MESSAGE FROM THE PROGRAM MANAGER

Dear RSVP Volunteers,

I am excited to be appointed as the new Program Manager. I have enjoyed meeting many of you in the past five years. I am often inspired by the generous spirit displayed by RSVP volunteers.

Last year’s Social with Gratitude brought together like-minded volunteers to create cards for active and veteran military personnel. I am very happy that our program will continue to find ways to build our RSVP community. We will offer additional programs for staff and volunteers to build new relationships and see longtime friends.

You will see some of these events in this newsletter, and we will continue to plan new ways to recognize the generous gift that you give: your time.

On the next two pages, you will read about the 2018 Volunteers of the Year. Many nominations were awe inspiring. It was difficult to narrow the winners to two. Please know that we appreciate all the ways that you help.

We are very happy to help any of you if you find that you would like a new or additional volunteer role. And we encourage you to share our contact information with your friends. Many of our partner organizations need additional volunteers.

With appreciation,

Trista Johnson
Oakland County: Joan Cole

Joan Cole has been volunteering with RSVP since 2008. She volunteers at Open Door Outreach Center and has served more than 2,000 hours. Open Door is an organization that assists people who are in economic crisis and struggling with basic needs like food and clothing. Open Door has an on-site food pantry and thrift store and assists with housing and employment. Each year they feed over 8,000 hungry individuals and provide over $30,000 in clothing vouchers for their thrift store. With only five part-time staff, Open Door relies heavily on volunteers.

Joan serves at Open Door once a week as a receptionist. In this role, Joan is responsible for greeting the people who call or come in to Open Door. These individuals are often in crisis, and Joan is their first person of contact and the face of Open Door. In addition to reception duties, Joan coordinates the schedules of nearly 200 volunteers to make sure the reception desk is covered each day. She trains new volunteers and steps in to sub when other receptionists are not available.

Karen Myers, Executive Director of Open Door, states, “Joan is capable, compassionate, and joyful in her work. She always has a smile and encouragement for our clients and is a joy to work with. I never worry if we are staffed as Joan gets the work done. She finds and trains subs and schedules reception very well. She holds herself to the same dedication and accountability as paid staff.”

Joan was not able to attend the recognition luncheon, but Karen presented her with the Volunteer of the Year award and gift on her next day back at Open Door. Upon finding out that she would be receiving the award, Joan stated humbly, “I love so much the outreach I am privileged to do and the fact that the efforts are appreciated. It is truly a joy to me to give back to my community. I hope to continue encouraging the involvement of our seniors to volunteer and enhance their own lives through the love of others.”
Macomb County: Glenn Sloan

Glenn Sloan has been volunteering at an elementary school helping students in a Science-Technology-Engineering and Math program. He is a retired engineer. He makes sure each group of second, third and fourth graders gets assistance when needed, and he ensures that they are following the “Engineering Design Process.” He makes sure that they all understand the challenge at hand.

He even purchased materials to help students become successful in their challenges. According to his teacher supervisor, Karin Jaberoo, the students loved when he helped them. “He has built a positive rapport with my students. They were eager to share what they learned and were always getting advice from him. He really took the time to get to know the students, and with his knowledge they were able to be successful.”

Glenn has been volunteering at Holden Elementary School for eight years and has donated more than 800 hours of his time. Glenn also volunteered working with 5th grade students to prepare for a JetToy competition at Cobo Hall.

Glenn attended the recognition luncheon in October where he received this award and the applause of the 130 volunteers in attendance. Glenn shared, “I was blown away when you announced me as the RSVP Volunteer of the Year. It is a real honor; there are so many great volunteers in the organization that this award has a special place in my heart.”

His wife, Cindy, is an RSVP member as well. She volunteers in a different classroom at the same school.
Welcome New Volunteers!

- Linda Banfield – Lighthouse
- Ingrid Brown – Lighthouse
- Shirley Durak – RSVP Clerical
- Ruth Emerick – Independence Township Senior Center
- Maggie Fisher – Hispanic Outreach
- Michael Gaudiello – Highland Activity Center
- Edna Green – Highland Activity Center
- Paula Heisler – Lighthouse
- Megan Kopaki – Highland Activity Center
- Aileen Koziol – Hispanic Outreach
- Debbie Mancino – Independence Township Senior Center
- Radoslava Meniak – Independence Township Senior Center
- Sofia Nakis – Independence Township Senior Center
- Denise Poznanski – Lighthouse
- Denise Prock – Detroit Zoo
- Lois Reithel – Project Help
- Barbara Schmitt – Project Help
- Delores Shedlowsky – Independence Township Senior Center
- Judith Wallace – Open Door
- Paul Yackley – Highland Activity Center
- Virginia Watson – Clinton Twp. Senior Center
- Julie Yamin – Interfaith Volunteer Caregivers
- Frances Davis – Sews & Sews
- Becky Piatek - Clinton Twp. Senior Center
- Sandra Littles – McKinley Elementary
- Sharon Hoste – Jonas Salk Elementary
- Becky Holden - Clinton Twp. Senior Center
- Karen Layman – Henry Ford Hospital
- Caterina Delia – Head Start of Macomb County

Timesheets

Timesheets and hours are due to the RSVP office by the 5th of the month and can be sent by mail, fax, email or phone. **Please note:** timesheets now require the volunteer and site supervisor (when applicable) to include the date next to their signatures. If you have any questions with this change, please contact RSVP staff.

Oakland County Volunteers

**Megan Bollinger**, Program Coordinator
Phone: 248-537-3300 ext. 3957
Fax: 248-537-3306
Email: bollingerm@ccsem.org

Macomb County Volunteers

Trista Johnson, Program Manager
Phone: 248-537-3300 ext. 3941
Fax: 248-537-3306
Email: johnsont@ccsem.org

MAILING ADDRESS: 3300 S. Adams Rd., Auburn Hills, MI 48326
St. John/Ascension Oakland-Macomb Hospital has locations in Warren and Madison Heights. Ascension has a variety of opportunities available. They are currently most in need of people to work in the gift shop, at the information desk, and in the pet therapy program. For the pet therapy program, Ascension has a hospital therapy dog on site, so volunteers do not need to have their own certified therapy dog.

Stevenson Elementary in Southfield has a tutoring program where volunteers work with a specific teacher and classroom assisting children who need extra help in a subject area. Volunteers are able to pick which subject they would like, but the biggest need is in math. Stevenson is also open to volunteers helping in other areas such as mentoring children or helping at special events and parties. RSVP places volunteers at many schools around Oakland and Macomb Counties.

Meals on Wheels delivers hot meals to adults in need of food and/or someone to check in on them. The need for drivers is so high that this program no longer requires a weekly commitment. Drivers work for 1-1 ½ hours around lunch time delivering meals to approximately 12 meals on a route. The greatest need in Macomb County is in Sterling Heights, Utica, Romeo, New Haven, and Warren. Drivers are needed in many communities in Oakland County as well.

American Red Cross welcomes RSVP volunteers who report that the best thing about being a blood drive volunteer is not having a set schedule and the camaraderie with other Red Cross volunteers. You may choose which upcoming blood drives fit your schedule and are within the distance that you would like to drive. For an average blood drive, volunteers bring a lunch and stay 6 hours. Activities include assisting with registration and delivering juice and cookies to those who donated. Volunteers are needed throughout metro Detroit.

For further information of any of these opportunities or any new volunteer placements, please contact Megan Bollinger for OAKLAND at 248-537-3300 ext. 3957 or email bollingerm@ccsem.org or Trista Johnson for MACOMB at 248-537-3300 ext. 3941 or johnsont@ccsem.org.
RSVP timesheets are changing.

Your new timesheets are enclosed. Here’s what you need to know:

- A box for notes is at the top of the timesheet. That area will be used to share data with us about how many people you helped that month. We will give you further details depending on your activity. For example, a hospital volunteer could estimate how many patients or families they helped.

- All volunteers are now eligible for mileage reimbursement. To begin reimbursement, you would need to request the necessary form from RSVP staff as well as complete and return it with your direct deposit information.

- To qualify, your timesheet MUST be signed by both you and your supervisor at your location and forwarded to our office by the 5th of each month.

- You would be reimbursed at 45 cents per mile for driving from your home to the location where you volunteer. You may also be reimbursed for driving that you do while serving as a volunteer.

- $25 is the current maximum amount you may be reimbursed each month. If you use a bus service, you can also be reimbursed for the expense. Please contact RSVP for details.

Join Us for a Therapeutic Massage
A Little Pampering for RSVP Volunteers

As another way to thank you, RSVP is happy to offer 15-minute chair massages. Please call to reserve a time. Limited number of spaces available.

Wednesday, March 6, 10:30 am – 3:30 pm
Novi Public Library
45255 W 10 Mile Rd, Novi

Wednesday, March 13, 10:30 am – 3:30 pm
VFW 6250, Sign reads Pilot Property
44400 Van Dyke Ave., Sterling Heights

RSVP to Megan Bollinger:
248-537-3300 ext. 3957 or bollingerm@ccsem.org
RSVP Baby Shower
to benefit Project Hope
Friday, March 22, 2019

All RSVP volunteers are invited for a free luncheon.
Please bring an unwrapped donation
to benefit area families in need.

Project Hope is sponsored by Catholic Charities of Southeast
Michigan. This program provides counseling, parenting education, referrals to resources and needed items for infant care. Expectant mothers and families with infants can receive free support and baby care supplies. Most needed items include:

- Diapers size newborn, 3, 4, 5 and 6
- Baby clothing sizes 0, 12, 18 and 24 months
- Diaper cream
- Baby wipes, baby shampoo and lotions, bottles, baby towels and wash cloths
- Gift cards to buy what they need the most at the time

LOCATION:
St. George Cultural Center
43816 Woodward Ave, Bloomfield Hills, MI 48302
On the east side of Woodward between Square Lake Rd and South Blvd

TIME:
11:00 am – 2:00 pm
Doors open at 10:30 am

RSVP by March 8 to Megan Bollinger:
248-537-3300 ext. 3957 or bollingerm@ccsem.org

For those who cannot attend, we will collect donations
at other Catholic Charities locations:

Wednesday, March 27, 10:00 am – noon
1424 East 11 Mile Rd, Royal Oak

Monday, April 1, 10:00 am – noon
76 Williams, Pontiac

Monday, April 8, 10:00 am – noon
15945 Canal Rd, Clinton Twp.
RSVP’s 33rd annual Recognition Luncheon at Petruzello’s

Last October, with 125 RSVP members from Oakland and Macomb counties as well as many station supervisors, this luncheon had the largest attendance in several years. It was a wonderful afternoon filled with a delicious lunch, visiting with friends, inspirational speeches, and prizes.

RSVP members do so much good in their communities, and this luncheon is a great way for us all to come together and recognize your hard work and accomplishments.

The 2018 RSVP Volunteers of the Year Joan Cole with Open Door Outreach and Glenn Sloan with Holden Elementary were honored for their dedicated service.
Meet Megan Bollinger, RSVP Coordinator

Megan Bollinger joined RSVP as the program coordinator for Oakland County in August 2018. Prior to RSVP, Megan spent two years working with volunteers in a mentoring program for children and teens in foster care.

Megan says, “I love working with volunteers because it allows me to see not only the great impact they have on the individuals and agencies they serve but also the benefits they derive through their volunteer work. Volunteering gives people a sense of purpose, gratification, and community while also greatly improving lives and organizations. I feel fortunate to work with so many caring people who are doing such good work for a variety of causes. Whether stocking at a food pantry, greeting people at a hospital, leading tours at the zoo, or tutoring at an elementary school, RSVP volunteers really are making a difference in their community.”

Outside of work, Megan enjoys reading, swimming laps at the gym, and playing with her pets. She also loves volunteering and has served at Sandcastles, a children’s grief support program, as well as Head Start and an animal shelter.

Maureen Alexander: Photo Contest Winner

Maureen Alexander was selected as the winner of the RSVP photo contest. Maureen volunteers two hours nearly every weekday for Meals on Wheels. Her time helps meals to be distributed throughout Romeo, Washington and Bruce Townships. She also helps around the senior center by watering plants, setting up Birthday parties, and is a member of the embroidery club making beautiful gifts for donation. She has been volunteering for 18 years!

Thanks to Maureen for volunteering your time and sending in your photo to help us tell the story of the many ways that RSVP volunteers help in their community.

If you would like to help us share the story of the volunteer experience, please forward your photo (or short note about what volunteering means to you) to RSVP staff. Thanks to Maureen for her continued efforts.
RSVP volunteer donations are appreciated!

We receive various notices thanking RSVP volunteers for their donations. Handcrafted items were received and appreciated by clients at:

- St. John/Ascension Hospitals
- Presbyterian Villages Senior Living
- Open Door Outreach Center
- Adult Day Health Services
- Detroit and Ann Arbor Veterans Hospitals
- Bussey Center for Early Childhood Education
- Macomb County DHHS Warm-Up Program

November 26, 2018

Catholic Charities of SE Michigan
3300 S Adams Road
Auburn Hills MI 48326

Dear Staff/Members of Catholic Charities of SE Michigan:

Thank you for your generous donation of cards for care packages. We are honored that you chose our organization as your partner to show support for our troops. Your generosity is greatly appreciated.

Military Missions, Inc. is a 501c3 nonprofit charity which is staffed entirely by volunteers and 100% donation-funded. Our organization reaches Beyond the Yellow Ribbon in our community! As our military personnel serve, providing protection and safety for all of us, we work to give something back to our troops and veterans.

Military Missions, Inc. exists to support and honor deployed military personnel by sending care packages year-round as an expression of appreciation and gratitude. Packages are sent out to individuals as well as deployed military units. Our goal is to provide a touch of home during long deployments. Your donations make it possible to send these care packages.

Support also extends to our veteran community. Military Missions, Inc. is honored to work alongside other organizations in the community to support those who have served to keep our nation free.

On behalf of the heroes who will be touched by your gift, we are grateful. Thank you for partnering with Military Missions, Inc. to support and encourage those that ensure freedoms known only to Americans.

Sincerely,

Linda Cummins
Military Missions, Inc.

www.military-missions.org  859-221-9477  info@military-missions.org
Military Missions, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) Nonprofit Public Charity

This letter can be used as a taxable donation receipt.
Retired & Senior Volunteer Program of Oakland – Macomb
A program of Catholic Charities of Southeast Michigan

Providing Help. Giving Hope.
www.ccsem.org

3300 S. Adams Rd., Auburn Hills, MI 48326 Phone: 248-537-3300 Fax: 248-537-3306

RSVP Staff
Trista Johnson, Program Manager, 248-537-3300 ext. 3941, johnsont@ccsem.org
Megan Bollinger, Program Coordinator, 248-537-3300 ext. 3957, bollingerm@ccsem.org

The Retired & Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP), sponsored by Catholic Charities of Southeast Michigan, is funded by the Corporation for National & Community Service, the Michigan Aging & Adult Services Agency as well as financial support from the community.

Recycle this newsletter, or promote volunteering and service by sharing it with family, friends, neighbors, social groups and church. Thank you!