



RSVP BULLETIN

Fall 2008

Lead With Experience

www.rsvpswct.org

COMMUNITIES SERVED

Darien
Greenwich
New Canaan
Norwalk
Stamford
Weston
Westport
Wilton



Message from the Director, Teri Klein

Greetings to all our volunteers, agencies and programs. We are fortunate to have so many caring, dynamic people working with us!

We are making a difference. This past year, 316 active volunteers working with 53 community agencies provided over 42 thousand hours of service activities ranging from medical transportation for seniors, to enrichment activities for children.

Many thanks to everyone, our sponsor, funding sources and you, our volunteers, for the meaningful contributions you are making to our community.

We always need more talent and there are opportunities for everyone. A skill you may take for granted may fill an important need for someone else. Please check our many ongoing and new activities. If you have additional suggestions for a particular interest of yours, let us know and we will put your experience to work.

A Special Welcome to our new Outreach Coordinator

Nancy Hughes Pratt grew up in Norwalk. She attended local schools: Honeyhill Elementary, West Rocks Junior High, and Norwalk High School. Upon graduation from Springfield College, Nancy spent many years working with people with disabilities, including work as a Job Placement Specialist at the Stamford Rehabilitation Center (formerly Easter Seal). Nancy currently resides in Norwalk with her husband and two teenage children. She is active with her local alumni group and her church, where she serves on the Vestry, Altar Guild and Women's Group. Her family has been active in Norwalk for generations.

Nancy states "I am excited to be a part of RSVP. I'm impressed with the many types of activities being done by our RSVP volunteers in the community and plan to encourage more people to become involved."

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Here are just some of the volunteer needs we are looking to fill:

Tutors Needed!



Norwalk Community College's *College Pathways Program* is designed to support and motivate high school students who want to be the first in their family to earn a college degree. Tutors are needed at area high schools during the school year.

Tutors are also needed for the after-school program located at NCC.

Read to Children/Distribute Books



Read to preschool or elementary age children. Help them develop a love of reading to build a strong foundation for success in school. Assist with Norwalk citywide Book Distribution on November 1st.

Mentor a Child



Meet weekly with a child, age 6 to 14, in need of a positive role model. Support this child in trying new activities and encourage him/her to explore new interests.

Travel Counselors



Provide tourism counseling and hospitality to travelers. You will be trained to answer travelers' questions, assist, advise and encourage them to discover CT's landmarks and breathtaking scenery.

Share your hobbies, interests and talents!



Lead a discussion with a group of senior citizens, either in person or over the telephone. Share your talents by playing music, leading art or exercise groups, demonstrating a craft to a group of seniors at their residence. Someone with gardening skills is also needed!



Spend time with Seniors

Assist with shopping and/or visit regularly with seniors in their homes to provide companionship and support.



Like to talk on the phone?

Call new mothers to check on them and offer support or call Lifeline clients to chat and make sure their equipment is working.



Medical Transportation Program

Drive Westport and Weston residents to hospital and medical appointments or be a dispatcher by using your home phone and computer to help with scheduling.



Norwalk City Hall Reception Desk

Greet visitors to City Hall, providing information and directions.



Deliver meals to the elderly

Drivers for Meals on Wheels in Norwalk. Less than 2 hours per week!



Assist with special events

Area museums and historical societies need occasional help during their special events.

For more information on these opportunities and how to volunteer, please contact Nancy Pratt at (203) 663-7332, (former number 899-2443) or npratt@neon-norwalk.org.

*Invite your friends to RSVP!
Anyone 55 or over can join us.*

Awards & Kudos



Barbara Culp, Coordinator of the RSVP Medical Transportation Program and Bruce Allen, Community Director for the Y's Men of Westport/Weston and recruiter of Volunteers for the program have received the Westport Commission for Senior Services, Annual Service to Older Adults Award. The award recognizes and honors Westport residents who have given extraordinary service to enrich and improve the quality of life of older adults and will be presented October 17, 2008 at the Westport Center for Senior Activities.

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The Volunteer Center of New Canaan presented the outstanding senior volunteer group award to RSVP of SW CT at its Annual Volunteer Recognition Awards ceremony.

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RSVP was thanked in the Norwalk Citizen News by Norwalk Community College for their part in assisting with the ConnCAP Program over the summer. This program serves high school students who want to be the first in their families to complete college.

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RSVP's 34th annual Volunteer Recognition Luncheon was held in May. More than 300 volunteers were honored for their service to our many programs this past year.

Outstanding Volunteer Awards were presented to:

- *Bruce Allen and Barbara Culp; Westport-Weston Medical Transportation Program
- *Linda Fein; Norwalk Kingsway Apartments
- *Susan Mahar; Westport Woman's Club
- *Julia Monroe; Wilton Community Team
- *Mustafa Noor; Darien Welcome Center
- *Phyllis Ryan; Darien Senior Center
- *Vidya Teredesai; Norwalk Senior Center
- *Dave Tracy; Norwalk Tree Alliance

A special presentation was made to Anna Young for her over 1000 hours of volunteer service to Southwestern CT agencies, and for obtaining more than 90 gift certificates from area businesses, which were given as prizes at the luncheon.

NOTES & NEWS



Upcoming Event:

NEON, Inc., our sponsoring agency, is hosting its 43rd Annual Gala entitled “Seasons of Change” on Friday, October 17, 2008, 6 p.m. at Continental Manor in Norwalk. NEON provides economically disadvantaged residents of the greater Norwalk area with the range of community, social and economic development and emergency assistance services needed to enhance the quality of life, increase self-sufficiency, and reduce the incidence of poverty.

If you want to attend or contribute, contact Jackie Lovegren at (203)899-2435 or jlovegren@neon-norwalk.org.



Seniors Emergency Medical Information

“**LIFE PACK**” is available in the Norwalk area. It contains your current medical information, in case of an emergency. To make an appointment to receive your free pack and complete the information, contact the Norwalk Department of Senior Services at (203)847-2830.

“**FILE OF LIFE**” for Westport-Weston residents has medical history available for responding emergency services. Contact Westport Department of Human Services at (203)341-1050 for assistance completing the cards. Both programs provide readily available access to potentially life-saving information and can speed the time to treat you in an emergency situation.



Connecticut Statewide Respite Care Program

Eligible families may apply for daytime or overnight respite care services including: Adult day care, home health aide, homemaker/companion, skilled nursing care or short term nursing care. For more information, contact:

Connecticut Chapter Alzheimer’s Association, (800) 356-5502

Southwestern Connecticut Agency on Aging, (203) 333-9288



Attention Senior Homeowners:

Affordable lawn care and yard clean-up is available through the non-profit agency called Groundwork Bridgeport. This is for low-income senior households in East and South Norwalk. Contact Mark Palmer at The Norwalk Senior Center at (203) 847-3115, for more information. For Westport seniors, “We do Walkways, etc.” is available from Westport young people for a small charge. Contact Westport Department of Human Services at (203) 341-1050.



Please note: Are all your volunteer hours being sent to the RSVP office? We use the information we receive from your timesheets to show the significant contributions of volunteers in our community.



Wanted!

Donations of yarn and material are always welcome for our craft programs which serve the community.



RSVP
Lead With Experience



Get Involved!

**Studies show that volunteering helps you live longer
and promotes a positive outlook on life!**

Please note our telephone numbers are changing!

RSVP Staff

Teri Klein, Program Director (203) 663-7331
Madeline Bollmann, Secretary (203) 663-7333
Nancy Pratt, Outreach Coordinator (203) 663-7332
Del Overby, Wilton Coordinator

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