



# AmeriCorps Seniors

## RSVP

Retired & Senior Volunteer Program  
Blair and Huntingdon Counties  
1-800-323-9997

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sponsored by



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### RSVP Sponsor Agency: Center for Community Action

The Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) is one of the largest volunteer efforts in the nation, matching older adults with organizations that address local community needs. RSVP has been operating in Blair and Huntingdon counties since 1972 when the first RSVP Project grant was awarded to Home Nursing Agency. Blair Senior Services, Inc. became the project sponsor in 1980 and administered the local RSVP Project until 2012. RSVP is grant funded through AmeriCorps (formerly known as the Corporation for National and Community Service). In 2014, Center for Community Action (CCA) applied to become the RSVP Project Sponsor to continue the good works already established in Blair and Huntingdon counties.



According to Wendy Melius, Executive Director, "This was an opportunity to continue the services that volunteers were providing to nonprofit organizations and to continue to engage seniors in their communities. The AmeriCorps mission aligned with CCA's mission of improving lives, strengthening communities and fostering civic engagement." Melius also recognizes the importance of senior engagement and the knowledge they can bring to nonprofits to help build capacity. In addition to being the sponsor agency, CCA also acts as an RSVP station directly engaging AmeriCorps Seniors in both Blair and Huntingdon counties. These volunteers assist with the day to day operations of RSVP and provide support for the veteran medical transportation program and military food distribution program.

Center for Community Action is a 501c3 with a history of service stemming back to 1977 and the Bedford County Weatherization Program. Through the ensuing years, multiple transitions and mergers occurred resulting in an organization called Center for Community Services. Effective July 1, 2005, Center for Community Services became designated by Pennsylvania state representatives as the community action agency serving Bedford, Fulton and Huntingdon counties. On December 14, 2006, the agency was officially named Center for Community Action. A detailed history for CCA can be viewed at CCA's website.

CCA continued to expand services in response to needs of community members in the original three counties as well as additional surrounding counties. Currently CCA provides programs in Adams, Bedford, Blair, Cambria, Franklin, Fulton, Huntingdon, Juniata, Mifflin and Somerset counties. Services in each county vary but may include the following: Weatherization/Energy Program, Housing Rehabilitation and Modification programs, Medical Assistance Transportation Program, Child Care Information Services, Homeless Assistance Program, Emergency Food and Shelter Program, transitional housing, emergency housing, senior housing, Forum of Churches intake, Human Services Development Fund programs, family and financial literacy and GED services, State Food Purchase Program, The Emergency Food Assistance Program, case management, Employment, Advancement and Retention Network, Supported Engagement/Work Ready, and Community Services Block Grant programs. Community members receive needed assistance through these many programs. In 2020, CCA provided services to 7,034 individuals. The help they received ensured they had transportation to medical appointments, food to eat, home repairs, received support for early childhood education and much more.

To learn about Center for Community Action, what services are available in which counties, or to apply for assistance, call 800-323-9997 or visit <https://www.centerforcommunityaction.org>.

### Meet the RSVP Advisory Council

The RSVP Advisory Council of Blair and Huntingdon Counties has an exemplary group of volunteers dedicated to the guidance and smooth running of the RSVP Project. It includes community and business representatives from both counties acting as one united body. Six of the current 12 Council members are also AmeriCorps Seniors serving in RSVP.

The Council's purpose is to function in an advisory capacity in matters affecting planning, support and program decisions, including the formation of local RSVP policies. The executive officers of the council are Jessica Lippert, Chair, David Fryer, Vice Chair, and Robin Beck, Secretary. Council members also serve on Project Committees: Nominations, Public Relations, Resource Development and Volunteer Recognition. Anyone interested in serving on the RSVP Advisory Council or an RSVP Committee, please contact Dorcey Cuzzolina at [dcuzzolina@ccaofpa.org](mailto:dcuzzolina@ccaofpa.org) or 814-506-5267

Following are the current RSVP Advisory Council members, their affiliations and thoughts they shared about the RSVP Project. Center for Community Action and Dorcey Cuzzolina, RSVP Project Coordinator, would like to thank Advisory Council members for their service and for helping to ensure that the RSVP Project continues to be a strong, viable support for our communities.



**Robin Beck**

AmeriCorps Seniors Volunteer  
Altoona Housing Authority Board Chair

"I think RSVP is a win-win program that helps volunteers have an outlet for their skills and obviously is very needed assistance for community agencies and the people they serve."

## RSVP Advisory Council continued:



**Jinny Cooper**

Huntingdon County Register & Recorder  
Huntingdon County Business & Industry Vice President

"I have the privilege of working directly with AmeriCorps Seniors at the county courthouse, as well as other areas where they do or have served. Being asked to join the RSVP Advisory Council was a special honor for me as I know first-hand the help our volunteers give the community in so many ways. Never forget the 'Wisdom of the Years' – these people give much more than they receive and serving on the Advisory Council is a special honor and joy for me."



**Kelsey Dunn**

Chief Deputy Register and Recorder  
Huntingdon County

"Being able to assist in this program and Advisory Council has been exciting for me as I know how much worth the retired volunteers bring. The experience they have is unmeasurable and we should all be so thankful for them."



**Duane Ehredt, Sr.**

AmeriCorps Seniors Volunteer  
Director of Client Care, Home  
Instead Senior Care

"I strongly support volunteerism and believe in Winston Churchill's quote: You make a living by what you get. You make a life by what you give."



**Dave Fryer**

AmeriCorps Seniors Volunteer

"I serve on the Council to insure the RSVP project is providing guidance to the important services the cadre of AmeriCorps Seniors are providing in Huntingdon County. And as an AmeriCorps Seniors volunteer, I believe my hours of scheduling the DAV van and driving veterans to medical appointments are a valuable service to the veterans of Central Pennsylvania."



**Patti Isenberg**

AmeriCorps Seniors Volunteer

"Having worked with senior volunteers, I know how valuable their contributions are. Their experience, knowledge and compassion greatly benefit the community. RSVP supports, coordinates and recognizes their efforts."



**Judy Kimberlin**

AmeriCorps Seniors Volunteer  
United Way of Blair County Board Member

"It is important to stay involved in our community after we retire. And, RSVP provides wonderful support for both volunteers and community organizations."



**Jessica Lippert**

APPRISE Regional Coordinator,  
Blair Senior Services/PA Dept. of  
Aging

"I am excited to assist the RSVP Project in bringing the talents and experience of our area seniors to our local non-profits and charities. The time they give as volunteers is invaluable."



**Marc Masucci**

AmeriCorps Seniors Volunteer  
Blair County Adult Probation & Parole -  
Part Time Probation Officer Support

"As a new member of the RSVP Advisory Council, I am looking forward to sharing my skills and time assisting organizations that address community needs."



**Chelsey Rhodes**

Home Delivered Meals Program  
Supervisor

"I enjoy serving on the RSVP Advisory Council to ensure that the compassion and dedication by the volunteers is supported and recognized in our community. Many organizations, like Blair Senior Services, Inc., could not offer the services/programs we do without our amazing volunteers."



**Reneé Wheeler**

AmeriCorps Seniors Volunteer  
Leaders of Tomorrow Secretary  
Ebensburg Center Human Rights  
Committee

"Volunteering was something that I learned from an early age and being a part of RSVP is a great opportunity to continue that."



**Carol Yoder**

AmeriCorps Seniors Volunteer

"RSVP Project provides important support and recognition to our volunteers. Being an AmeriCorps Seniors volunteer myself, I bring that service perspective to Council discussions to help assure procedures and policies are good for all."



## RSVP PROJECT FISCAL YEAR END



June 30, 2021, marks the end of the RSVP 2020-2021 fiscal year. This means all program expenses through June 30 must be finalized in early July and cannot be carried over into the next fiscal year. Therefore, all RSVP volunteer monthly logs for June (or prior months) must be submitted to station supervisors as soon as service for June is completed. This is especially important if volunteers are claiming travel reimbursement.

Station supervisors are required to review, sign and submit volunteer logs to the RSVP office no later than July 10, 2021. So volunteers, please sign and submit your RSVP logs to your station supervisor as soon as possible at the end of June. Thank you!

### JULY

- 2 - Nancy Caples-Rhodes
- 7 - Robin Beck
- 8 - Susan Black
- 9 - Evanna Walter
- 12 - Virginia Gill
- 12 - Kathleen Moser
- 14 - Darlene Harella
- 16 - Allen Black
- 18 - Judith McCracken
- 22 - Virginia Anslinger
- 23 - Frances Knepp
- 23 - Robert Spickler
- 26 - Julianne Beiswenger
- 26 - William Black
- 29 - Donna Lewis
- 30 - Suzanne Wilt



**Birthday wishes to all of you for a happy, healthy year!**

### AUGUST

- 3 - Barbara Woods
- 6 - Susan Davis
- 9 - Patricia Chaundy
- 10 - Shirley Mosbey
- 11 - Ruth Jackson
- 12 - Teresa Rupert

### AUGUST

- 13 - Nancy Gladfelter
- 14 - Mark Coho
- 16 - Patricia Isenberg
- 17 - Richard McDermitt
- 17 - Jean Pile
- 21 - Emory Rhodes
- 21 - Mildred Shakespeare
- 24 - Pauline Bowers
- 24 - Carol Graham
- 25 - Linda Moist
- 28 - Dorothy Anderson
- 28 - Paula Craw
- 28 - Judith Kimberlin
- 31 - John Futrick

### What is the Product?

Following are slogans from the 1940s, 50s and 60s. Some are still used today. Name the product associated with each slogan.

1. "M'm! M'm! Good!"
2. "Snap! Crackle! Pop!"
3. "When you care enough to send the very best."
4. "Breakfast of champions."
5. "Good to the last drop."
6. "When it rains, it pours."
7. "Finger lickin' good."
8. "The milk chocolate that melts in your mouth, not in your hands."
9. "Think small."
10. "Put a tiger in your tank."
11. "Stronger than dirt."
12. "Betcha can't eat just one."
13. "The quicker picker upper."
14. "Fly the friendly skies."
15. "It's the real thing."



Answers to this quiz will be posted on the RSVP Facebook page and in the next newsletter.

### Answers to Pennsylvania State Facts Quiz

Following are the answers to PA facts listed in the previous newsletter that were to be identified:



1. State flower: Mountain laurel
2. State bird: Ruffed grouse
3. State tree: Eastern hemlock
4. State fish: Brook trout
5. State animal: White tailed deer
6. State dog: Great Dane
7. State motto: Virtue, liberty, and independence
8. State nickname: Keystone State
9. State song: "Pennsylvania"
10. PA came into being in 1787 as a result of a royal land grant to whom: William Penn
11. What date was PA admitted into the union: 12/12/1787
12. What PA city was the seat of federal government from 1776-1800: Philadelphia