



**RSVP Newsletter**  
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**RSVP**  
**Retired & Senior Volunteer Program**  
**Blair and Huntingdon Counties**  
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**RSVP Station Spotlight – United Way of the Southern Alleghenies**



Judy Kimberlin, AmeriCorps Senior

United Way of the Southern Alleghenies (UWSA) partnered with the Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) in 2015 when UWSA was formerly known as United Way of Blair County. Imani Vaughn, Community Outreach Coordinator and RSVP Station Supervisor, says, “United Way of the Southern Alleghenies is an independent, volunteer-driven, community leading organization responsible for creating, expanding and accelerating positive social change in Blair, Cambria, and Somerset Counties. We also have the Family Resource Center of Blair County and Healthy Blair County Coalition under our umbrella.”

UWSA provides a lot of services and volunteer opportunities for the community. “In Blair County, we have volunteer opportunities annually for UWSA’s Glass Slipper Project, which offers teens a prom gown shopping experience at no-cost. The Family Resource Center of Blair County also offers volunteer opportunities for Stuff the Bus (a backpack and school supply giveaway for Blair County students kindergarten entry through 12th grade) and Toasty Toddler (a winter coat, hat, and glove giveaway for Blair County children aged Newborn through age 5). Those looking to

volunteer can simply contact our office at 814-317-5108 for more details, as these opportunities are only offered at certain times of the year” states Imani.

As of now, there is one volunteer, Judy Kimberlin, who is enrolled in RSVP at UWSA. Imani says, “Judy is a United Way of the Southern Alleghenies Board Member, is a dedicated RSVP volunteer member of our organization, and is also a Family Resource Center of Blair County Advisory Committee member. Judy is always willing to step in to help with any activity! Whether it be packing coats for our youngest community members, to distributing prom dresses to area teens, she is always there for us and her community!” Judy expresses why she volunteers at UWSA, “I enjoy being with people who are reaching out to the community and making us a gathering where we can help others who are in need, and we can do what needs to be done.”

The partnership between UWSA and RSVP is helpful to the community by providing volunteer opportunities that help those in need. Imani expresses, “I feel RSVP is helpful because it gives our senior citizens an opportunity to continue to give back to the communities they often grew up in and have grandchildren of their own growing up in. RSVP volunteers offer so much knowledge and wisdom to the organizations they serve at. They set a great example for the generations before them that community service doesn’t have to stop after retirement age.” Imani explains why she works at UWSA, “I enjoy working for UWSA and being an RSVP Station Supervisor! I am an AmeriCorps alumni from the Pennsylvania Mountain Service Corps and I truly think it’s a joy that RSVP still has volunteering opportunities for our seniors to put their knowledge and talents to great use. As a Community Outreach Coordinator in Blair County, I get to learn more about the community I grew up in through work and all of the other great organizations/workplaces who operate here.”



From left to right: Erin Kay, Executive Director of CONTACT Altoona, Julie Maleno, Administrative Assistant of CONTACT Altoona, Imani Vaughn, Community Outreach Coordinator and RSVP Station Supervisor of UWSA

## RSVP Station Spotlight – CONTACT Altoona

CONTACT Altoona is a nonprofit organization that provides listening services, reassurance calls, crisis intervention, and information and referral services to the community. CONTACT Altoona has two staff members, Erin Kay, Executive Director, and Julie Maleno, Administrative Assistant. Erin says, “CONTACT Altoona’s first official starting date is September 1, 1982. We started off with the helpline calls just to be a listening ear to anybody in need. In 1994, we launched reassurance calls for Blair County residents who receive calls from volunteers for medication reminders, social calls, and safety checks. Those calls can be whenever the resident needs them, for example, we had a client who felt extra lonely on the weekends, so we made sure to call him on the weekends. We had one client that we used to call 5 times a day because that was the type of medication he was on.” In 2015, CONTACT Altoona partnered with RSVP and became an RSVP station and Erin is the RSVP Station Supervisor.

Currently at CONTACT Altoona, there are twelve volunteers enrolled in RSVP who are known as AmeriCorps Seniors. Erin says, “I always tell the volunteers that they can be as involved or as uninvolved as they want to be. They can just work their 2-4 hour shifts a month, which is all that we really require from them. I have volunteers who like to help with fundraisers, and then I have others that prefer to work just the helpline.” Volunteers mostly do the helpline and reassurance calls at CONTACT Altoona where they provide the correct information and referrals for those who need them, but for them to be able to do that, they must go through training. Erin explains, “Volunteers have to do the training classes and do three apprenticeships either with staff or tenure volunteers. Once the new volunteers complete all of that, as long as they are comfortable, then they can just make the calls from home. If they do their first shift at home, then I will check in on them and see how it went.”

Erin appreciates the volunteers at CONTACT Altoona who provide the services needed for the community by saying, “CONTACT Altoona is only around because of the volunteers, because of the hours they are working on the phone lines.

If the phone lines aren’t covered, then clients are not going to call, or they are not going to get calls.” Erin also shares how she cares for each volunteer, “If a volunteer unregisters from a bunch of shifts, then I like to check in on them to make sure that everything is okay with them. I try not to be invasive, but I just want to let them know that we care about them as a person; that they aren’t just a volunteer, but that they are a part of a family.”

CONTACT Altoona offers monthly breakfasts, an annual dinner, and picnics for their volunteers to make sure that volunteer appreciation is shown. RSVP helps provide recognition for those volunteers that are enrolled as well, “It is the added benefits that RSVP has that we don’t offer, like the mileage reimbursement, additional insurances, and volunteer recognition events. Since our volunteers can work from home and they don’t really get out around other people, they love getting together and seeing other volunteers at the recognition event” says Erin.

If you are interested in volunteering at CONTACT Altoona, then please go to their website [contactaltoona.com/volunteer](http://contactaltoona.com/volunteer) to

complete the application or call 814-946-0531 to get more information. CONTACT Altoona’s next training session is in October 2024, so applications should be completed beforehand.

If you are interested in enrolling in the Retired and Senior Volunteer Program to become an AmeriCorps Senior, please contact Danielle Ochs by phone at 814-643-4202 ext. 4202 or by email at [dochs@ccaofpa.org](mailto:dochs@ccaofpa.org).



Julie Maleno (left), Administrative Assistant, and Erin Kay (right), Executive Director and RSVP Station Supervisor

Betty Friedenberger (left) and Peggy Loibl (right), AmeriCorps Seniors



# We are Fall About Volunteering!

## Fall Trivia Quiz Questions

Fall is arriving and it is the perfect time to see how well you know this season! Below are quiz questions for the fall season and the answers to this quiz will be posted in the next RSVP newsletter.

1. What is the first day of fall in 2024?
2. In what fall month of 2024 does daylight savings time end?
3. When does fall officially end in the Northern Hemisphere?
4. In the Southern Hemisphere, which month is not part of fall?
5. What is the name of the fall festival celebrated in Germany every year?
6. What is the name of the festival celebrated in China every fall to give thanks for a bountiful harvest?
7. What green pigment, found in leaves, breaks down during the fall causing the leaves to change colors?
8. In the fall, animals begin gathering food to prepare for what?
9. What is the name of the full moon that occurs near the fall equinox?
10. Which type of tree does not lose its leaves in the fall?
  - a) Oak
  - b) Maple
  - c) Spruce
  - d) Aspen
11. Which 1987 comedy feature is an unlikely duo making their way home for Thanksgiving?
12. Which of the following ingredients are not in Pumpkin Spice?
  - a) Cinnamon
  - b) Nutmeg
  - c) Ginger
  - d) Pumpkin
13. How big, by weight, is the record-holding pumpkin pie?
  - a) 4000 pounds
  - b) 2345 pounds
  - c) 1200 pounds
  - d) 3699 pounds
14. Which animal is given a Presidential pardon each fall?
15. Which of the following foods are not harvested in the fall?
  - a) Pumpkins
  - b) Apples
  - c) Squash
  - d) Tomatoes



**Answers to Light Up the Sky Volunteers! Puzzle**

Below are Answers to the July/August newsletter puzzle:

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	10			18						
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	16					11				
CPITTORAI	P	A	T	R	I	O	T	I	C	
	4									
VEOTRNILUO	R	E	V	O	L	U	T	I	O	N
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LAFG	F	L	A	G						
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