



**Happy "50" Years of Service
 Tri-County RSVP!!!**

"New Years Gala"

January 10, 2023

4 p.m.-6 p.m.

South Arkansas Arts Center

110 East 5th Street

El Dorado



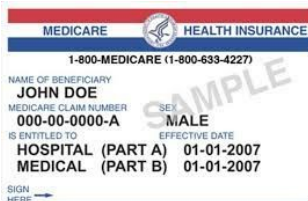
Fifty years ago, the RSVP Program began in Union County with one goal in mind...to engage adults (age 55+) in a diverse range of volunteer activities that address critical community needs. RSVP volunteers have served in numerous nonprofit organizations, public agencies, and faith based groups. If you are 55 and older, retired or not, and you have some time to share and a desire to make a difference, then the RSVP Program was and is for you!

We'd love to have you celebrate with us and learn more about Tri-County/RSVP (AmeriCorps Seniors)!

Medicare Advantage Open Enrollment Period

From January 1-March 31 each year, if you're enrolled in a Medicare Advantage Plan, you can switch to a different Medicare Advantage Plan or switch back to Original Medicare (and join a separate Medicare drug plan) once during this period.

Call 870.864.7080 if you want to inquire about changing your Medicare Advantage Plan.



The Medicare Drug Open Enrollment deadline is past. Another year of helping those on Medicare find affordable drug plans or sign up on extra help.

We want to extend a special thank-you to the RSVP volunteers who helped during this time: Doris Ashcraft, Rosie Burns, Linda Kalcich, Bonnie Miers, Lynn Mucklerath, Shirley Randle, Fayrene Rash, Gretchen West, and Janice Zielger. We couldn't have done it without you.

The total number of clients reached were 285.

RSVP Volunteers



1 Joe Woods
2 Randy Bates
6 Janis Camp
Betty Shutes-Christopher
7 Jeanette Simmons
8 Joseph Hershberger
14 Judy Couch
Sharon Thompson
16 Pat Peel
19 Connie Short
27 Edna McCullars



3 Steve Splawn
4 Trisha Nash
7 Pauline Easter
Wendy Walton
9 Betty Chatam
17 Virginia Mulligan
Mary Scott-Post
18 James Willis
26 Maureen DeBruin
28 Katie Butler
29 Janice Bush



Preventing Medicare Fraud

**It's the same old song
and dance and it's not
fun!**

The most common financial scams targeting older people include **government impersonation scams, sweepstakes scams, and robocall scams.** Financial crimes against older adults can be devastating, often leaving victims with no way to recoup their losses.

Be on the lookout for these and many other scams. Talk to your friends, neighbors, and family about how to **protect, detect and report Medicare Fraud, Waste, and Abuse** with one knock out punch.

***Report Medicare Fraud,
Waste & Abuse**

**Toll-Free helpline 1.866.726.2916
8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.**



Tax time is here! We need your help!



- Volunteer as a Preparer
- Volunteer as a Greeter
- Training is available



Call Dara 870.864.7083 to get started

Have you ever thought of Valentines Day as another commercialized holiday centered around chocolates (which, by the way, you probably made the resolution to give it up)? Here's a few *new* ideas for you to do on Valentines Day.

- Treat yourself to a spa day
- Have a night out with friends
- Volunteer
- Go to a concert
- Have the ultimate movie marathon
- Check out a local museum
- Go to karaoke



RESOLUTIONS

A New Year's resolution is a tradition, in which a person resolves to continue good practices, change an undesired trait or behavior, accomplish a personal goal, or otherwise improve their behavior at the beginning of the calendar year. ¹Wikipedia.

We've all made them with good intentions of keeping them, but most fail miserably. Why not....



Literacy Council News

Tax time is right around the corner. Have you planned on what you will purchase with your refund check? How exciting! But do you remember how hard it is for you to gather your pertinent information to have your taxes prepared? What forms do I need? What should I keep and what can I throw away?

Multiply that times 1000 if you are illiterate.

Volunteer with the Literacy Council and help take some of the fear away from a person who is having trouble comprehending the written word.



Call 870.864.7081



Remember!

If you have an email address please let me know so when we send out volunteer opportunities and other important information, you can receive them.

And, if you have given me your email and it has changed, please let me know so I can make sure that I have the correct one so you won't miss out on any exciting volunteer opportunities.

870.864.7084

**Thank you!
Cheryl**



Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service

As we prepare to honor the legacy of civil rights leader, Martin Luther King Jr., it is important to remember the third Monday in January isn't simply a day off, but "a day on" to volunteer and give back to our communities and causes that matter to each of us. In fact, it is the only federal holiday that calls for a day of service.

For this Day of Service, AmeriCorps Seniors (El Dorado Connections) is adopting the Magdalene House of El Dorado.



The Magdalene House of El Dorado's mission is simple—"to bring love and hope to women who have lived in despair for too long. Their two year residential program will accomplish this mission by providing women who are ready to step out of prostitution, abuse, addiction, and sexual exploitation with support, love, encouragement, needed to transform them into self-sufficient women of hope and life". Every women deserves the chance to transform her life. The Magdalene House supports these women.

We are asking for you to gather much needed items for these ladies. Here is a list of what they need:

- Razors/shaving cream
- Band aids
- Lotion
- Shampoo/conditioner
- Soap
- Combs/brushes
- Toothbrushes/toothpaste
- Slippers
- Toilet paper
- Kleenex
- Socks
- Corn (both whole/cream)
- Hair spray
- Books, pens, paper
- Chapstick
- Pillow cases
- Gift cards
- Deodorant
- Towel/Wash cloths
- Coffee
- Canned soup
- Feminine Product
- Green Beans
- Canned beans

*El Dorado Connections is the drop off site. A date will be

Why you ask, do I need to report my RSVP volunteer hours?

- * Your volunteer work is very important to our community.
- * Giving your time and helping out is so very important, and we share what you do in our state and report it on the national level.
- * And...we are proud of you and we want to share that!



Volunteer Spotlight

I want to introduce to you, Gretchen West. She was born in Virginia but spent most of her life in Honolulu, Hawaii because she was a Navy kid. Her parents met in Manilla and then were married in Hawaii, thus began her story.

Gretchen was an elementary school teacher for 43 years in Honolulu. She taught children pre-school through the sixth grade and loved everyone of them. She has a talent of bringing stories to life which helped her students learn.

She is a "Sidewalk Astronomer". This means that she (has one or more portable telescopes, ranging from 8" to 13" in diameter) and can take them anywhere she wants. She has shown the night sky in Waikiki and even to local astronomers on Mauna Kea. Gretchen said that the people she has met become excited about science and looking at objects in the night sky both near and far. She said, "that we are all kids at heart and when you look in the eyepiece of a telescope, you get sucked into the Romance of the Stars".

She has been an RSVP volunteer for four years helping with the Medicare Drug Open Enrollment Program, the VITA Tax Program and the Senior Medicare Program. Gretchen believes that there are three things every American should do: "vote, give blood, and volunteer. We have got to give back to the community in which we live".

Gretchen's loves of her life are her two Corgis-Beaux and Button. When she's not chasing her puppies around, she is doing awesome needlepoint.

Gretchen, you are an inspiration to us all!

Great Winter Home Projects

- Change your furnace filter
- Wash your windows
- Insulate your water pipes
- RegROUT your bathroom tile
- Paint a room or two
- Install flooring
- Install new lighting
- Dye-test your toilet (check this out on Google)



South AR Regional Health Center



824 Camp Street
El Dorado, Arkansas 71730

RETURNED SERVICE REQUESTED

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U. S. Postage
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El Dorado, AR 71730



AmeriCorps
Seniors

RSVP

Lead With Experience



“Like” us on
Facebook

MISSION STATEMENT

To provide a variety of opportunities for citizens to participate more fully in the life of their community through significant volunteer service and to advocate for the aging population in South Arkansas.

RSVP STAFF

Julia Amis, Director
Dara Stanfill, Literacy Dir./Admin Asst.
Cheryl Splawn, Volunteer Manager

El Dorado Connections/RSVP Advisory Council 2023

Vince Dawson-Chair
Annette Pate-Vice Chair
Bonnie Miears
Bill Odom
Shirley Randle
Connie Short
Joan Tribble
Barbara Warrick
Larry Yarbrough

We love our Advisory Board!

***EL DORADO
EXPRESS***

**Transportation for Senior Adults 60
years of age and older**

870-864-7082

**Do you need a ride to the doctor? To
the grocery store? Or to pay some bills.
Give us a call we can make it happen.**

- 24 hour notice for local
- 48 hour notice for long distance