



RSVP BULLETIN

Fall/Winter 2005-2006

*The Retired and Senior Volunteer Program of
S.W.CT.*

www.rsvpswct.org

COMMUNITIES SERVED

Darien
Greenwich
New Canaan
Norwalk
Stamford
Weston
Westport
Wilton

Message From the Director, Teri Klein

Welcome Back Everyone from the Summer. We are all looking forward to a busy and productive new year.

Funding

A special thanks to three of our funding sources: The State Department of Social Services, The Town of Wilton and the United Way of Norwalk & Wilton who have funded us for the coming year. We have also received a grant from WalMart to purchase wool for our volunteers who are knitting beautiful hats, mittens, scarves and blankets for the children in need in SW CT.

Mailing Teams

Our mailing teams are already very busy responding to calls for their assistance. A special thanks to the over thirty volunteers who assisted with the Mailing for the United Way of Norwalk and Wilton and to Madeline Bollmann for organizing this activity.

RSVP Advisory Council

Welcome to two new members:

Susanne Lebrija, Special Services Social Worker for the Department of Human Services Westport. Susanne also serves as an Interpreter, Screener and Bilingual Translator for Americares Free Clinic in Norwalk. Prior to coming to this area she Co-founded and served as president of a medical clinic in Mexico, which provided basic healthcare, education, clothing, and food to the large local population in need.

Sally Grose, Sally's many activities include: Board Secretary for the Norwalk Children's Foundation, Chair of the Education Committee of the NEON Board and Representative to the Policy Council of Head Start. She is a member of Norwalk Acts, the Planning Team of the After School Alliance and Liaison to the After School Achievement Program. She is also a member of the Norwalk Human Relations Commission, the Urban youth Coalition Against Violence and the Norwalk Housing Authority Academy Planning Committee. Sally was formerly Social Studies Department Chair and principal in the Westport School District.

New Cultural, History and Heritage opportunities

We have some brand new opportunities in various museums. If you are interested in history and would like to be a docent or a museum guide please check out these opportunities.

Lockwood Matthews Mansion Museum, Norwalk

Volunteer in the Victorian Gift Shop, welcome visitors or be a guide for the museum. Help is also needed for special events. Hours are flexible. Training and mentoring is available.

Stepping Stones Museum, Norwalk

Assist museum visitors in different functions. Includes clerical work, Volunteer Docents, assisting in the Resource Center and leading art and science based activities. Help is also needed for special events. Training is provided for all new volunteers. Flexible schedules

Norwalk Museum

Volunteers are needed to help and guide visitors. Wednesday through Sunday, 1-5 pm. Orientation and free parking is available for volunteers.

Bush-Holley Historic Site, Greenwich

Be a "Visitor Center volunteer", greet visitors, distribute information about the museum, and complete sales transactions. Must commit at least one day per week. Or be a "Volunteer Docent" for the school programs, assist with school tours. Initial and ongoing training is provided.

New Canaan Historical Society

Be a Docent for their Early American Life (Colonial) program. Docents give hands-on presentations on different aspects of early American life to schoolchildren in four areas of the museum. Costumes, materials and training are provided.

New Canaan Nature Center

If you are interested in working with nature the New Canaan Nature Center has a variety of opportunities from assisting with animal care, to administrative work to working in their greenhouse and many more. Help is also needed for special events.

New Volunteer Opportunities

American Cancer Society - Road to Recovery Program

As part of the Norwalk's Mayor Crusade against cancer volunteers are needed to donate their time to transport cancer patients to and from their treatment appointments in Norwalk. Scheduling is flexible. Training and additional insurance is provided.

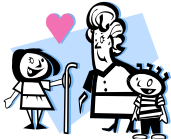


Knitters- are also needed to create 'healing shawls' for cancer patients. Patterns are available.

Norwalk Reads! Help is needed with book sorting, book distributions and reading to children at the headquarters in the King Kennedy Literacy Center.

PAWS (Pet Animal Welfare Society) Norwalk Receptionist needed weekdays. Answer phones and greet guests. Flexible schedule. Training is provided. Additional opportunities also available for anyone who loves pets.

Ongoing Volunteer Opportunities



Partnership in Reading

'Reading Consultants' provide one-on-one reading time in local schools, after school programs and libraries. Volunteers must be available to come in at least once a week; training is provided.

Darien Welcome Center

Volunteer as a 'Travel Counselor' at the Darien Welcome Center. Provide information and hospitality services to travelers and promote tourist attractions in Connecticut. Travel assistance varies from simple travel questions to computer searches. Training is provided as well as day trips to places of interest and events in CT. A generous mileage reimbursement is offered.



Norwalk Tree Alliance

Help inventory Norwalk's City trees. Learn how to identify and categorize trees. Gather data to assist the city establish a tree management program. You may help identify notable and memorable trees and appropriate sites for "Norwalk City Free Tree Program." Training provided.

Mailing teams

Fill envelopes, label and other clerical duties for community organizations.

Knitting teams

Knit scarves, hats, blankets to be distributed to children in need in the community.

Friendly Connections

Become a friendly caller and chat one-on-one with a senior. Phone call will help a homebound senior stay involved. Share interests or teach a class via telephone network contacts. Hours are flexible. May volunteer from home.



Friendly Shopper/Visitor

Assist homebound elderly with a friendly visit or by grocery shopping in Stamford.

Silver Hill Hospital

Different opportunities available in New Canaan. From office work, to flower arranging to assisting in the gift shop. Opportunities are tailored to the volunteer interests. Orientation and training is provided.

Norwalk Town Hall

Greet and assist residents of Norwalk.

Nursing & Home Care (Mid-Fairfield Hospice)

Training is available to be a Peer Counselor or a Hospice Patient Care Volunteer. Office assistance is also needed. Wilton.

American Red Cross

➤ Mid-Fairfield County Chapter – Volunteers are needed to help with the blood drives, staff the canteen, help with registration, escort donors, etc. Special Event volunteers are also needed on a short-term basis.



➤ Greenwich Chapter - Volunteers are needed in all areas of services, from disaster services to transportation to special events. Training is provided.

Norwalk Senior Center

Meals On Wheels Driver; assisting in the SeniorNet Computer Learning Center; and professionals who are “handy” can help with the “Fix it Program”.

If you are interested in any of these opportunities please call us at 203 899 2443. Thanks!

Emergency Preparedness Checklist

We have available in our office a brochure entitled “Emergency Preparedness Checklist” prepared by the American Red Cross and FEMA. In the wake of Hurricane Katrina, Hurricane Rita and the upcoming winter months we must be prepared for any type of disaster. If you are interested in receiving one of the brochures please give the office a call and we will mail you one.

RSVP Staff

Teri Klein, Director
Madeline Bollmann, Secretary
Caterina Sullivan, Outreach Coordinator
Del Overby, Wilton Coordinator

Volunteers are not paid not because they are worthless but because they are priceless



Senior Services Coordinating Council- Norwalk

Medicare Part D-A New Medicare Prescription Drug Benefit

Medicare will start a new program (Medicare Part D) for prescription drug coverage on January 1, 2006. Anyone who has Medicare Part A or Part B is eligible. Although this coverage is optional, you must enroll for coverage. If you decide to enroll, you will be asked to select a drug plan which will provide you with your medications.

For assistance in understanding the Medicare Part D coverage and deciding whether it is right for you call Senior Services at **846-6992 or 847-2830** to schedule an appointment with a Medicare counselor. We will assist you in choosing and enrolling in a drug plan at your request.

Energy Assistance Programs

The filing period for the 2005-2006 Connecticut Energy Assistance Program will be October 17, 2005- April 13, 2006. The income eligibility for age 60 and over or disabled is \$19, \$140.00 for single applicants and \$25,660.00 for 2 person households; liquid asset limits are: \$10,000 for homeowners or \$7,000 for other households. The Senior Services office is assisting N.E.O.N. as an application site for this program. Call: **846-6992 or 847-2830** for more information and appointments.

The Retired and Senior Volunteer Program
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