



# RSVP BULLETIN

Winter 2009

*Lead With Experience*

[www.rsvpswct.org](http://www.rsvpswct.org)

## COMMUNITIES SERVED

Darien  
Greenwich  
New Canaan  
Norwalk  
Stamford  
Weston  
Westport  
Wilton



## Message from the Director, *Teri Klein*

Greetings Everyone!

I am pleased to report we have distributed over 1000 beautifully handcrafted hats, mittens, scarves, blankets and quilts during the winter months to over 800 children and adults in need in the community. Fifteen different agencies received items crafted by RSVP volunteers working in groups from Norwalk (Kingsway Apartments, the Norwalk Senior Center), Wilton (Ogden House), Westport (The Westport Woman's Club) and Knitbliss. Other volunteers worked individually from their own homes. Materials for the program were provided by grants from the NEON Child Development Program and the Wal-Mart Foundation. Donations of materials are always appreciated. Thank you to everyone for your time and talent in creating these warmly received items.



NEON Child Development pre-school children model new hats, mittens & scarves made by RSVP volunteers!

We welcome two new members to the RSVP Advisory Council. Rev. Gregory A. Errgong-Weider of United Congregational Church and Brian Griffin, Vice President, Greater Norwalk Chamber of Commerce.

We look forward to working with them and the valuable community experience they will bring to the Council.

# VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

**We are looking for volunteers to do many things, but especially...**

## ***Medical Transportation Program*** ***needs both Drivers & Dispatchers!***

In order to be a Dispatcher, you must have basic computer skills. You can do this from your home telephone. Call to get messages requesting rides, and schedule drivers. This can be done once a week. Drivers take Westport and/or Weston residents to hospital and medical appointments once or twice a month.

## ***Read to Pre-Schoolers***



Read to preschool classes at the NEON Child Development Program. Help them develop a love of reading to build a strong foundation for success in school. Call for information on the next orientation session for volunteers!

## ***Travel Counselors***



Join other RSVP volunteers at the Darien Welcome Center on I-95. Provide travel information and Connecticut welcome to travelers. You will be trained to answer questions, assist, advise and encourage travelers to discover CT's landmarks and breathtaking scenery. Some computer experience is needed.

## ***Norwalk Tree Alliance***



The Norwalk Tree Festival is being held on May 16<sup>th</sup> at Cranbury Park. This will be a fun and educational family event. Volunteers are needed!

## ***Deliver meals to the elderly***



Drivers needed for Meals on Wheels in Norwalk. Less than 2 hours per week! You may even sign up to be a Relief Driver, and fill in occasionally as needed.

### ***Elderhouse in Norwalk***



Looking for a volunteer to answer phones 2 -3 mornings a week.

### ***Fundraising and Grant-writing***



Courage to Speak Foundation is looking for someone with this background to assist in their Norwalk office.

### ***Liberation Program***



Check out these opportunities:

- Volunteer(s) to greet guests and Board Members at Reception Desk and give directions. Mon – Fri. 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. or any of these days at their Norwalk location.
- Provide Art Therapy or Yoga instruction for their Women & Children's program in Stamford.

### ***Person to Person in Greenwich***



Volunteers needed to staff both its food pantry and clothing area. Check out food and stock shelves or sort and hang clothing any available morning.

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

*Tell your friends about RSVP!  
Anyone 55 or over can join us.*

## NOTES & NEWS



**Reading aloud to young children is very important!** RSVP and the NEON Child Development Program have begun a partnership involving reading to pre-schoolers. There are orientations scheduled each month, and our volunteers read to several classrooms weekly.



### **SAVE THE DATE:**

**Our annual RSVP Volunteer Recognition Luncheon will be held on May 14<sup>th</sup> at Giovannis. Please make sure your hours have been submitted either by individual or group time sheets, so that you will receive an invitation to join us for this special day!**



### **Volunteers teach Financial Literacy**

NorwalkWorks is a division of NEON that provides low-income and economically vulnerable families with a variety of different educational, social, and instructional programs. Rick and Maureen Locke, RSVP volunteers with strong financial backgrounds, have begun teaching “MoneySmart,” a course that provides the skills needed to understand and manage your personal finances. This is a much-needed program, especially in these tough economic times.



***Norwalk Reads to Dogs*** – RSVP is working in conjunction with Don Smith and his “Healing Hounds” and Stanley Siegel, Executive Director of the East Norwalk Library to institute a new Reading Program. Children will work on their literacy skills by reading to a trained dog, who is a very good listener.



### **Calling all Norwalkers!**

Molly Young is a senior at Norwalk High School. For her senior project, she is creating an oral history project of those who either live, work, or have any connection to Norwalk. She is encouraging you to share your story. She will meet with you and do the recording. Her project is modeled from David Isay’s Story Corps and is called “The Norwalk Sound”. If you have questions, or would like to participate in Molly’s project, please call Nancy Pratt at 663-7332.



### **FREE TAX PREPARATION**

NEON’s trained, certified tax preparers will help you file your taxes and get your return quickly – at no cost and with no hassles. This is available to anyone who files a basic tax return. Call (203) 899-2430 to schedule appointment.



## Yard Care

Once again, Groundwork Bridgeport is providing 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. For Norwalk area residents to qualify they must meet the following requirements:

- \* Home owner must live in the house to be served
- \* One of the home owners must be at least 65 years old
- \* Lot size should not exceed 6000-7000 square feet
- \* Fees are subsidized for low income homeowners



## Community Conversation

**NEON and Norwalk Community College will hold a “Community Conversation” 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. on Thursday, March 26 at NEON. The purpose is to engage in dialogue to bring forward issues, concerns and opportunities which will be used to develop college initiatives and build community partnerships. Registration is free. Dinner, breakout sessions and a large group discussion are included. Contact Chiquita Stephenson, NEON director of development and public relations 663-7334 or [cstephenson@neon-norwalk.org](mailto:cstephenson@neon-norwalk.org).**

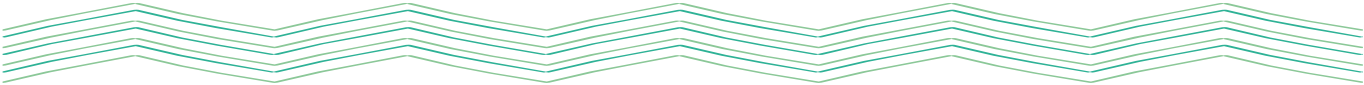


## Yellow Dot Program

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.

## 2-1-1

Simply by dialing 2-1-1, callers in CT can reach knowledgeable, multilingual staff with questions on health and human services information, and much, much more! Information can also be found on their website, [www.211ct.org](http://www.211ct.org).



*Did you know . . . When you volunteer, you’re not just helping others—you’re helping yourself. Volunteering leads to new discoveries and new friends. Plus, studies show that volunteering helps you live longer and promotes a positive outlook on life.*



**RSVP**  
Lead With Experience



**Get Involved!**

RSVP is America's largest volunteer network for people age 55 and over. Join RSVP and you join nearly 500,000 volunteers across the country who are tackling tough issues in their communities.

**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

The Retired and Senior Volunteer Program  
Of Southwestern CT  
[www.rsvpswct.org](http://www.rsvpswct.org)  
98 South Main St.  
Norwalk, CT 06854  
Phone: (203) 663-7333  
Fax: (203) 899-2430  
e-mail: [rsvpswct@neon-norwalk.org](mailto:rsvpswct@neon-norwalk.org)