



REPORT OF THE RSVP VOLUNTEER PROGRAM FOR FISCAL YEAR 2015

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 is sponsored by the Norfolk County Commissioners with partial grant funding from the Corporation for National and Community Service. RSVP has a three member staff: the RSVP Director, a Recruitment Coordinator, and an Information Specialist.

In FY2015, 350 RSVP members provided over 36,500 hours of volunteer service to local public and nonprofit partners. Tracking the outcomes of their work, RSVP found that volunteers served 277 school children through its reading tutor program, 42% of whom improved their participation and interest in school over the course of the year. RSVP volunteers served nearly 2000 individuals at food pantries, 73% of whom reported increased food security for their households. Volunteers delivered meals to 600 homebound elders, 40% of whom lived alone with no one to check on them other than their driver.

RSVP staff work with the Norfolk County Veterans' Service Advocate to create projects supporting local veterans. The RSVP Rides for Veterans program launched in April 2014 to provide free transportation to medical and other necessary appointments. In its first year, RSVP volunteer drivers filled 209 ride requests from 55 unique veterans. Another group of RSVP volunteers mentored 20 veterans at the Norfolk County Veterans' Treatment Court. RSVP and community volunteers also created 330 hand-made lap robes for VA hospitals and veterans' hospice programs.

Partnerships with veterans' organizations expanded with the hire of a new RSVP Recruitment Coordinator who focused on veterans' programs. RSVP volunteers assisted 107 veterans with access to state and federal benefits by training them to use VA Healthcare online accounts, assisting at outreach events, and visiting frail veterans on behalf of local Veterans' Service Officers. RSVP volunteers visited 19 elderly and disabled veterans during VA cancer treatment, stays in long-term care facilities, and hospice care at home. Other volunteer activities included assisting veterans in finding jobs, leading support groups for incarcerated veterans, entertaining veterans at the VA and in the community, and fundraising for veterans' charities. A veterans' book club launched in spring 2015, with an enthusiastic volunteer facilitator and military books donated by the authors.

RSVP seeks volunteers year-round to place in partner agencies based on volunteers' skills and interests. 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