



RSVP BULLETIN

Fall 2009



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 of our **350 active volunteers**. You are making a significant impact **assisting over 50 community agencies** using your experience, interests and skills to meet identified needs.

Program Highlights

A special thank you to **RSVP volunteer tourism counselors** at the Darien Welcome Center. The Center is the initial gateway for thousands of visitors to CT. Due to resource limitations the CT Commission on Culture and Tourism would be unable to effectively meet the public demand for tourism information without the assistance of our experienced volunteers who are the primary service providers at the Center.

The new program “**D2R2 Dogs to Read To**” is coordinated by our talented volunteer Don Smith and his trained therapy dog Brasil. Small groups of children at the East Norwalk, Westport, Greenwich and Darien libraries read to specially trained dogs. This helps the children build confidence in their reading ability and contributes to their joy of reading. Congratulations to Don and his volunteers who have brought this outstanding national program to our community.

We are always interested in ideas for a community program and will be glad to assist in planning and implementation. If your agency needs volunteers, let us know. Check out our opportunities, if something catches your eye, stop by and give it a try.

Our sincere appreciation for the dedication of all our volunteers, who are generously giving their time and talents to help RSVP serve the citizens of our community.

Teri



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

These are just a few of the needs we are looking for volunteers to fill. . .



Tax Preparers

Both NEON and AARP are looking for interested volunteers to be trained as certified tax preparers. Help seniors and those in need to fill out their basic tax forms.

Medical Transportation Program needs Drivers!

Drivers take Westport and/or Weston residents to hospital and medical appointments once or twice a month.



The Norwalk Tree Alliance is recruiting volunteers who will work closely with Norwalk Neighborhood Associations and the City Tree Advisory Committee to help develop plans and identify advantageous “free tree” planting locations to improve streetscapes. Volunteers will also assist residents in selecting the species of trees best suited to their needs and aesthetic interests. Training and guidance is provided.



Grassroots Tennis needs volunteers to work with a small group of Norwalk students while they wait for their tennis lessons. Program focuses on Life Skills, including leadership & being a team player. Volunteers are requested for 1-2 afternoons a week.



Tutors

Help children learn! We are looking for volunteers to help either in a classroom setting or in one of several afterschool programs.

Have office or accounting skills?

Several local agencies need your help! Non-profit agencies need volunteers now, more than ever!



Meals on Wheels needs drivers to deliver meals to seniors in their homes.

Have a special skill or interest? Call me to see how we can best match your strengths with needs in the community.

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

Quotes from some of our volunteers (from our Annual Surveys):

“I feel very happy with my time in the work I do volunteering. I love to help other people.”

“I like volunteering very much. It makes me feel good.”

“I enjoy working with RSVP to help others.”

“I love helping to make people happy and feeling like they belong and are needed.”

“Happiness is like jam... You can’t spread even a little without getting some on yourself. This phrase describes the volunteers as they make things for people in need – it helps them as it does the people they serve.” Del Overby, Wilton Project Table



Quotes from some of the agencies we help (from our Annual Surveys):

“Keep up the great work!”

“The volunteers . . . were extremely helpful. They were very knowledgeable, flexible, creative, and thorough.”

“We appreciate the work of your organization.”

“Keep up the great work and continue to let the seniors know that they are still needed in society to do great work and be role models for our young children.”


“Thanks for the good work and please keep doing it!”

“RSVP is a valued and pleasant organization.”

“The volunteers are great. We wouldn’t be able to get our mailings done without them. They get faster with each one!”

“All our needs are met with the quality volunteers RSVP provides. We enjoy their company, humor and appreciate the long hours they put in to complete the job.”

NOTES & NEWS

E-mail Addresses Wanted:  If you have an e-mail address that you have not shared with RSVP, please e-mail Nancy at npratt@neon-norwalk.org, so that we can have it on record. Thank you!

Have you checked out our website recently? If not, take a look at www.rsvpswct.org! Read about what we are doing. You may even see yourself!



Prescription Drug Discount Cards offer immediate savings (about 30%) on prescription drugs at participating pharmacies for people without health insurance, during deductible periods, and for prescription medicine not covered by health insurance, Medicare and other benefit plans. Simply present your FamilyWize card with each prescription from your doctor at time of purchase. You can obtain a card from RSVP or go to www.familywize.org to print one.



Life Pack is a collection of an individual's up-to-date medical information, which is stored in their freezer, to be taken out in case of an emergency. The "Life Pack" speaks for the senior who cannot speak for himself! It is free of charge. Contact the Senior Service Coordinating Council at 9203)847-2830.



Yellow Dot Program - This program for seniors helps facilitate the exchange of medical information to emergency services in the event of a motor vehicle accident or medical emergency. A packet containing important information and a photo identification card is kept in the glove compartment. A Yellow Dot is placed on the vehicle's rear window to alert emergency workers that the operator is a participant in the program and that information is available in the vehicle. For applications, contact Laura Epstein at the Senior Services Coordinating Council at (203) 846-6992.



RSVP needs your help to recruit new volunteers! Your friends and neighbors can become active members. If you know someone interested in volunteering, but they don't know where to start or who to call, RSVP can help. All it takes is encouragement from you and a phone call to us!



Yard Care

Groundwork Bridgeport continues to provide low-cost subsidized yard care for eligible Senior homeowners Norwalk. This includes lawn cutting, pruning shrubs, leaf clean-ups. Contact Groundwork Bridgeport at (203) 335-6126.



Contributions We are looking for donations of yarn and material for sewing. Some of our volunteers make blankets and warm clothing, which are then donated to agencies that serve our community. Please call our Outreach Coordinator and we will pick it up.



Please Share!

If you have original poems or stories about volunteering, please send them to RSVP. You may see them in a future newsletter!



RSVP recently hosted a “Coffee & Conversation” for our volunteers who read at the NEON Child Development Program in Norwalk. It was clear that these volunteers enjoy their time spent reading to pre-schoolers. This is an invaluable service, which will benefit the children throughout their lives.

According to literacycenter.net, The National Research Council’s study “Preventing Reading Difficulties in Young Children” states that children who are exposed to reading at an early age make the symbol/language connection and are more likely to be reading at the appropriate age level by the end of third grade.

We are always looking for more volunteers to read in the classrooms!



RSVP Volunteer Joan Weinstein

