



NORFOLK COUNTY RSVP VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

Your Invitation to Respond to Your Community

614 High Street P.O. Box 310 Dedham, MA 02027 781-329-5728



Apr 2015



Randolph Health Care Center and Weymouth Health Care Center are 2014-15 Leadership Sponsors of RSVP

Join us for a Celebration of Service & Volunteerism in Massachusetts!

Third Annual MA Service & Volunteerism Day at the State House featuring Special Guest, Wendy Spencer, CEO of the Corporation for National and Community Service (AmeriCorps and Senior Corps).

Thursday, April 16 / 10:00-11:30AM

Massachusetts State House, Grand Staircase (Second Floor)



Wendy Spencer, CNCS will be at the State House April 16 along with volunteers from around MA

Over 1.4 million people of all ages and backgrounds across Massachusetts are answering the call to serve their community. For some it's one day, and for others it's a yearlong commitment. Either way, they are providing vital support to our schools, food banks, homeless shelters, youth centers and other nonprofit organizations at a time of growing demand for services. Join the Massachusetts Service Alliance on April 16th to hear from these "Everyday Community Heroes" as they share their story on how they are meeting local needs, inspiring others to serve and making a difference from the Berkshires to Southeastern Mass to Boston and everywhere in between. Breakfast provided, optional meetings with local legislators at noon. Call 781-329-5728 to sign up.

Introducing Joanne Kaerwer Douglas



RSVP welcomes Joanne Douglas to the RSVP office this spring as lead school volunteer! A current Walpole resident, Joanne grew up in Medfield and raised her family in Sharon. Joanne retired from teaching in Sharon last June. Over her 42-year career, she taught every grade K-6 and was a cooperating teacher for many interns and volunteers. Consistent with RSVP's philosophy, Joanne believes that children need many different and supportive adults in their lives.

Joanne currently volunteers with School on Wheels in Brockton. While at the RSVP office, she develops resources for school volunteers and is available Thursday and Friday mornings if you have questions about working with kids. Call 781-329-5728 to reach her. We are very grateful for Joanne for sharing her knowledge and experience with us. You can meet her at upcoming school volunteer meetings (see page 2).

Volunteer in Community Gardens to Support Local Food Pantries

Harvest from the Heart (Wrentham)

This community garden grows fresh produce for the Wrentham Food Pantry. It relies on the efforts of volunteers to plant vegetables and to tend the garden until they are ready to harvest.

Volunteers with all levels of gardening experience are welcome to 1 hour per week or more. There will be a planting day with many volunteers, then ongoing weeding, watering, and harvest through summer.

Needham Community Farm

The Needham Community Farm supplies fresh produce for the pantry at Needham Community Council. Volunteers can drop-in on Saturday mornings from 9am-noon to help with the project of the week.

The farm also seeks volunteers for its regular weeding crew (one early evening per week).

- Have you explored health coverage options?
- Can you decipher insurance statements?
- Would you like to help others find programs and information they need?

The SHINE Program provides free health insurance information, counseling and assistance to people with Medicare and their caregivers. Committed volunteers are trained in many areas, including Medicare, retiree insurance, prescription drug plans, and Medicaid.

Sign up now to volunteer! Call 781-329-5728.

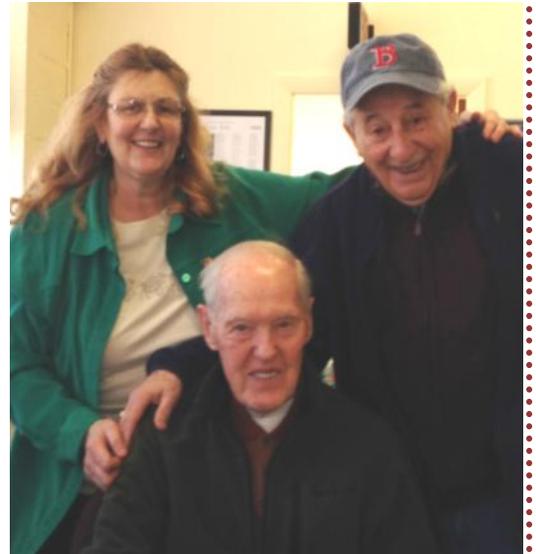


RSVP is funded in part by a national Senior Corps grant and sponsored by the Norfolk County Commissioners:

- Peter H. Collins of Milton, Commissioner
- John M. Gillis of Quincy, Commissioner
- Francis W. O'Brien of Dedham, Chairman

Donna Summers and the Walpole Veterans Group

On the second Tuesday of each month, Volunteer Donna Summers facilitates a meeting of Walpole veterans at the town Senior Center. Like an energizer bunny, Donna is always in motion. She gives her ALL to the group, making baked goods, setting up coffee and additional snacks, coordinating guest speakers and presenters. She usually puts up a display of military memorability representing group and personal interests. This month there was a display by the "Tin Can Sailors" and the presenter showed fascinating videos of submarines and destroyer ships. Both of Donna's grandfathers were in the military and from an early age, Donna was moving around the country with her family as her father was in the national guard.



Donna Summers with Ed Damish and Tony Ragusa at the Walpole Veterans Group.



Catch Robert on Audio - visit the Feb 20 episode of AMQuincyPodcasts at www.qatv.org

She went into the Army straight out of high school, got trained as a nurse and attended to returning Vietnam Vets in California beginning in 1973. Donna expresses a dedication and commitment to her fellow vets. She says that her involvement is a "labor of love". Donna is also proud to have a committed bulletin board for veteran news and activities in the Senior Center now. Next, Donna wants to plan some group trips for her group. "Maybe we can get the Senior Bus to take us to the World War II Museum in Natick?!" You go girl! Kudos to Donna for your service and all you do !!!!

This Month for Norfolk County Volunteers...
National Volunteer Week is April 12-18



Meetings for Elementary School Volunteers: Current and prospective school volunteers age 50+ are welcome to attend a meeting April 9, 9:30-11am at the Endicott Estate in Dedham or April 16, 2:30-4pm at the Thayer Public Library in Braintree. See volunteer resources and share your experience with other volunteers over breakfast. Call 781-329-5728 to sign up.

Quincy Neighborhood Open Houses: Learn about ways to get involved in your neighborhood as a volunteer or advisory committee/board member. Pizza and refreshments will be served! Hough's Neck Community Center, Tuesday April 14th 5:30-7:30. Ward 4 Neighborhood Association, Wednesday April 15th 5:30-7:30. North Quincy Community Center, Thursday April 16th 5:30-7:30.

Canton Volunteer Fair: 1st Annual Volunteer Fair at Canton Public Library, Thursday April 16, 4-8pm. Come to learn about non-profit organizations that can use your help to deliver services to people in need. Find ways to give back.

Veterans Book Club: Norfolk County RSVP Volunteer Program is holding its inaugural Veterans Book Club on Tuesday, April 28th from 6 -8:30 PM at VFW Hall, 84 Eastern Avenue in Dedham. The first book being featured is 'Unbreakable: A Navy Seal's Way of Life'. Copies have been generously donated by author Thom Shea and are now available for distribution to veterans who wish to participate. All veterans wanting to participate in the club are encouraged to call Norfolk County RSVP, Robert Pierson at 781-234-3445.

Below: RSVP volunteers Bob Moody and Ann Murphy at Walpole CoA St. Patrick's Day Breakfast Right: Ying Si and Jonathan Prigot at Needham Science Center's STEAM Night.

