



RETIRED AND SENIOR VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

MONTGOMERY COUNTY, VIRGINIA

January 2022 Updates:

Dear Volunteer,

Happy New Year! Current reports show that through November of 2021 our 237 active volunteers provided 25,295 hours of their time and expertise to 46 of the 62 non-profit organizations and health care facilities that we serve in Montgomery County and Radford. The current hourly value of volunteer service in Virginia is \$29.14. Therefore, **\$713,069 worth of volunteer service** was provided to Montgomery County and the City of Radford. Needless to say, our volunteers continue to show up to serve others in need!

Your positive attitudes and support throughout 2021 kept our program strong! Thank you so much for continued backing of the RSVP program!

Below you will find updates and volunteer opportunities.

RSVP Updates:

Giving Tuesday Update

Thank you to everyone that chose RSVP for their charitable donation on Giving Tuesday and donated after the December newsletter was sent! We raised **\$1,710** towards the goals of our program!

P. Buckley Moss Raffle Update



Congratulations to Angela Little! Angela was the winner of our 2021 P. Buckley Moss Print Raffle. The raffle raised \$740 towards the RSVP Scholarship Program. Thank you to everyone that purchased a ticket!

Photo Credit: Sally Anna Stapleton

Holiday Tote Bags

We would like to recognize the following groups and RSVP volunteers for making our Holiday Tote Bag project for the residents of Kroontje Health Care Center a huge success: Montgomery County employees, Calvary United Methodist Church, Holy Spirit Catholic Church Young At Heart Adults, Retired Educators Association of Montgomery County, Brenda Arnold, Beverly Bridges, Sharon Brown, Annette Calhoun, Mary Carper, Sarah Carter, June Cox, Kai Duncan,

Phyllis Geoghegan, Rick Geoghegan, Ila Groseclose, Robbie Hall, Roberta Hall, Shirley Hallock, Regina Howard, Erma Jones, Rosemary Jones, Mary Lou Kellough, Pam King, Jan Marks, Shirley Mullins, Polly Myers, Linda Parah, Meg Peterson, Jolene Rawlings, Rich Rawlings, Marilyn Rio, Jill Songer, and Carol Trutt.



The Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) of Montgomery County and Radford delivered 110 Holiday Tote Bags to residents of Kroontje Health Care Center on Thursday, December 16, 2021 with the help of Santa and Mrs. Claus! The reception was incredible as these wonderfully filled totes were handed out individually to residents by Santa and his helpers. Santa and Mrs. Claus received a lot of grateful smiles as they visited with everyone.

A special thank you to Dennis Minnick (Santa), Cindy Minnick (Mrs. Claus), Montgomery County Supervisor Sherri Blevins, Montgomery County Human Services Director Tonia Winn, AmeriCorps Seniors Director Atalaya Sergi, and AmeriCorps Mid-Atlantic Regional Administrator Adrienne Nash Melendez for helping with the delivery! We also want to thank Montgomery County Administration, Craig Meadows, Angie Hill, and Brad St. Clair for their continued support of RSVP!

Toys for Tots



On Tuesday, December 14th RSVP held a drive-thru event to collect Toys for Tots. Twenty-two volunteers participated in the event and donated 72 toys. We also received \$50 in donations!

Thank you to everyone that contributed to this worthwhile program!



Advisory Council Meeting

The RSVP Advisory Council will hold its first meeting of the year on Thursday, January 13 at 11:30 am. A brief orientation will be held for new members directly before the meeting at 10:30 am. All Advisory Council meetings are held in the RSVP Activity Room unless otherwise posted. Meeting announcements will be emailed to members.

Advisory Council members who served during the 2020-2021 term and rotating off the council will be recognized with a gift in the mail. We would like to thank the following individuals for their dedication and support of our programs: Sarah

Carter, Cara DeAngelis formerly of New River Community Action, Shirley Hallock, Deborah Lovelace of New River Health District, Cindy Minnick of Meadowbrook Public Library, Karen Nelson of Warm Hearth Village, and Sally Anna Stapleton.

Welcome New Volunteers!

We would like to welcome the following seven new volunteers that enrolled with RSVP in 2021: Sally Barnett, Rosie Compton, Sharon Perdue, Helen Pitts, Mildred Rodriguez, Stephen Skripak, and Harriet Williams.

Overseas Coupon Program

A special thank you to our group of Overseas Coupon Program volunteers. We mailed **\$194,235** worth of manufacturers coupons to our adopted bases overseas in 2021!

Volunteer Opportunities:

Supplies for Seniors

Volunteers are needed for our 14th Annual Supplies for Seniors project in conjunction with the Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service initiative. Since 1994, thousands of Americans will remember Dr. King by providing service to their communities. This project will provide approximately 190 homebound seniors and veterans living in Montgomery County and the City of Radford with personal care items and basic household supplies.

If you would like to help bag the items, we will meet at the Christiansburg Recreation Center on Wednesday, January 19th from 10 am to 1 pm to prepare the bags. If the program is cancelled due to inclement weather, the event will be held on January 26th from 10 am to 1 pm. Please call RSVP at 382-5775 or email rsvp@montgomerycountyva.gov to sign up for this activity.

COVID safety guidelines set forth by the Christiansburg Recreation Center will be provided to volunteers that sign up to participate. RSVP will contact the volunteers with updated guidance once the list is confirmed.

The Salvation Army Soup Kitchen

The Salvation Army is losing its established Friday volunteer cook due to family responsibilities. A volunteer cook is **needed on Fridays**. All you need is a desire to cook and share recipes. The kitchen opens at 10 am, and meals are served at noon for one hour.

Here are three good reasons why helping out at the Salvation Army Soup Kitchen is a priceless gift for everyone:

- Feeling (and seeing) a frown turned upside down
- Service gives purpose
- Volunteering pays off in more ways than one

While there are many ways to volunteer and help others, very few opportunities allow gathering together to share a good meal. The Salvation Army Soup kitchens is a perfect spot to do both. In addition, the benefits you can give and receive will last far beyond mealtime. If you have questions or want more information about this volunteer opportunity, don't hesitate to contact the RSVP office.

Activity Updates: English Meadows and Kroontje Health Care Center

The **"Tea with RSVP"** event at English Meadows will be held on Wednesday, January 12 at 10 am due to our office being closed on the third Monday for the MLK holiday. In addition, the birthday party activity at Kroontje Health Care Center will resume for RSVP in February. Please call the office for more information.

Advisory Council Committees

Did you know that you don't have to be on the RSVP Advisory Council to join our Fundraising, Recognition, Marketing, Scholarship Review, and Supplies for Seniors committees? Job descriptions for each committee are available in the RSVP office. Please call the office if you would like more information.

Operation Paperback

Beginning in January, RSVP will have a tote located **inside our office labeled Book Drop Box**. Please use this box to drop off your gently-used paperback books. **Operation Paperback is not accepting romance novels or religious materials.**

We are pleased to continue this partnership with Warm Hearth Village to show America's military community that we appreciate their service!

Valentines for Veterans

We will once again participate in the nationwide Valentines for Vets program by making valentines for the patients at the VA Medical Center and the Virginia Veterans Care Center in Salem. **A craft day will be held at the RSVP office on Friday, February 4 from 10 am to 12 noon.** Materials will be provided. The deadline to turn in valentines to RSVP is Monday, February 7th.

Inclement Weather Policy



If Montgomery County Schools are closed, all scheduled RSVP activities will be cancelled. If schools are on a delayed schedule, regularly scheduled RSVP morning activities will be cancelled. For afternoon activities, a decision will be made by 12:00 noon, so volunteers should call the office to check on those activities. If you are signed up to help with a seasonal activity and schools are on a delayed schedule, please call RSVP.

Crafting with Christiansburg Library

Information for the January event is not available at this time. If you signed up for this activity in 2021, you will be contacted by email or phone when we receive more details about the craft day.

Volunteer Hour Sheets

You can submit volunteer hours by mail, email or by visiting <https://forms.montva.com/Forms/RSVP-hours>. If you use this link, your volunteer time will be emailed to RSVP staff. Please let me know if you would like an electronic copy of the hour sheet.

RSVP is accepting the following donations:


- Stamps for the Wounded – please leave at least a quarter-inch margin of paper around used postage stamps you tear off envelopes or packages.

- Gently-Used Paperback Books for Operation Paperback. **We now have a container for books inside the RSVP office.**
- Manufacturer's Coupons for the Overseas Coupon Program (can be used for 6 months after expiration date)
- Eyeglasses for the Lions Club
- Aluminum tabs for the Ronald McDonald House
- Bud vases for our annual Hugs and Buds program for Veterans

The following activities are scheduled in January and **we will be providing transportation for vaccinated volunteers.** Each facility has different COVID-19 regulations. Contact the office for more details.





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| • Feeding America – Sorting Food | January 5 | 1-4 pm |
| • English Meadows – Tea Party | January 12 | 10 am |
| • Virginia Veterans Care Center – Birthday Party | January 18 | 2:30 pm |
| • Noble Senior Living – Birthday Party | January 21 | 3 pm |

Volunteer Information:



**RETIRED AND SENIOR
VOLUNTEER PROGRAM**
MONTGOMERY COUNTY, VIRGINIA

210 S. PEPPER ST., SUITE D
CHRISTIANSBURG, VA 24073
382-5775
WWW.MONTGOMERYCOUNTYVA.GOV/RSVP
rsvp@montgomerycountyva.gov

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
 <p><i>"Wherever there is a human being, there is an opportunity for a kindness." - Seneca</i></p>						1 Happy New Year!
2	3	4	5 Feeding America Sorting 1 - 4 pm Leave RSVP @ 12 noon	6	7	8
9	10 Overseas Coupon Program/ Cards for Nursing Homes & Veterans	11	12 Tea Party with RSVP English Meadows Blacksburg 10 am	13 RSVP Advisory Council Meeting 11:30 am	14	15
16	17 MLK Day RSVP Office Closed	18 Virginia Veterans Care Center 2:30 pm Leave RSVP @ 1:30 pm	19 Supplies for Seniors 10 am	20	21 Noble Sr. Living Party 3 pm	22
23	24 Overseas Coupon Program/ Cards for Nursing Homes & Veterans	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					 <p>AmeriCorps Seniors</p> 

January Birthdays:

01 Glenda Lawrence
01 Diane Rencsok

04 Gayle Miller
04 Sally Zimmerman

08 Glenda Caldwell
12 Elizabeth Mason
14 Mary Carper
15 Mary Lou Kellough
16 Terri Lynn Howard
17 Mildred Rodriguez

20 Chub Flanary
23 Carol Kauffman
23 Angela Little
28 Dennis Naglic
31 Ron Brown



The **RSVP office will be closed** on January 17 in observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

Happy New Year from Mandy and Ava! We are grateful for volunteers like you, who make our work satisfying and enjoyable!

In service,

Mandy Hayes

RSVP Coordinator

