



RSVP BULLETIN

Spring 2010

Lead With Experience

www.rsvpswct.org

COMMUNITIES SERVED

Darien
Greenwich
New Canaan
Norwalk
Stamford
Weston
Westport
Wilton

Message from the Director, *Teri Klein*



Welcome Spring!

National Volunteer Week will be recognized April 18-24th. Congratulations to all our volunteers for the valuable contributions you are making to our community. Last year our 342 active volunteers contributed over 42,000 hours of service to 50 non-profit agencies and organizations in southwestern Connecticut.

Our services include:

- | | |
|--------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Health and Safety | Environmental Preservation |
| Children's Literacy Activities | Capacity Building |
| Companionship and Outreach | Teaching Skills |
| Medical Transportation | Financial Management |
| Culture and Tourism | And more! |

Our volunteers will be honored at our annual recognition event. This year it will be a special brunch, to be held on May 20th 9:30-11:30 am at Continental Manor in Norwalk. Mark your calendars!

We'd like to acknowledge the support we are receiving from our sponsors NEON, Inc., The Corporation for National and Community Service, and the State of Connecticut Department of Social Services. We also appreciate the many in-kind donations that we receive from the programs where our volunteers are serving.

Many thanks to everyone who plays a vital part in the success of RSVP. With your help we can continue to meet critical community needs while providing a quality experience which enriches the lives of our volunteers and those they serve.



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Can you help with any of these?



Interested in criminal justice? Help a local agency which counsels and monitors individuals who have been in trouble with the law, then reports back to the court. Volunteers are needed to assist with case management duties, approximately 15 hours per week.



Become a Hospice Volunteer! Provide emotional support to terminally ill patients and their families with a focus on promoting quality of life. 25 hours of training on the hospice philosophy of care and the dying process is provided by Mid-Fairfield Hospice.



Do you love children? Classroom volunteers are needed to read to children in local pre-school programs. One hour in the morning or afternoon. Help make a difference in a child's life!



Bakers needed twice a month to make home-baked goodies for middle school students in after-school program or for homeless adults at drop-in center.



Like chatting on the phone? Make telephone calls to Lifeline clients to ensure emergency equipment is working properly, 2-3 hours per week.



Norwalk City Hall needs volunteers to staff the reception desk. Pleasant, friendly person to greet visitors, provide information and directions. Hours are flexible.



Lockwood Mathews Mansion is holding volunteer training sessions to teach museum etiquette and how to become a guide of this national historic site, manage the gift shop, be a monitor, assist at special events, and more.



Work with homeless adults – help provide coverage and assist with greeting clients and daily operations of Family & Children’s Agency’s day program. Volunteers will be trained and supervised by staff.



Become a Mentor to a child. Meet with your “little friend” once a week, to provide support and encouragement.



“Done in a Day” Project – Shop for diapers and other baby necessities, using funds from Family & Children’s Agency.



East Norwalk Library is looking for “Friends” to assist new board with putting together two annual book sales.



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 needs volunteers to work with neighborhood groups to organize tree plantings and help with the city’s tree plan; assist with preparations for annual Tree Festival scheduled for May 22.



Tutors needed in one of several afterschool programs to help children learn!

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

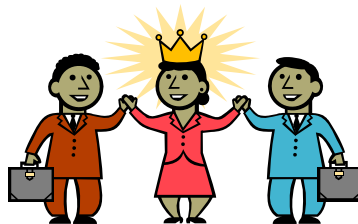
Congratulations!

...to all our volunteers who continue to knit and sew all year long! Over the winter we were able to donate hats, scarves, mittens, quilts and other beautiful items to over 1000 people in our community who are in need. Thank you!



...to three of our volunteers (Judy Mills, Victoria Zlock & Bette Vincelette) who were awarded the Outstanding Established Senior Group Award for their volunteer service at the Stamford Museum & Nature Center. This took place at the Stamford Volunteer Day 2009 Awards Ceremony on Jan.22, 2010 at the Bennett Branch Library. It was hosted by the Volunteer Center of Southwestern Fairfield County.

... to volunteer Pauline Tukes of Wilton, who was highlighted in the Wilton Bulletin on February 25th for her work as a Peer Counselor for Nursing & Home Care.



NOTES & NEWS

SAVE THE DATE!



This year we are having a brunch on May 20th as our annual volunteer recognition event. Invitations will be mailed soon. Be sure to RSVP!



Don't forget to send us your volunteer hours! We want to know what you're doing to help others, and how often you're doing it! Also, that is how we determine who is invited to the brunch.



Be Counted

"It's only 10 questions, takes 10 minutes of your time, every 10 years. It's the Census. And we want you to be counted." For additional information, go to www.2010census.gov or contact Ellen Wink (City Clerk) at (203) 854-7703



Homeowner's Tax Rebate

There are two programs available to Norwalk senior homeowners to help them with their real estate taxes: The **Tax Deferral Program** allows seniors to defer their property taxes (or a percentage thereof) until the sale of the property or transfer of the property to a non-senior.

The **Homeowner's Tax Relief Program** offers a percentage reduction in real estate taxes to Norwalk residents who are 65 or over or are disabled.

Income guidelines for the City Homeowner Program are \$42,600 or less.

Eligibility income limit for the State program is \$32,300 for single persons and \$39,500 for married couples. No asset limits. Guidelines are for the 2009 year. *Program runs February 1, 2010 - April 15, 2010.* For more information, call Senior Services Coordination Council at 203-847-2830.



NORWALK-WILTON TREE FESTIVAL will be held on May 22, 2010 at Cranbury Park. This is a fun event for children and adults. Come on out and enjoy a wonderful day!



RSVP
Lead With Experience



Get Involved!

RSVP Staff

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