



REPORT OF THE RSVP VOLUNTEER PROGRAM FOR FISCAL YEAR 2014

The Norfolk County Commissioners' Office hosts the RSVP Volunteer Program to assist communities in providing elementary school reading, food pantry, meals on wheels, and veterans' programs. Volunteers age 55+ in these programs can receive mileage reimbursement, supplemental insurance, monthly communications, and recognition with free RSVP membership. RSVP also assists in recruitment of new volunteers for partner schools and organizations as needed. RSVP has a three member staff: the RSVP Director, a Recruitment Coordinator, and an Information Specialist.

In FY2014, 300 RSVP members provided over 35,000 hours of volunteer service to local public and nonprofit partners. Tracking the outcomes of their work, RSVP found that volunteers served over 280 school children through its reading tutor program, 86% of whom improved their reading level over the course of the year. 645 families received food assistance, improving their food security, nutrition and ability to live independently.

In April 2014, Norfolk County RSVP was awarded a competitive national grant from the Corporation for National and Community Service for a new 3-year term. The Norfolk County Commissioners provide partial matching funds for this federal grant to cover operating expenses. A community needs assessment led to increased emphasis on veterans' program support for the next three years. RSVP is working closely with the County Veterans' Services Advocate to create and fill volunteer positions that serve the needs of Norfolk County's veteran population. For example, the newly developed RSVP Rides for Veterans program provides free transportation for veterans to medical and other necessary appointments by volunteers who receive mileage reimbursement through RSVP.

RSVP seeks volunteers year-round to place in partner agencies based on volunteers' skills and interests. New partners and contacts among local organizations are also welcome, especially those serving veterans. Details about outreach events, current volunteer opportunities, and partners are listed at norfolkcounty.org/rsvp. Please contact RSVP at 781-329-5728 with questions or comments.

Respectfully submitted,

Lillian Hartman

RSVP Director