



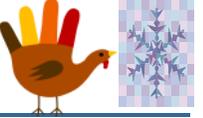
# NORFOLK COUNTY RSVP VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

Your Invitation to Respond to Your Community

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



Nov/Dec 2015



*Dedham Savings are 2014-15 Leadership Sponsors of RSVP*

## Norfolk County RSVP Veteran Volunteer Pinning Ceremony



*New Veteran Volunteer Pins courtesy of the Corporation for National Community Service*

The Norfolk County Commissioners and Norfolk County RSVP are excited to announce our first Veteran Pinning Ceremony to honor all who volunteer with us in Service to Veterans and to Veterans who serve in all program areas throughout the County. On Tuesday, November 17, RSVP volunteers will receive Special Veteran Pins that have been created for all who serve Veterans through National Programs. The event will be held at the Endicott Estate in Dedham at 9:30 AM.

Anyone involved with Veterans Support is invited.

Senior Corps programs have engaged and served tens of thousands of veterans and military families. Building on the success of these efforts, the **National Veteran Corps** has recently been established to recognize and honor Veteran Service for our country.

### New Volunteering for Veterans Opportunities

- **VA HOSPITAL VISITORS AND ESCORTS** - Brockton VA Hospital offers a wide range of activities for volunteers to engage with veterans. Assist at veterans' coffee hour, current events, bingo, poker, cribbage, bowling, billiards, computers, reading, greenhouse care, cooking, or in the dining room. Flexible days and hours.
- **VA HOSPITAL AMBASSADORS** - Jamaica Plain VA and West Roxbury VA Hospitals have a need for volunteers to meet and greet visitors in their busy lobby areas, dispense information and escort veterans to appointments when needed. Four hour shift, morning or afternoon.
- **MY HealtHvet WEBSITE GUIDE** - At West Roxbury VA and Brockton VA, assist veteran patients with online medical records portal to access their health and appointment information. Volunteers sign up for one or two 4-hour shifts per week.

*Veterans Gene Longevan, Gary Hodgson, Bob Aldous, Ted Harwood and Dick Eaton at RSVP Veterans Book discussion.*



*To sign up or for more information please call us at 781-329-5728 or email [rsvp@norfolkcounty.org](mailto:rsvp@norfolkcounty.org)*

## Norfolk County RSVP School Volunteers Make a Difference

For hundreds of elementary school age children here in Norfolk County, each fall marks the beginning of a new school year filled with excitement and possibility. It's also the time when a cadre of new and returning RSVP Elementary School Volunteers are headed back to school as well.

For our new RSVP volunteers: 'Welcome' and for those returning: 'Welcome Back'.

Norfolk County's RSVP school volunteer program offers a wonderful way to give back to the community and positively impact our young student learners. And, it's fun! How much of an impact do our volunteers have? "A huge amount" says Steve Fortin, Principal for the Old Post Road Elementary School in Walpole and an enthusiastic fan of the RSVP program. So much so that, this year, he requested and now has seven RSVP school volunteers, more than double last year's number. We recently asked Principal Fortin to assess on a 1-5 scale, his RSVP program volunteers based on student impact and teacher satisfaction. Without hesitation, he answered: 5+. And we have received similar feedback from other Norfolk County elementary school principals as well.

So what is the key takeaway? For us at Norfolk County RSVP, something we have always known. Our RSVP school volunteers make a real difference!

From all of us at Norfolk County RSVP, thank you! Please call Cris Goldsmith at 781-234-3447 for more information on school volunteering.

*Volunteer Emma Mahoney with students.*



**All school volunteers are invited to attend one of our Fall School Volunteer Kickoff Events!! See next page.**

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

**Dedham Cable host Marilyn Keegan receives RSVP service pin on-air**

Long time Dedham TV host Marilyn Keegan has served over the past 4 years as a Norfolk County RSVP volunteer with the Dedham Council on Aging, singing and performing for Veterans and other groups as a member of the Dedham Troubadors. While being interviewed by Marilyn on her show 'Seniors On the Move', Norfolk County RSVP Director Robert Pierson awarded Marilyn a bronze pin representing over 100 hours of RSVP service. To watch Marilyn receive her pin and learn more about the current activities of Norfolk County RSVP, copy the following link into your internet browser:



*Marilyn Keegan receiving Bronze Service Pin from Robert Pierson, of Norfolk County RSVP*

<https://vimeo.com/dedhamtv/review/140445870/d9c7057fad> (--

**Friendly Visiting with Veterans at New Partner Site in Quincy!**

Please consider volunteering with our new partner site: "The William B. Rice Eventide Home" in Quincy. There are many opportunities for Friendly Visiting, mornings and afternoons; Assist with Crafts and Fitness Programs on Wednesdays; Help with the Newsgroup discussion on Mondays. Please call us at 781-329-5728 for details. We would be grateful if you shared this opportunity with family and friends too.

**Outstanding Volunteer Bill Topham**

Beginning with this issue, Norfolk County RSVP selects an 'Outstanding RSVP Volunteer' who has gone well beyond the bounds of their volunteer requirements with extraordinary contribution.



We recognize Bill Topham, Rides for Veterans Volunteer Driver who regularly transports vets to medical appointments, with an average monthly login of over 300 miles. Last month Bill logged in over 500 miles. In recognition of his remarkable commitment to vets, Bill is receiving a \$10 Starbucks gift card as a small thank you. An 'Outstanding RSVP Volunteer' will be acknowledged on a quarterly basis. Thanks to each volunteer "for all you do!!"

**RSVP School Volunteer Fall 2015 Kickoff Event**

Among the advantages of RSVP membership are opportunities for training, connecting with other volunteers and offering feedback to help us enhance the Norfolk County RSVP school volunteer program. Whether you're a new school volunteer or returning for the fourth year, please join us for this enjoyable 2-hour event. This Kickoff event is being held at two different locations and times. Pick the one that's most convenient for you.

**Friday, November 13<sup>th</sup>**  
 11:30-1:30 pm  
 Thayer Public Library  
 798 Washington St, Braintree  
*A light lunch will be served*

**Wednesday, November 18<sup>th</sup>**  
 2:00-4:00 pm  
 Walpole Public Library  
 143 School Street, Walpole  
*Refreshments will be served*

Please contact Cris Goldsmith at 781-234-3447 or [cgoldsmith@norfolkcountry.org](mailto:cgoldsmith@norfolkcountry.org) to reserve your place at the table.

**Meet Carol Parillo- Life Long Dedham Resident and Sheriff's Department Volunteer**

Talk about commitment!! Carol Parillo has been volunteering at the Norfolk County Department of Corrections since 1978. When speaking with Carol about her experiences we learned that she was a 'pioneer', one of the first to volunteer at the prison. She comments that coming in as a group of women to help was not easy back then. Carol has co-facilitated support groups for male prisoners through the years. "It is rewarding because they really appreciate that someone cares. I have gotten so many letters of thanks. One man who has been coming to groups since 2004 shared: 'you ask about my kids, my family, me. You give up your afternoon for me'. Once they are back on the street, they write to us and we write back. If they come back in, they say they feel embarrassed, but we don't judge them. They know they can talk to us and we will listen, even if what they share is hard to hear."

Carol has been an RSVP volunteer for 10 years now. She volunteers weekly on Monday afternoons and evenings, additionally showing movies to the men twice a month. Carol is needing to slow down some because of her health. "In doing this work you learn to find more patience, compassion and gratitude. I enjoy my involvement also attending graduations and talking with Sheriff Bellotti. I will keep going back as long as my health allows and I'm sorry I can't do it as much as I used to."

Norfolk County RSVP is proud to recognize Carol for her meaningful work, and are grateful to have her with us.

