



RSVP

Lead With Experience

Serving Barton and Pawnee Counties
in Central Kansas



Volunteers
IN
Action

City and County officials recognize area volunteers

RSVP of Central Kansas in collaboration with City and County officials is proud to recognize the commitment our volunteers have in turning toward problems instead of away and working together to find community solutions.

On Tuesday, April 5th, RSVP director Linn Hogg will be joined by a representative from Senator Jerry Moran's office to tour the Barton County Community Food Bank. **All Food Bank volunteers are encouraged to attend.**

After the tour, there will be a reception for our volunteers and a proclamation read by county officials.

Over 100 RSVP volunteers work at the local food bank which is coordinated by RSVP volunteers Robert Evelyn Essmiller. These volunteers check in patrons, collect



food, packed boxes, sort food stock shelves and more. Last year they put in over 6,800 hours, serving thousands of people in Barton County.

Across the nation, county executives and mayors are participating in a variety of activities, including visiting national service programs, hosting roundtables, issuing proclama-

tions, and communicating about national service through social media. By shining the spotlight on the impact of service and thanking those who serve, local officials hope to inspire more residents to get involved in their communities.

All volunteers are encouraged to attend the reception.
Tuesday, April 5th
10AM
Great Bend Senior Ctr.
2005 Kansas, Great Bend

Second chance to be beautiful

Memorial Day flowers are ready to sell

RSVP is selling Memorial Day flowers again this year. The flowers are available at the RSVP Thrift Store in Hoisington and, beginning March 21, in the RSVP office located at 1025 Main in Great Bend from 8:00 - 5:00 Monday through Friday. You can't beat the prices on these flowers that are just like new.

Prices for these arrangements are very affordable at \$3 for large, \$2 for medium, and

\$1 for small arrangements. Come see what we have to offer before paying retail prices for your Memorial flowers this year. All proceeds from this fund raiser go towards volunteer recognition programs including our annual volunteer banquet. Your support is truly appreciated.



Spring cleaning starts with your pillows

Doug Kraft will be in town again for his annual pillow cleaning event, Saturday, April 23 from 8 am to 1 pm at the Great Bend Senior Center located at 2005 Kansas.

There are three main reasons to wash pillows, the first of which is that they're full up on dust mites. The second reason is that the pillow is stained. The stains can also come from sweat, the oil that your hair and body constantly excrete, and any foreign matter

that makes it into your bed. The third reason is that the pillow smells.

Kraft pillow cleaning service will clean all types of bed pillows! Service includes cleaning, sanitizing, deodorizing, re-fluffed and your choice of NEW TICKING (new outside material)! Prices start at \$13. They also have several varieties of new pillows to purchase too!

This is event is sponsored by RSVP and is a fund raiser for volunteer recognition.

IN THIS ISSUE

From the Director's Desk	3
Volunteers In The News.....	3
Advisory Council.....	4
Historical Society Seeking Volunteers .	4
AARP Tax Volunteers.....	5
Time Sheets.....	6 & 7
Birthdays.....	8
Volunteer Opportunities.....	9

RSVP

Serving Barton and Pawnee Counties

A program sponsored by



245 NE 30 Rd
Great Bend, KS 67530
620-792-2701



Volunteers In Action / RSVP Staff

Director
Linn Hogg

Administrative Assistant /
Medical Transportation Coordinator
Victoria Garza-Reyes

Volunteers In Action
Volunteer Coordinator
Kandi Wolf

MOW Coordinator
Yvonne Strecker

Located at:
1025 Main, #D114
Great Bend, KS 67530
620-792-1614

Office Hours:
Monday thru Friday 8-5
Closed on School Holidays

RSVP THRIFT STORE

158 S. MAIN ST. • HOISINGTON, KS

Are You Ready For Spring?

Don't throw away all those treasures you find during your Spring Cleaning. Help them find a new home. The RSVP Thrift Store will take all your cups, bowls, clothes, decorations, knick-knacks, small appliances and more. No furniture or large appliances. They will accept donations during business hours. Monday thru Friday, 11-4 or on Saturday 11-2

WELCOME NEW VOLUNTEERS!

These volunteers started during the first quarter of the year. If you see them at any of the volunteer stations, please take the time to introduce yourself and welcome them to VIA and RSVP.

- | | |
|----------------------|-----------------------|
| Sr. Mary Lou Desena | Jeanette Sidman |
| Carol Gotsche | Kim Kimball |
| Tammy Pfeifer | Cheney Cecil |
| Mary Eldridge | Steven Black |
| Ryan Jacobs | Jessica Wilson |
| Stephanie Cutsforth | Thomas C. Wilson |
| Karen Redding | Sue Jantz |
| Robert Feldt | Dorothy (Dort) Hertel |
| Virginia Fullbright | Kurtis Coleman |
| Phyllis Herrman | Yvonne Hokr |
| Zachariah Winchester | Barbara Vansteenburgh |

Spread the word: RSVP is asking for your help! Please pass along our newsletter to a friend to help get the word out about our program and service opportunities.

Thank you for turning in your hours

Did you know that whenever you volunteer an hour in service you continue to not only support your community but the RSVP Program. Your reported hours keep our grant funding active, which in turn helps us to provide Medical Transportation rides and Meals On Wheels services. It also helps keep blood drives going, food pantries open, hospitals

more welcoming, patients happier, veterans helped and many other non-profit agencies doors open. We know that there are many people who forget to turn in hours... are you one of those? You can turn in hours by filling out the forms in this newsletter. You can go online to our website at "rsvp.bartonccc.edu, call our office or stop by.

SHARE YOUR NEWS WITH RSVP

**Having an Event?
Is your Site Spectacular?
Growing? Networking?
Making a Difference?**

Whatever is going on let us know, so that we can share with our growing community of volunteers. Increase participation and inspire others with the news at your location. Something new for February, an EBLAST CALENDAR OF EVENTS will be going out to all sites and volunteers with updated email. DEADLINE IS January 29. Take a minute and email Linn with your news at hoggj@bartonccc.edu! Copy deadlines for the newsletter are listed in the center column. Send us something new for March.

From the Director's Desk.....

It takes a community of volunteers

I was thinking about the question, "why I volunteer," as I pondered upcoming special volunteer events and recognition days.

The upcoming National Volunteer Week, April 10-16, is about inspiring, recognizing



Linn Hogg,
VIA/RSVP Director

and encouraging people to seek out imaginative ways to engage in their communities. It's about demonstrating to the nation that by working together, we have the fortitude to meet our challenges and accomplish our goals.

This is the speech you receive from the national organizations that work with volunteers. However, I have always geared my volunteer experiences to be on a much more personal level.

In the past I have always found that volunteering for things that are important to me creates a better experience. I work harder for that organization and give

more of myself.

But in the last few years, I've recognized in myself the need to see my community around me become a better place. Small towns are only surviving because everyday people are stepping up to the plate to help.

We need to "demonstrate" that working-together spirit the national organizations speak about.

Community groups like the Dream Center, Family Crisis Center, CASA, Be Well Barton County, Barton County Food Bank, Catholic Charities and United Way, just to name a few, are pushing through a horrible economy to bring more services to our neighbors in need.

All of these organizations use volunteers to help on site, fund raise and spread the word. They are constantly looking for volunteers and leaders.

Challenge yourself to step up to the plate, get out of your box and help your community.

CALL US TODAY!

Volunteers In The News.....



Betty Robinson...
Medical Transportation
RSVP Office volunteer
RSVP fundraising
Santa World

Inspiration to all

Two volunteers who have been part of the RSVP program for many years, were featured in the Great Bend Tribune's Inspire-Health magazine.

They both had stories of courage, triumph over health issues and giving back to the community through leadership and volunteerism.

In both stories they helped to promote the RSVP program and what we all try to do for the community at large.
Way to inspire ladies.



Aleta Ehrlich...
Bloodmobile Vol. Coordinator
RSVP Fundraising
Church



Karen is a RSVP Volunteer and Advisory Council Member.

The Ellinwood Rotary Club presented Karen Kramp, the 2016 Distinguished Citizen Award for her many contributions of service over the last 30 years. She has volunteered at St. Joseph Church and School, Barton County 4-H, RSVP, Food Bank, Ellinwood Hospital Auxiliary, Beta Sigma Phi, Golden Belt Community Concert Assn., and Meals On Wheels.

Judy and Earl Fox were named the new Co-chairs for 2016 Barton Community College Foundation's Co-chairs for the Annual Academic Enrichment Fund Campaign. This year's theme was titled "Education Changes Everything." The event raises money for student scholarships.



Judy and Earl Fox, co-chairs for the annual BCC Foundation Event.

RSVP Advisory Council



Advisory Council Members: Front Row: L to R: Darlene Mathers, Jean Cavanaugh, Deon Lupton. Back Row: L to R: Virginia Fullbright, Karen Kramp, Merle Evers, Megan Barfield, Carol Gotsche, Reta Brack, Kathy Copp. Not pictured, Arlen Schroeder

Barton County Historical Society Museum and Village Seeking Volunteers

The Barton County Historical Society Museum and Village is seeking volunteers beginning April 7, 2016 through October 30, 2016. A Volunteer Orientation will be held Thursday, April 7, 2016 from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Museum south of the river bridge on Highway 281. The meeting is for anyone in Barton County who would be interested in volunteering at the museum.



Volunteers are asked to work from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. from Tuesday through Sunday. The museum is closed on Monday. The basic duties of a volunteer working at the front desk are to take admission, register visitors, and hand out information sheets about the museum and village. There are other opportunities if you do not want to work at the front desk.

The meeting will feature a short orientation and information about past and current happenings at the museum. Refreshments will be served.

Those persons who are interested in becoming a volunteer or just want to learn more about the museum and village are invited to attend this meeting without obligation or to call the Historical Museum office at 793-5125 or Karen Naylor, Volunteer Coordinator at 793-6394.

What does your RSVP Advisory Council do?

- Regularly attend and actively participate in meetings;
- Actively engage in an on-going effort to assess changing community needs and help the project meet the identified needs;
- Assist with promotion of community awareness of the project and its impact on the community through speaking engagements, working with the news media, personal affiliations, etc.;
- Help to draft an annual strategic plan, and set short- and long-range targets for fundraising, volunteer recruitment and recognition, and generating community awareness and support;
- Attend community fund (e.g. United Way) allocation meetings and other funder meetings with project staff, as applicable;
- Support the sponsor and project director through involvement in fundraising; publicity; impact programming efforts; volunteer station development; volunteer recruitment; and issues analysis;
- Visit stations, volunteers, and those they serve and meet with community supporters;



Viet Nam Veteran Chuck Parmer is awarded a Quilt of Valor by the Golden Plains Quilts of Valor, Jan. 29

Group uses sewing skills to honor veterans

Golden Plains Quilts of Valor is a member of the national Quilts of Valor foundation. Since its inception, they have awarded 154 quilts to local veterans. They currently have about 22 members. They meet at the American Legion once a month in order for the quilters to pick out fabric and patterns to make quilts.

The American Legion Auxiliary helps support the program through the sales of donated baked goods at Bingo plus soup suppers and a spaghetti feed.

The Quilts of Valor materials and quilting costs average between \$200.00 and \$250.00, as the cost is only in the materials; all of the construction and finishing is volunteer work completed by the members.

When the quilts are presented, a Veteran also receives a letter to tell them who made the quilt top, who put the quilt together and did the quilting, and how to care for it, including instructions on how to launder the quilt.

AARP Tax volunteers provide services to over 300 people

AARP Foundation Tax-Aide exists to help those who might not otherwise have access to tax preparation services. Those who receive tax preparation assistance from our IRS-trained and certified volunteers also avoid any tax preparation fees and pitches for high-interest refund anticipation loans and checks.

The program does not prepare tax returns involving farms, businesses, rental properties or partnerships. Returns usually are the EZ form or non-itemized forms with only one or W2's.

In 2015, RSVP volunteers trained as AARP Foundation Tax-Aide's assisted more than 200 people.

The program is offered to all community members in Bar-



AARP Tax Preparers: Front Row: Kathy Ahlvers, Richard Ahlvers. Back Row- Donna Gales, Trella Berscheidt, Lenny Gales

ton and Pawnee County but has also helped people in some of the bordering counties.

This year, volunteers went to training in January and began helping prepare taxes on February 4. The total numbers are not in, however they had available spots for over 300 potential clients this year.

The program is always looking for volunteers to help with tax preparation. There is no prior experience needed and training is provided. On-site help is always available through the program coordinator, Kathy Ahlvers.

This RSVP sponsored program has been in Barton County since 1990 and Kathy and her husband Richard have been helping since 2007.

Taking stock during financial literacy month

By Becky Ewy

Social Security Assistant District Manager in Hutchinson KS

April is Financial Literacy Month, which is a perfect time to take stock (pun intended) of your retirement savings. Social Security is there to help secure your future, but savings should be the foundation of a bigger retirement plan.

Have you ever done business online? The convenience and safety of doing business online is another way we're meeting the changing needs and lifestyles of our customers. You can open your own personal my Social Security account within a matter of minutes and have access to your information at any time of day, from the comfort of your home or office.

With a my Social Security account, you can:

- Keep track of your earnings and verify them every year, which is important because we use your earnings, along with other information, to help determine your benefit amount and eligibility;
- Get an estimate of your future benefits, if you are still working;
- Get a letter with proof of your benefits, if you currently receive them; and
- Manage your benefits:
 - o Change your address;
 - o Start or change your direct deposit;
 - o Get a replacement Medicare card; and
 - o Get a replacement SSA-1099 or SSA-1042S for tax

season.

In April, Social Security celebrates National my Social Security Week. The biggest day in that week is "Check Your Statement Day." It's important that you check your Social Security Statement every year since we base your future benefits on your earnings record. Your Statement can help you plan for your financial future. We encourage you to go online to my Social Security to access your Statement whenever you wish to verify your earnings history or check your estimated future benefits.

One sure way to stay on top of your financial future: you can join the more than 23 million people who have opened their own my Social Security account at www.socialsecurity.gov/myaccount



RSVP Time Sheet

Print Name: _____ **Month Of Service** _____

Your hours are important to us. Thanks for all you do!

The following partners report your volunteer hours so you don't need t list them below:

EARS - Elementary Schools
American Red Cross Bloodmobile
Catholic Charities
Clara Barton Hospital

Heartland Cancer Center
Meals On Wheels
Knit/Crochet
RSVP Medical Transportation
Historical Village

St. Rose Health Center
Hoisington Thrift Store
Barton County Food Bank
Senior Centers

What did you do?	Where did you volunteer?	Hours Served:
Churches: quilting, funerals, board meetings, all other volunteer jobs.		
Veterans and military family projects: American Legion, VFW, Military Moms, etc. (Please be sqpcific)		
Nursing Homes, Assisted Living Communities (please indicate location name)		
Community Organizations or Non-Profit agencies: fund-raising, office work, meetings, book-keeping, board meetings, advisory councils, etc.		
One-On-One Assistance: errands, handyman chores, yard work, transportation, friendly visiting, cooking, etc.		
Education Projects: afterschool programs, early childhood, preschools, etc. (pleae specify the location and project name)		
Nutrition Programs: commodities, Prairie Land Foods, etc.		
Health Projects: other hospitals, clinics, etc. (please be specific)		
Other: Please be specific		

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Historical Village

St. Rose Health Center

Hoisington Thrift Store

Barton County Food Bank

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Other: Please be specific		

Happy Birthday



04/02 John Grummon	05/05 Aleta Ehrlich	06/16 Sharon Erskin
04/02 Amy Mellor	05/05 Eunice Wendelburg	06/18 Paul Martin
04/03 Pauline Mong	05/06 Eileen Bayer	06/18 Jean Peevyhouse
04/04 Eileen Ingersoll	05/07 Carolyn (Sue) Parmer	06/18 Judy Turner
04/04 Teddy Williamson	05/07 Barbara Unruh	06/21 Becky Davis
04/06 Jackie Pritchard	05/09 Dale Hogg	06/21 Gerald Donovan
04/07 Kay Maneth	05/11 Janice Rose	06/21 Nancy L Rogers
04/08 Maurice Demel	05/12 Jeanne Gotsche	06/22 Kathy Ahlvers
04/08 Jamie Wolf	05/12 Edward Ruble	06/22 Sally O'Connor
04/09 Sue Detter	05/13 Grace Bell	06/23 James W. Jay
04/10 Kathleen Armatys	05/13 Jane M. Delong	06/24 Janice Morgenstern
04/10 Jerilyn Esfeld	05/13 Lois Schuster	06/24 Delilah A. Winkler
04/11 Glayds M. Apel	05/15 Patricia Hiss	06/25 MarlinIsern
04/11 Marilyn Frydendall	05/15 Sue Wagner	06/25 Paul Wooster
04/11 Michael James Rodriguez	05/17 Phyllis Bosley	06/26 Mariann Shook
04/13 Richard K Butler	05/17 Louise Gunn	06/26 Deborah J. Webster
04/14 Dianne Call	05/18 Don Halbower	06/27 Jean Cavanaugh
04/15 Mike Boys	05/19 Richard Ahlvers	06/28 Nancy R. Achatz
04/15 Judith Fox	05/19 Judith (Judi) Johnson	06/28 Mary L Bayer
04/15 Roger Hallenbeck	05/21 Sharon Dunlap	06/28 Sally Brown
04/15 Veramae Henre	05/22 Arlene Keil	06/28 Phyllis Herrman
04/15 George C. Schuld	05/23 Loretta Schroeder	06/29 Pat Horton
04/16 Kay Engleman	05/23 Edward D. Scott II	06/29 Sister Loretta Podlena
04/18 Mary Linenberger	05/24 Pat Brown	06/30 Paul Berscheidt
04/19 Jim Essmiller	05/29 Dixie A. Hughes	06/30 James Carney
04/20 Rose Kelly	06/01 Mary Lou Button	06/30 Anita Feldt
04/20 Diane Lewis	06/01 Beth Holl	
04/22 Connie Schuld	06/02 Linda Chisholm	
04/24 Victoria Garza-Reyes	06/02 Patricia Cook	
04/24 Clayton Williamson	06/02 Janet Engleman	
04/26 Mary R. Oberle	06/04 Lila Beltz	
04/27 Arlyn Lathrop	06/06 Betty Steiner	
04/27 Laverne Lessor	06/07 Deon Lupton	
04/29 Delores A. Vsetecka	06/08 EuniceDreher	
04/30 Dee Anne Grummon	06/09 Mary Backman	
05/01 Robert Myers	06/09 Lenny Gales	
05/02 Kevin undahl	06/09 Sharon King	
05/03 Rosalee Reitcheck	06/10 Gaila Nielsen	
05/03 Betty L. Schneider	06/10 Diana Scheuerman	
05/04 Judy Johnson	06/11 CherylPickle	
05/04 Evelyn M. Reiser Kaiser	06/12 Susan Stricker	
05/05 Kathleen Burt	06/13 Jim Erb	





Senior Center

The Great Bend Senior Center is looking for one or two volunteers to help during the noon hour. The volunteer would help pour coffee or tea, greet guests and help with check-in once in awhile. Volunteers do not have to be there every day of the week. Contact Rozy at 620-792-3906.

Memorial Day Flowers

Volunteers needed to help us recreate our recycled flowers for the Memorial Day Flowers fundraiser. Just a fluff here, are bow there and a little TLC returns these arrangements to good as new. Please call our office at 620-792-1614 to help.

RSVP Medical Transportation

Volunteers provide transportation to Barton County residents needing help getting to necessary medical appointments. Volunteers drive their own vehicle and RSVP reimburses 27 cents per mile. RSVP has a van available to help transport passengers that require a wheelchair. Volunteers can choose long distance or local trips with the option to drive the van when necessary. Volunteers have full discretion to accept a trip or not. Call Victoria for more information at 620-792-1614.

RSVP Thrift Store

The Thrift Store in Hoisington is a large fundraising opportunity for VIA/RSVP. The store is operated by a dedicated group of volunteers. It is open Monday-Friday from 11 a.m.-4 p.m. It is also open on Saturday from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. The Thrift Store is always seeking volunteers to assist in the day-to-day operations. Please contact Selma Webb to obtain more information at 620-653-4118.

Volunteer Opportunities

RSVP: Knit or Crochet

Calling all persons that love to knit or crochet! Each year RSVP delivers lap robes to each assisted living facility and nursing home in Barton County, plus our veterans in the area and at Fort Dodge. We have lots of beautiful yarn for you to choose from to make these simple lap robes. Come by the office and pick your colors today.

Talk Listen Care (TLC)

RSVP is seeking volunteers to make Friendly Phone Calls to home bound older adults who are socially isolated and lacking a support system. Calls are made once a week on a mutually agreed upon day and time. Calls are limited to 15 minutes. These call help verify the well-being of an elderly shut-in and helps to reaffirm that someone does care. This is a service that is really needed in the area, but it takes so little time and effort. Your call may be the only human contact they have all week. Please call our office at 620-792-16914 to sign up.

RSVP Office help

RSVP is seeking volunteers to work in the office on Tuesday or Thursday morning. Volunteers help answer telephones, file, help with surveys and other simple office tasks as needed. Help us make our office a fun place to be and visit. Call 620-792-1614 and ask for Linn.

American Red Cross Bloodmobile

Bloodmobile volunteers help with checking in donors, appointment making, escorting and food server. These volunteers are very vital to the process of the bloodmobiles. The Red Cross only brings the necessary staff to do the blood collection. This keeps the cost per unit of blood down which is very important to the hospitals who need it and in the long run to the consumer. Call 620-792-1614 for more information.

Volunteers in Action/RSVP
Sponsored by Barton Community College
1025 Main, D114
Great Bend, KS 67530

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67530

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Spring 2016

Do you like to drive?
Do you like to help others?
THEN TAKE ACTION!

**VOLUNTEER
NOW**



As a RSVP Medical Transport Driver:

- You will drive your personal vehicle.
- You will receive free training.
- You will be compensated for your gasoline.
- You will have flexible hours.
- **You will make a difference!**



Call today for full information and
a Volunteer Driver application at (620)792-1614
or stop by 1025 Main, #D114 in Great Bend, KS