



**AmeriCorps  
Seniors**



**Retired & Senior Volunteer Programs  
of Ingham, Eaton & Clinton Counties**  
2400 Pattengill Avenue, Lansing, MI 48910  
517 887-6116

# Summer Newsletter

## A Message from Carol Wood, Executive Director



Volunteers, these past fifteen months have been difficult for all of us. We have watched our community go from mask, to lockdowns, isolationism, shortages, vaccines and now starting to turn the corner. We have witnessed family, friends and even ourselves infected with COVID-19. During all that, our volunteers have stepped up in several ways to help each other and their neighbors. We had volunteers making homemade masks, sending cards to clients at nursing facilities, doing window visits, and calling other seniors to check on their well-being. Our medical drivers were still taking clients to medical appointments, to COVID testing and then to vaccinations. We had Foster Grandparents in Learning Labs and on zoom when they could not be in the classrooms. We had Senior Companions and Foster Grandparents writing letters to various frontline responders and making Valentines for children at Day Care Centers and the Learning Labs. RSVP volunteers making toys in their home instead of the toy factory, patrolling the River Trail and when able back in the hospitals or at vaccination centers.

We stood together, we stood strong, and we watched out for one another. The staff and all the people you touch want to thank you, and as we round this corner we will continue to look to new and inventive ways to serve our community. May you have an enjoyable summer.



**WANTED: MORE MEDICAL DRIVERS!**

**OVER 785 MEDICAL RIDES HAVE BEEN SCHEDULED IN 2021 SO FAR**



## INFORMATION JUST FOR YOU

### A Word from Jason Wilkes, SCP and FGP Program Director:

Hello volunteers and hello Summer! Summer has arrived as of June 20th at 11:31pm. Mother Nature does not know what she wants to do between droughts and floods. Take some time when the weather is decent to get outside, get some exercise and check out some the sites.

Stay safe and stay healthy. Do any of you have summer trips planned? What is you favorite thing about summer? I hope to travel the Blue Ridge Parkway and spend time "Up North" this summer. The best thing about summer for me is being able to be outside and spending time with family and friends.



### From the Desk of Jim Dell, RSVP Volunteer Coordinator:

Dear RSVP Volunteers,

I hope this newsletter finds you well and feeling some relief from the Covid restrictions being lifted. I for one am looking forward to the rest of the summer with a little more sense of normalcy. I know several of our RSVP Volunteers have not been able to return to their sites but hopefully they will be able to have you back soon. We still have several other areas that we need more volunteers for so please give me a call if you are interested in getting out and about. Continue to stay safe and hopefully we'll see you all soon.



### Thank You Letters

The Foster Grandparent Program has been keeping busy writing thank you letters during the pandemic.

- Nursing Home Staff and Teachers
- Public Safety officials (Police, Fire, EMS & Dispatch)
- Public Service workers (trash & recycling, roads, sewer, forestry, wastewater)

These workers worked diligently throughout the pandemic, and we just wanted them to know we appreciated them! We will continue to thank additional essential workers monthly until our volunteers can get back to volunteering at their assigned station.





## Scenes From the River Trail Volunteers



**Want to volunteer? Call our office at 517 887-6116 & ask for Jim. If you use the Internet you can go to:**

**<https://www.wlns.com/news/tmsg-90-year-old-helps-lansing-police-patrol-river-trail/> To see a news video regarding the River Trail Volunteers.**



### Want to Learn More Technology?

Our Aging and Adults Services Agency is partnering with a platform called GetSetup to provide technology and enrichment classes to older Michiganders through a live interactive educational tool. This partnership is sponsored in part by the Michigan Health Endowment Fund. Each class is designed for older adults and taught by older adults. This new partnership allows you to stay healthy, active and connected while practicing social distancing. These classes are free, fun, and interactive and **best of all they are taught by other older adults.**

**These Enrichment Classes are FREE!**

- ♦ Visit [getsetup.io/partner/michigan](https://getsetup.io/partner/michigan) to learn more...



### WHAT IS ELDER ABUSE?

Any form of willful oppression that results in danger, harm, or loss to someone 50 years and older. Common forms of abuse are: Physical battering, emotional abuse, sexual assault, financial exploitation, and neglect or abandonment. If you suspect abuse, report it to:

Adult Protective Services 1-855-444-3911

End Violent Encounters (EVE) 517-372-5572

Tri-County Office on Aging (TCOA) 1-800-405-9141



Chromebooks—Funding for Chromebooks to be purchased for use by Foster Grandparents and Senior Companion volunteers was granted and we have worked with Verizon and Dell to get them purchased. Now we are working through Google Workspace and Chrome Enterprise to get the machines deployed as soon as possible. This has been an exhausting process,



A special thank you to a generous benefactor, who wishes to remain anonymous. That person allowed 92 of our volunteers, that were randomly selected, to receive a \$150.00 shopping event at the Okemos Meijer. We were fortunate enough to be able to participate in the event in April, May, and June. You could be one of our randomly selected volunteers for July.



# Campfire



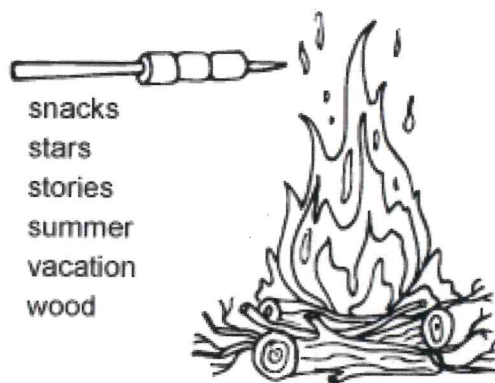
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chairs  
flame  
forest

guitar  
hot dogs  
log  
marshmallows  
matches  
nature

night  
outdoor cooking  
roasting sticks  
s'mores  
sing alongs  
smoke

snacks  
stars  
stories  
summer  
vacation  
wood



Tree Valley Academy



Caring Hearts Knitters and Sewers have been hard at work this past year and a half. Over 2,511 items have been knitted or sewn since January of 2020. We have donated 2,581 items to the needy during that same time period which included 757 hand-sewn washable facemasks, along with knitted blankets, hats, scarves, and mittens. Thank you for your tireless efforts in helping those in need. **We always accept donations of yarn.**



Volunteers at the R. J. Scheffel Toy Project continued to make toys for the needy children during the Pandemic. During the quarantine & stay at home order, many worked from home, sanding and painting toys!





## HIGHLIGHTS



In May of 2020, an RSVP staff member had permission to take pictures of the back of the facilities clients during a vehicle parade that circled the building. The clients were extremely happy to observe family members waving from their cars. Stay tuned for more pictures.

### Telephone Reassurance



Our Senior Companion Program volunteers have been making Telephone Reassurance calls during the pandemic. We partnered with Tri-County Office on Aging & Tri-County TRIAD, to work with their clients and to begin making calls to seniors to combat social isolation and depression. Things were not always easy, but our volunteers have done an amazing service to our community and seniors. Between December 2020 to date, our Senior Companion volunteers have made over 7,000 calls!!!

### Diversity, Equity, And Inclusion



RSVP Staff and our Board of Directors participated in Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion training at the end of June. The goal of this training was to provide our staff and Board with a better perspective regarding each other and the volunteers that we serve.



**NEED TO BORROW A TOOL?**  
Call the Capital Area Housing Partnership at 517-332-4663.  
They even lend power tools for your DIY projects.



### **RSVP MISSION**

RSVP is a community based organization that recruits a broad range of volunteers to meet the diverse needs of our partner organizations. We strengthen the organizations we serve while enriching the lives of our volunteers. Our volunteers are dedicated and caring individuals with vast life experiences which contribute to the unique services we provide.

### **Retired & Senior Volunteer Program**

2400 Pattengill Ave.  
Lansing, MI 48910

Phone: 517-887-6116  
Fax: 517-887-7313  
[www.rsvp-lansing.com](http://www.rsvp-lansing.com)

Office Hours:  
Monday - Thursday  
8:30am - 4:00pm  
Friday by appointment

### **SERVICES FROM TRI-COUNTY OFFICE ON AGING**

**TCOA can help with the following services:**

<b>Congregate Senior Dining Sites</b>	<b>517-887-1393</b>
<b>Crisis Services</b>	<b>517-887-1440</b>
<b>Health and Wellness Activities</b>	<b>517-887-1450</b>
<b>Home Delivered Meals</b>	<b>517-887-1460</b>
<b>Home Repair or Chore Services</b>	<b>517-887-1440</b>
<b>Information and Assistance</b>	<b>517-887-1440</b>
<b>In-Home Services</b>	<b>517-887-1440</b>
<b>Legal Assistance</b>	<b>888-783-8190</b>
<b>Long Term Care Ombudsman</b>	<b>866-485-9393</b>
<b>Non-Covered Medical Needs</b>	<b>517-887-1440</b>