. Volunteers have 60 days from the time of the accident to see a doctor if problems occur.

Do You Know That Forms Are Available Online? Steuben County RSVP has most forms available for our partner agencies on our website at <http://steubencony.org/rsvp/partners.html>. Simply go to the bottom of this page, click on forms, and you will see job description forms, mileage reimbursement forms, applications for volunteers, etc. This is particularly helpful for you when you identify new volunteer needs. Fill out the form and email it to [Mary Dugo](mailto:Mary.Dugo@steubencony.org), and she can begin searching for new volunteers to meet your requests!

Happy New Year! Thank you to all our partner agencies for your continued support in 2011, and we look forward to working with you in the New Year. For those of you who do not know, Steuben RSVP is now on Facebook! Visit us and become our friend at <http://www.facebook.com/SteubenCountyRSVP>



Steuben County RSVP
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BULK RATE
US POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO.
00000

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Mailing Address
Street Number and Name
City, State 00000-0000



Steuben County



Michael Keane,
Director

Office For The Aging
...the new age of aging - working
together for innovative solutions™

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Community Partner