

# RSVP

## Lead With Experience

Winter 2012 3001 S.W. College Road, Ocala, FL 34474-4415 Vol. 2, Issue 1

### Retired and Senior Volunteer Program: Marion County

Please join us for our next

## New Volunteer Orientation

Wednesday, Feb. 29, 2012

3 - 4 p.m. v Ewers Century Center  
College of Central Florida

New volunteers will receive an invitation to meet the Staff and learn more about volunteer perks, positions and partners.

Light refreshments will be served.



## Volunteer Recognition and Celebration

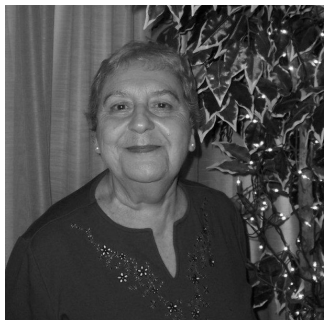
Friday, April 20

11:30 a.m. v Ewers Century Center  
College of Central Florida

All new volunteers are invited to attend. Watch for your invitation in the mail and then RSVP to 352-291-4444.

### Congratulations Barbara!

The RSVP staff is celebrating the **eighth anniversary** of **Barbara Belz** working in our office! When she retired, Barbara & her husband wanted something to fill their spare time and volunteering fit the bill! "I feel helpful. It makes me feel good to do good work," she adds. In addition



to serving with RSVP, Barbara has also served in Gainesville nursing homes where she read to the clients.

*Thank you Barbara!*

### What Can 867 Pairs of Hands Do?

When working as part of the Retired and Senior Volunteer Program of Marion County in 2011, these 867 pairs of hands have contributed 118,776 hours of service to make a difference in our area!

In keeping with the national strategy of the Corporation for National & Community Service, in 2012 RSVP of Marion County will focus its volunteer recruitment efforts in the areas of **health services**; services to **veterans and military families**; improvement of **reading readiness** for pre-elementary children; **environmental stewardship**; and improving access to services for **homeless individuals**.

There is an immediate need for volunteers to serve as **reading partners** for 3-4 year olds and **peer partners / mentors** for residents in transitional housing settings. These opportunities only require a two to four hour commitment per month. Volunteers are needed in the other focus areas **to teach energy conservation** and how to live in a Green Environment and **to work with veterans and military families**. Training will be provided.

For additional information contact LuAnn Haywood, RSVP program manager, at HaywoodL@cf.edu or 352-291-4444.

### Thank You for Your Help!

*Thanks* to each RSVP volunteer who helped with our two most recent projects.

**The 9-11 project** gave a tangible way to express our gratitude to active service men and women. The staff of **Operation Shoebox** enthusiastically accepted the cards & notes from RSVP!

**The MLK project**, RSVP donating canned goods for **Interfaith Emergency Services**, was also well supported. Our baskets overflowed with more than 130 pounds of food! Items will restock local pantries that assist people in need.

### We'd Like to Tip our Hats to Lorna and Marilyn!

Two RSVP volunteers were recently recognized by Marion County Senior Services as their Volunteers of the Year! **Lorna Gabriel** (Marion Oaks meal site) won the Meals on Wheels award and **Marilyn Miller** (Weirsdale meal site) won the Meal Site award.

"Volunteers are the lifeblood of our agency. Without them, providing the services needed by our clients would be impossible," said Executive Director Sarah Stroh. "They are at the heart of all we do." (Ocala Star Banner)

## RSVP Salutes Veterans!

In support of our focus on veterans and military families, RSVP Marion County helped sponsor the Veteran's Oral History Luncheon on Nov. 8. RSVP joins this partnership with the College of Central Florida and the Ocala Star-Banner.

This project provides veterans with the opportunity to tell and preserve memories of their military careers. Those veterans who have been interviewed are brought together to celebrate their service and then provided an opportunity to fellowship with other veterans. They may also interact with ROTC students from Francis Marion Military Academy and personalize letters which will be sent to active military personnel through Operation Shoebox.



This photo shows RSVP Advisory Council members with special guest, Congressman Cliff Stearns. From left: Jerone Gamble, LuAnn Haywood, Donnah Ross, Dick Wolf, Cliff Stearns, Kim Avera, Susan Hicks, Jan Hathaway, and Cleve Butler.

**RSVP volunteers are encouraged to submit a brief write-up of their military stories for the 2012 project.** Mail, fax or email your stories to the RSVP office. The stories become a part of the permanent history of Marion County, and they are kept on file in the Library of Congress in Washington.

### RSVP Advisory Committee

Kim Avera	Susan Hicks
Barbara Bombara	Jon Linhoss
Cleve Butler	Al Morrison
Jerone Gamble	Martha Morrison
Karla Grimsley	Kathy Robbins
Jan Hathaway	Anne Shannon
	Dick Wolf

## Welcome New RSVP Work Stations

College of Central Florida Learning Lab  
Marion County Homeless Council  
Operation Shoebox (Bellevue)

## A Warm Welcome to our Newest Volunteers

Johnny Alderson	Jan Hathaway
Janet Bailey	Diane Jameson
Peter Bostanescu	Michele McNeice
Caroll Brown	Alice Pearch
Susan Creedon	Johanna Soldato
Amy Davis	Sandy Stewart
Venie Halgrim	Merlene Tedford
Russell Harding	Vincent and Billie Vetrano

## RSVP Partner Spotlight

### Marion Therapeutic Riding Association

Move over AARP ... MTRA has Silver Saddles! This innovative new program designed specifically for the 60+ rider was introduced last spring, and has proven to be a great success! The once-a-week riding class focuses on great stretches, core strengthening and basic riding skills. Classes are organized by level and are open to anyone. Classes will be offered Tuesdays and Fridays (tentatively) in the spring. There will be eight spots available. If you are interested in participating contact the office (352-732-7300) to reserve space and pick up your medical form! Visit the website, [www.MTRAOcala.org](http://www.MTRAOcala.org), to learn more about **RSVP volunteer opportunities** with the Marion Therapeutic Riding Association.

## SOUND OFF PLEASE!

*How can RSVP volunteers support military families in our community?*

Email your answer to [HaywoodL@cf.edu](mailto:HaywoodL@cf.edu).  
We want to hear your ideas!

### RSVP Staff

LuAnn Haywood, Manager	<a href="mailto:HaywoodL@cf.edu">HaywoodL@cf.edu</a>
Joyce Wright, Staff Assistant	<a href="mailto:WrightJ@cf.edu">WrightJ@cf.edu</a>

Barbara Belz, RSVP Volunteer  
Gwyn Champlin, RSVP Volunteer

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