

VOLUNTEER VIEWS

FALL, 2010

Director's Corner

Three Ways YOU can help RSVP!



Karen Bennett-Director

1. **Share the joys of volunteering with your friends and acquaintances who are not members of RSVP!** Refer names and contact information to this office. For every name submitted, you will receive a chance to receive a surprise gift or gift certificate of your choice. Most members join RSVP by word of mouth, so we are depending on you to share the word.

2. Are you a “crafter”? **If you are willing to donate what you make with this program, we can market it and share the profits.** Your items can be displayed at community events, on our website, and at the recognition celebration. Start stockpiling your works for the holiday season to come, or non-holiday themed items for general events. Ideas include framed photographs, jewelry, flower arrangements, pottery, whatever you do! Proceeds help defray RSVP programmatic costs.



3. RSVP is always looking for “stories.” **We would love to hear about your volunteer experiences.** You can be the next featured volunteer in *Volunteer Views*! You needn't write anything extensive, but we are looking for stories that portray how what you do enhances your life, or the lives of others.



Please contact this office at 609-894-9311 x 1499 or email me at kbennett@bcc.edu for information or details on any of these three ideas. We are looking forward to hearing from YOU!

A Program of Interest to Burlington County residents who are Medicare eligible! – Anna Larotonda, MIPPA Coordinator

We at RSVP thank you for all of your volunteer efforts this year.

Do you know that more Medicare beneficiaries will qualify for “Extra Help” with their prescription drug costs this year? Thanks to recent benefit changes to Medicare, beneficiaries may be eligible to pay no more than \$2.50 for generic drugs and \$6.30 for each brand name drug on the Low-Income Subsidy Program (also known as LIS or “Extra Help”).

Changes in the Medicare law allow extra income by no longer counting life insurance policies as a resource. Financial help received from family and friends to pay for household expenses like food, mortgage, rent and utilities will also no longer count as income.

This umbrella of benefits is called the Medicare Savings Program. It covers prescription drug coverage premiums, co-payments and deductibles. To qualify, Medicare beneficiaries' incomes must be less than \$16,245 a year (or \$21,855 for married couples) and have resources limited to \$12,510 (or \$25,010 for married couples). Resources include bank accounts,

stocks, and bonds, but do not include houses, cars, or life insurance policies. For application assistance or should you have any questions, low-income Medicare beneficiaries should contact the **RSVP program of Burlington County at 609-894-9311, X 1494**, for an application. Telephone assistance from a State Health Insurance Program counselor is available free of charge.



**NEWS
FLASH!**
VOLUNTEER VIEWS

Thanks to Louise Kostrub for her suggestion toward the newsletter title!!

Spotlight on Stations–

Vincent Russo & Dorothy Cebula

The Tender

The Tender has been providing care to frail seniors and persons with Alzheimer’s disease/dementia in Burlington County, NJ since 1977. Over the past 30+ years, the population has grown from a small group of frail seniors looking for socialization to a large group of people with dementia.

It is estimated that more than 10,000 people who live in Burlington County are affected by Alzheimer’s disease. The majority of the Day Center clients live with a family member and most live with adult children and grandchildren. This multigenerational living situation is stressful, and can become overwhelming.

The Tender not only provides a safe, caring place for the client but also a window of time free from worry for the caregiver. The name, “The Tender”, refers to the small boat (a tender) that ferries passengers from the shore to the

waiting ship, a gentle metaphor for the journey of aging.

In 2001, a volunteer based transportation program **Drive People Happy** was added to provide rides for homebound seniors to medical appointments and grocery shopping. All of the transportation clients are frail, elderly and essentially alone.

Mrs. Eleanor Gitto is an RSVP member who volunteers in the “Drive People Happy” program. She finds this a personally rewarding experience because she sees the service allows many people the ability to remain in the homes independently. She usually drives clients to doctors’ appointments and gives them the benefit of knowing that their driver will be waiting for them when the appointment has concluded. Mrs. Gitto appreciates the web-based system for scheduling and enjoys the opportunity to help others in her community.

Adult Day Center volunteers assist with games, crafts and lunch. Center volunteers are asked to commit to a regular schedule so that clients can see the same faces each week.

The newest program is **CARES**, Compassion Access Respite Education Support, offers information and support for people caring for loved ones with dementia. Services include a monthly support group, library, newsletter and an online Q&A page.

One of the greatest rewards of volunteering is knowing that you have made another person happy, and have provided a much needed service that will make a crucial difference in another person’s life.

The Tender has volunteer opportunities for people with a lot of time to give and those with just a few hours per week or month. Individual volunteers select assignments through a website list of needed times and activities. **For more information about how RSVP members can become involved with The Tender, contact RSVP at 609-894-9311 X1499 or email dfascend@bcc.edu.**

Impact in Action



2010 Citizen Service Awards

The Corporation for National and Community Service reported that on August 4th, 13 volunteers were presented with the Presidential Citizen's Medal, the second highest civilian honor for exemplary acts of community service. Recipients are reminders of the impact individuals can have on their community:

- a Chicago nurse and childcare professional who opened a live-in resource center to mentor hundreds of pregnant teenagers
- a school bus driver who delivers hot meals and coffee to New York City's homeless daily;
- a paralyzed woman who founded Kids' Food Basket, which provides meals to thousands of needy children in Michigan.

These volunteers join more than 63 million Americans who commit their time and talents to transform lives and communities.

Immediate Volunteer Opportunities!



National Day of Service

Get started making a difference on 9/11 this year by

exploring these two charitable causes that need your help:

- **Buttonwood Nursing Home**
assist in running activities like Bingo
- **Juvenile Detention Center**
paint the curb stones, clean out some storage units, and possibly paint a mural.

Please call 609 894-9311 x 1499 for more information.

Photo Spot

Mr. John Kerrigan and Mrs. Linda Frank were recognized for their combined 45 years of services as RSVP Volunteers by Director Karen Bennett at the 40th



Anniversary RSVP Recognition Brunch and Information Fair held on Tuesday May 25th at the BCC Mount Holly Center.

Martin Luther King Day of Service



January 17, 2011

Martin Luther King, Jr. said, "Life's most persistent and urgent question is: what are you doing for others?" Each year, the Corporation for National and Community Service honors Dr. King's legacy by asking Americans to make the King Holiday a national day of service.

Should you or your non-profit like to organize a one-day event, utilizing volunteers, please contact the RSVP office, at 609-894-9311 X1499 by Friday, October 1st. RSVP will be partnering with local not-for-profits and can help publicize your needs. <http://www.mlkday.gov/>



Senior Corps Week

September 20-24, 2010

WANT TO LEARN MORE ABOUT RSVP? Mail this form to Karen Bennett, RSVP Director
Burlington County College

601 Pemberton Browns Mills Road

Pemberton, NJ 08068

email kbennett@bcc.edu or phone 609 894-9311 Ext. 1499.

Yes, I am interested in

Becoming an RSVP volunteer.

Obtaining further information RSVP.

Involving my organization in the RSVP program.

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

RSVP- Burlington County College
601 Pemberton Browns Mills Road
Pemberton, NJ 08068

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