



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



Sept-Oct
2016

Dedham Savings Bank is the 2016-17 Leadership Sponsor of NCRSVP

RSVP Volunteer Recognition 2016 a Big Success !

The 2016 RSVP Volunteer Luncheon was a great success with 260 volunteers and guests attending. The Sheriff's Honor Guard presented the flag courtesy of Sheriff Michael Bellotti, and Register Patrick McDermott sang the national anthem. Six Norfolk County Volunteers from different towns in the County, serving at various volunteer sites came to the podium and shared their volunteer stories under the program heading: "Sharing Your Volunteer Experience".

Norfolk County Sheriff's Honor Guard with guests



Overall, 50 volunteers were recognized with presidential service awards and 5 volunteers who have devoted over 10,000 hours of service to RSVP

were given certificates. 41 door prizes were distributed and 28 floral centerpieces donated and given away at the end of the event. 'Sigy Moller and the Sound of Legends' provided great entertainment and inspired guests to dance. A huge thank you to our RSVP Advisory Board, staff and the Norfolk County Commissioners for making the event possible.

Volunteers in attendance at the Luncheon



RSVP Launches New Learning Engagement & Academic Partners (LEAP) Training Program for RSVP School Volunteers

Beginning this month, new and returning school volunteers have the opportunity to participate in a special new training program that is designed to enhance the overall school volunteer experience and student impact. We are fortunate to have Gail Zimmerman, a noted school volunteer trainer and former teacher with a wealth of experience to facilitate this training. Our first training event was very well attended. For information on the next LEAP training program activity (week of October 17th) please contact: Cris Goldsmith at 781-234-3447 or cgoldsmith@norfolkcounty.org.

Don Thieme - Volunteer for Norfolk County's Sheriff Department Mentoring Program Goes Well Above and Beyond !

Don Thieme of Newton is a Volunteer Mentor to a younger man who has been in and out of county facilities for about 30 of his 52 years. Don started meeting with 'John' (fictitious name) in November 2015, prior to his release. The two speak once or twice a day, 5 days a week and see each other about 4 to 6 hours each week. With amazing commitment and compassion, Don has helped John get suitable clothing for and accompanies him on job interviews, taken him to medical appointments and AA meetings; helped John get registered to vote, get a library card, study for 'ServSafe' Tests and help him get into a sober house. Don encourages John to connect with safe family members, including his son and grandson. John has been working 30 hours part-time since February, though continues to go on interviews in the hopes of more hours and higher pay.

Don, who has worked at Corrections facilities in the past reflects: "Getting a job if you are a felon is a well-known concern. Few people will hire you. John encountered all the alternatives. First, he could go back to hustling... you have to be very strong to walk away from this route. It's quick and easy to fall into this trap. I saw several attempts by past peers to drag 'John' back to hustling, but he was able to force himself to no contact with former friends. There is a downside though; you now have no personal relationships with your past, and you must find new ones." Don continues saying that "skill sets for most jobs today do not match these guys qualifications.... Once you get a job, knowing how to keep it and keep your money is a challenge. Understanding and complying with company policies is a big issue." With keen awareness and experience, Don understands the many challenges to individuals who want to make progress, away from their past lives. Don is optimistic about John saying: "he appears to have come out of the County with a good work ethic and good interpersonal skills." John continually expresses gratitude for all that Don does for him. We at RSVP thank Don for the remarkable caring he shows and the huge difference he makes in John's life.

On final reflection Don told us: "I have a lingering concern about having developed a personal relationship with the risk that should I ever want to disconnect from John, there is likely going to be a consequence to both parties involved. In other words, mentoring is a very serious endeavor. I would advise someone not to enter the activity without serious thought'.

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

• Peter H. Collins of Milton, Commissioner

• Joseph P. Shea of Quincy, Commissioner

• Francis W. O'Brien of Dedham, Chairman



COLONIAL VILLAGE KNITTING CLUB OF WEYMOUTH

Many thanks to the Ladies at Colonial Village Knitting Club in Weymouth for their beautiful lap robes for our Veterans in local VA hospitals, recovering at home or in hospice. Taking the time and sharing personal memories of Veterans and their families or close friends help us to never forget sacrifices made by our Veterans and their families... to keep us safe and 'Let Freedom Ring'. WHAT A WONDERFUL WAY TO THANK A VET AND LET THEM KNOW WE REMEMBER! *Submitted by Claire Howsberger.*



In the photo– L-R top: Debby Radcliffe, Judy Fuller, Charlotte Lindblom, Barbara Walorz, Bernadette Steele.

L-R seated: J. Henderson, Ann O'Donnell, Claire Saunier.

Not in photo– Carol Brewer.

September and October Volunteer Birthdays



Lucille Zahdi 9/1	Robert Bowman 9/9	Pauline Anderson 9/28	Steve Greene 10/17
Denise Abbott 9/2	Ron Carroll 9/9	Lawrence Callahan 9/28	Alyse Greene 10/19
Beulah Peterson 9/2	Beverly Farrell 9/9	Roslyn Laprise 9/28	Lorraine Norton 10/19
Janet Crowley 9/4	Maura Famulare 9/14	Priscilla Marsden 9/28	Gail Chirdon 10/20
Jennifer Davis 9/4	Barbara Guariano 9/15	George Blumenthal 9/29	Margaret Reucroft 10/22
Claire Howsberger 9/4	John Brunnock 9/16	Tom Crawford 10/1	Carol Parillo 10/23
Mary Hayes 9/5	Mary Courtney 9/17	Don Thieme 10/3	John Gamel 10/24
Pat Stockbridge 9/5	Joe Leason 9/18	Alan Glou 10/4	Jane Vuozzo 10/25
Shirley Brown 9/6	Lillian Roy 9/20	Ken Denault 10/6	Joanna MacKinnon 10/27
Susan Donnelly 9/6	Ruth DeCristofaro 9/21	Barbara Spacco 10/9	Adelia Cibotti 10/28
Beverly Dwyer 9/6	Maureen Argento 9/22	John Hansen 10/10	Ruth Dorsey 10/29
Virginia Kalaghan 9/6	Carol Courage 9/22	Herb Johnson 10/10	Elaine Babcock 10/30
James Ricci 9/6	Kathleen Turano 9/24	Tom Keating 10/10	Dianne Boucher 10/31
Paul Galofaro 9/7	Beth Henrich 9/26	Diane Foulds 10/12	Martha Colamaria 10/31
Pat Pieroway 9/7	Margaret Madden 9/26	Eleanor Mustin 10/13	Bernice Filaccio 10/31
Patricia Hyman 9/8	Naifee McLaughlin 9/27	Jonathan Prigot 10/16	Richard Mackey 10/31

STATION PROFILE: BETH GANNON, ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PRINCIPAL

Beth Gannon is the Principal of the Donovan Elementary School in Randolph. She been working with the Norfolk County RSVP school volunteer program for the past five years. We asked for her thoughts about having RSVP as a partner.

“One of the most important ways that RSVP volunteers contribute to our students’ school experience is through the intergenerational connection that is created. Students are able to develop firsthand relationships with adults who have had alternative life experiences. Children want to have someone of whom they can ask questions, to whom they can engage in conversations and by whom they can be heard. They also have the opportunity to engage in conversations about life and workplace experiences that will broaden their perspective on future options. Finally, the volunteers represent much needed additional resources that help us provide targeted support for children.”

An example of how a particular RSVP volunteer has impacted a young student or group of students:

“We have a male volunteer that works 1 on 1 with a few targeted boys. They read to him and they got the chance to feel personalized attention. Many of my male students do not have adult male role models at home, so this relationship is very valuable. But the data impact of this gentleman has been profound – there has been a reduction of 60% in the number of behavioral incidents over the previous calendar year. “

TIMESHEET UPDATE

Receiving your monthly timesheet allows us to show our National Senior Corps funder that RSVP is meeting grant requirements. We appreciate your efforts to get timesheets into us. Whether or not you are receiving mileage reimbursement, they are necessary for us consider you an active RSVP volunteer. WE HAVE ESTABLISHED A NEW POLICY requiring volunteers to submit timesheets within a very reasonable 6 month period if they are late to receive reimbursement for mileage. We are also informing your stations of this policy if they have been delayed in sending your timesheets for you. Please remember that both your and your station supervisors signatures are necessary. Please call Robert at 781-234-3445 if you have any questions and thank you for your continued support.