



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



Jan-Feb
2018

Dedham Savings Bank is the 2017-18 Leadership Sponsor of Norfolk County RSVP

Sharing the holiday spirit with our Veterans at the Brockton VA

Norfolk County RSVP volunteers and staff lead our holiday sing along !!



*'Twas two days before Christmas, we were on our way there,
to the Brockton VA, with volunteers Sanjay, Roberta and Claire;
For our annual RSVP holiday show, to entertain resident vets,
every year had surprises, so as to how many would attend we were making no bets;*



*This year we prepared with good cheer and more song,
with holiday sweaters and hats, and a Grinch shirt too long;
We arrived and found our way to our performance room,
then we waited and waited, what could we assume?;
A glitch in the scheduling, though nevertheless,
vets started arriving, and for this we felt blessed.*



*The room was filling up as never before,
we then felt inspired to show what good cheer was in store;
From Frosty, to Rudolph our disabled Vets 'came aware
then through Deck the Halls and White Christmas they began to show care;*



*Through skits and duets, group songs solemn and fun,
some resident veterans joined in singing and the group felt as one.
We shook hands and gave thanks to each individual vet,
Thank you for your service! We will never forget!
The tears and smiles and stories on their faces
reminded us of the rewards from our sharing embraces.
As our veteran friends left for lunch & continued their living
our RSVP singers were reminded, the reward is in the giving!*



(Previously printed in RSVP Happy New Year email.)

RSVP School Volunteers, Save the Date!

Join us for our second annual "March Gathering" on **March 9th** at the Canton Public Library. Enjoy the company of your fellow school volunteers and LEAP program leaders. Share experiences and ideas over breakfast and coffee. Expect special activities and a guest speaker.



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



Greenlodge School Lunchtime Program including volunteers Kathy Murray and Joanne Douglas <<<



Cris Goldsmith & Claire Howsberger at school training <<<

>>> Veteran Volunteers Karen Schulz and Laura Kulas



“QUOTABLES”

Joanie Lampe, RSVP volunteer at Old Post Road Elementary School; works with gifted group of children in 2d grade. Currently in her second year as school volunteer .

"I've been doing this for the past year and it's been the most amazing year of my life. The kids are just so happy to see a volunteer come into their classroom because it's not their parent, it's not their teacher, it's someone they can be themselves with. I'm learning so much about younger kids even though I have had children myself. Remembering what a 7 yr old is like is so much fun. The kids are always entertaining you. You walk into the classroom and they have a story to tell you about home or their birthday party and I then have to tell them 'okay, time to get to work and do some reading'. I would say to anybody who wants to be an RSVP volunteer, you will get out of it more than you're even given because the students and teachers are just so appreciative. Go out and do it, you'll just love it."

New Volunteer Opportunities

Norfolk County RSVP is expanding volunteer offerings to now include **friendly visitors for older adults** in the community. If you are available to spend 1 or 2 hours a week visiting with an **isolated senior in their home**, or in some cases taking a senior out for errands please contact Robert at 781-234-3445.

Meals on Wheels drivers are needed in many communities in Norfolk County through our partners HESSCO, South Shore Elder Service and Tri-Valley Elder Services.

All it takes is a 1.5 hour late morning shift a week. Mileage reimbursement available. Contact us at the RSVP office 781-329-5728 for more information and please spread the word. Thank you!

RSVP Friendly Visitors enjoy time with Sandy

Sandy is a vibrant woman who lives in Randolph and loves to knit and socialize. Sandy is also blind. When we met her at a South Shore for the Blind support group meeting, her warm smile and engaging manor drew us in. We learned that Sandy had been on a waiting list for a friendly visitor through a different organization for a very long time. Her husband Jim could help, though she needed additional support. She was thrilled to hear that NCRSVP would be happy to help, and she had many ideas of activities that visitors could assist with.

Deb Rose started visiting with Sandy in May 2017. They both hit it off with shared interests in knitting and socializing. Deb often makes braille labels for Sandy to put on food cans and other items. She has taken Sandy out enjoying occasional walks together in the good weather. They enjoy discussing mystery novels by Phillip Craig, talking on the phone together and wrapping holiday gifts.

And recently Deb introduced Sandy and Jim to the Pea Pod food delivery service. It is a big help. In November 2017, Susan Kanopkin starting visiting with Sandy as a second visitor. Susan often escorts Sandy out of the house, running errands and shopping. Sandy said:

'I had a great time with Susan at the Christmas Tree Shop over the holidays. I am so thankful to have the time with Deb and with Susan. They are both wonderful. Now that the holidays are over, I look forward to getting back to a weekly schedule with each of them. Thanks so much!'



Photo of friendly visitor Deb Rose



Photo of friendly visitor Susan Kanopkin at a volunteer training.

Insurance Reminder

Norfolk County RSVP covers its members with liability and supplemental auto liability insurance while on assignment, as well as supplemental accident insurance for volunteer-related injuries. How it works: RSVP coverage can help you only after your primary coverage is applied. It will not cover automobile repair copays, though can cover additional medical expenses related to a volunteering related accident in your car or while volunteering at your service location. **It very rarely happens, though if you have an incident that may require insurance**, please call us as soon as possible to file a report at 781-329-5728.

