

July 2014

# NORFOLK COUNTY RSVP



Norfolk County RSVP Volunteer Program  
614 High Street Dedham, MA 02026

[rsvp@norfolkcounty.org](mailto:rsvp@norfolkcounty.org)  
781.329.5728

**Invitations to the Norfolk County RSVP 2014 Annual Luncheon have been sent out.  
We hope to receive your RSVP by Thursday, August 7<sup>th</sup>.**

**If you wish to invite a guest, please include a \$ 15.00 check made out to Norfolk County for the price of their meal.**

## Luncheon Menu:

Crisp Garden Salad with Balsamic Vinaigrette  
Oven Roasted Potatoes cut in half seasoned w/Salt,  
Pepper, Garlic, & Rosemary

Chicken Piccata w/Light Lemon Wine Sauce & Capers  
Green Beans Almondine  
Dessert: Strawberry Shortcake

Musical Entertainment will be provided by a Berklee College of Music Jazz Band

## Volunteer Opportunities

- ❖ Interested in becoming a reading tutor in the Fall at your local elementary school? Contact Emma Gabriel, RSVP recruitment coordinator for details at (781) 234-3445.
- ❖ The Norfolk County Sheriff's Office is seeking volunteers interested in teaching vocational training to pre-release inmates. If you have a specific trade/skill (ex. HVAC, Culinary certification, Masonry, Landscaping, Accounting) and time to lend, please contact us at the number provided below.
- ❖ The Norfolk County Sheriff's Department is also seeking mentors for pre-release inmates. If you are interested in impacting those within the prison system thru mentoring, please contact us at the number provided below.

To stay up to date with new volunteer opportunities thru RSVP visit our Volunteer Match Website at:  
<http://www.volunteermatch.org/search/org73428.jsp>

If any of these opportunities are of interest to you, please contact us at (781) 329-5728.



## **INTERFAITH SOCIAL SERVICES** School Backpack Drive

**Help local students start off on the right foot in September!**

Interfaith Social Services (ISS) food pantry serves about 500 school-age children each month. The organization is hoping to collect enough school supplies and backpacks to help all of them be prepared for the start of the new school year.

ISS is asking for pre-packed backpacks, rather than individual supplies. Two types of backpacks are needed - one for grades K-5 and another for grades 6-12.

**ALL backpacks should include:** loose leaf paper, spiral notebooks, 2 pocket folders, #2 pencils and pink pearl erasers

For the **grades K-5 backpacks**, we suggest including: washable markers, crayons, glue sticks and safety scissors

For the **grades 6-12 backpacks**, please include: calculators, index cards and pens

Please label each bag by grade level to expedite the distribution process. We suggest using Avery address labels or marking tabs as the easiest way to do this.

Backpack distribution will start on Friday, August 1<sup>st</sup>.  
All backpacks with supplies are due to ISS by **Friday, July 25<sup>th</sup>**.

If you have questions or would like to participate, please contact Steve Larsen at [slarsen@interfaithsocialservices.org](mailto:slarsen@interfaithsocialservices.org) or call him at 617-773-6203 x19.

# VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT: ANN ACKIL



We visited RSVP volunteer Ann Ackil on her last school day at West Elementary in Stoughton. The teachers and children have really appreciated her time this spring. Here are a few notes from our conversation:

### ***What made you decide to start volunteering?***

Before retiring as a nurse, I volunteered at New England Sinai because I understood how to take care of people, and I wasn't afraid to go into a hospital with really sick patients. It originally was a volunteer opportunity through my church but I have stayed for about 6 years. I joined RSVP when New England Sinai and RSVP became partners.

I had just retired when RSVP called me a year and a half ago. They asked about my interests, and I said I might like to do something in the schools. I did a lot of volunteering with my kids when they were in school. They found Stoughton needed reading coaches and put me in touch with Laurie Higgins (Reading Specialist). Laurie suggested I work with these two kids in second grade.

### ***What is it like being back in elementary school?***

I hadn't been in grade school in a really long time. I was impressed by how active the rooms were and how the teachers could seem to manage quite a few kids at once with all of them doing a lot of different things. The two students I had were very good and just needed a little bit of time with someone to help them practice their reading.

As a parent I had 4 kids in school. I did quite a bit of homework with my own kids. At Stoughton, the reading teachers always give me things to work with them: games, flash cards, stories to read out loud. I had no experience teaching before, but I was a nurse and a lawyer, so I've been to school quite a bit.

### ***Do you have advice for new reading coaches?***

Not to be afraid. You'd be surprised how much you can help somebody with a little bit of time. I only read with the kids maybe 15 minutes each, once a week. It's not a lot of time, but it paid off for the children. You don't have to commit your whole week to volunteering to make a difference.



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RSVP is sponsored by the Norfolk County Commissioners:

Peter H. Collins of Milton, Commissioner

John M. Gillis of Quincy, Commissioner

Francis W. O'Brien of Dedham, Chairman

