



# The Volunteer Times

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 2

AUGUST 2005

## RSVP

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Program  
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## Dear RSVP Volunteer,

### Thank you...

These are basic words that you'll find in almost every language. Using these words shows courtesy and respect, and yet are not enough to express our gratitude for all that you do in giving of your time. You are all from different walks of life with diverse family heritages. Here's a heartfelt Thank You in many languages—hope you find one that relates to you! *Merci, Danke sehr, Toda raba, Go Raibh Maith Agat, Grazie tanto, Domo arrigato, Dziekuje, Danku, Doh je, Mese, Asoge, Spasiba, Efharisto, Achu, Salamat, Kam ouen.*

I'm proud to mention our newest EAA meal site in Howland which has become a community and family affair. My cousin, Julie, is the site coordinator and several town folks, including my mother, Nancy, and her close friend, Valerie, serve as RSVP volunteers. It's wonderful to see local church and school staff, along with

students, assisting. All of you have a similar story to tell about your volunteer service and community.

So *Gracias a todos* (Thank you all)! With joy,

*Jane*

I have had the privilege of being with RSVP since 1999. Some may recall when Ralph Turner was the RSVP coordinator. He was my mentor and is currently an active volunteer with us.

Being a native of Aroostook County, I have met many RSVP volunteers with County roots. Whether you were born in the County or not, over the past few years I have witnessed your remarkable accomplishments as dedicated volunteers. Each of you leaves a legacy of taking care of what needs to be done in compassionate ways. Here's hoping my generation learns to give of themselves the way you so generously have through volunteering.

*Thanks for all you do!*

*Paula*

Prior to arriving at the Center on Aging, I was an Americorps VISTA at United Way of Eastern Maine. While there, I became acquainted with the RSVP program and began to be aware of all that RSVP volunteers accomplish to improve lives in Eastern Maine.

In the last year with RSVP, I've seen how meaningful volunteerism is to each community in our 4 county service area. It's simply amazing to realize how many folks are strengthening communities with their care, time and energy.

One of my goals for the next year is to visit more partner agencies. I'm looking forward to meeting volunteers and learning more about your activities and just how you are improving lives, strengthening communities and increasing civic engagement...one volunteer, one community...at a time.

*Chevelle*

*"In the time we have it is surely our duty to do all the good we can to all the people we can in all the ways we can."*

**William  
Barclay**

## **UM Center on Aging RSVP**

### **Facts**

- \*We are 525 strong.*
- \*Average age of members is 75.*
- \*We are 1 of 5 RSVP programs in the state.*
- \*We have over 90 partnering agencies.*
- \*In 2004, over 90,500 hours were served by you.*

## **RSVP VOLUNTEER EXTRODINAIRE!**

My Friend's Place, housed at the United Methodist Church in Bangor, has a special year-round valentine in the form of Sylvia "Skippy" Valentine. She joined RSVP in 2002, a year after retiring as a program director for Amicus. Skippy is one of the original volunteers for My Friend's Place, a licensed social adult day program for folks who are socially isolated, frail or have memory loss. (All volunteers have completed a training in the

"Best Friends Approach.")

Skippy functions as a team leader and enjoys participating in designing activities for the program. This volunteer opportunity allows her to keep her hand in assisting those with special needs and providing a service to the community. According to Skippy, her and the other My Friend's Place volunteers "...aim to give the clients a good time, and we have a good time as well." Clients, caregivers and volunteers all benefit from this "uplifting" program.

Her description of volunteer service there for a potential volunteer is viewed as something one "...just has to try. It is unique and special in so many ways. If you can make a cup of tea and chat with someone you could volunteer here. Everyone has some talent to share."



*Skippy (rt) assisting a client.*

## **Soon it Will be that Time Again**

Mark your calendars for October 18 from 11:30am to 2:30pm for the third annual RSVP Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon.

Since the attendance at this function grows each year, we will be celebrating this fall at Jeff's Catering in Brewer.

We will do our traditional awarding of the years of service ribbons, pins and gifts. Numbers for door prizes will be drawn as well.

The entertainment will be lively as usual. Randy Lindsey and his vocal accompanist Paula will be back. The group calling

themselves "The Old Geezer and the Scalawags" out of Palmyra will perform. This group is comprised of several RSVP volunteers. Be prepared for some good music and lots of laughter.

And for those fans of Ric Tyler...he has agreed to be the Master of Cere-

monies again this year.

Our theme is: "*Farmers Cultivate Land-Volunteers Cultivate Communities*".

We had just under 300 folks attending last year and hope more will make it to this one. Invitations will be mailed out in September.

So save the date and get your party attire ready!



*Recognition 2004: Male members of Dot and the Has-Beens perform for the crowd.*

## Station Profile: Cole Land Transportation Museum

It is no secret to 10 RSVP volunteers that the Cole Land Transportation Museum located on the Perry Road in Bangor is one of our State's greatest treasures.

The museum is open seven days a week from 9am-5pm from May 1 to November 11.

According to Pat Trice, our contact person, the museum is "committed to improving the aspirations of youth, promoting freedom, and preserving

Maine's land transportation history." U.S. military memorabilia are also displayed and recorded to impress upon present and future generations what it takes to keep our freedoms.

One of the primary goals of the museum is to raise the aspirations of Maine children by creating an atmosphere where history comes alive. Free materials are available to teachers.

Students can experience one-on-one interviews with veterans in addition to receiving tours.

The museum needs more dedicated tour guides. If you like to meet people from around the world, enjoy talking to the young and young at heart, and have an interest in Maine history, this might be a great opportunity for you. Call RSVP for more information.



### Address Change

**PENOBSCOT COUNTY AREA TRIAD**

**PO BOX 8476  
BANGOR, ME  
04402-8476**

## Signature Program: Born to Read

### MAKE MY DAY

*Read to me, Laugh with me, Share stories with me, Spark my Imagination and Let me read to you! I will make your day with Smiles, Hugs, Thanks and Fun.*

If you would like to become a volunteer reader at a childcare center, Head Start or pre-school, please consider becoming a part of RSVP's Born to Read program with support

from the Maine Humanities Council. If you enjoy children and love to read, this will be a great opportunity to read to young children and help them develop a love for learning.

Potential Born to Read volunteers must complete a background check; RSVP pays for this.

Periodic volunteer trainings are

offered through the Maine Humanities Council. The MHC also provides free books for the volunteer reader to use and distribute to the children.

Please call 581-4412 if interested in this volunteer opportunity.



*Louise Park has been a Born to Read Volunteer for 4 years.*

## RSVP Calendar of Events

\*\*\*Agencies that partner with RSVP are welcome to let us know if you have any upcoming events of interest to seniors that can be posted here.

**AMERICAN FOLK FESTIVAL- Bangor, Aug. 26-28.**

**SEA PLANE FLY-IN- Moosehead Lake Region, Sept. 9-11**

**PISCATAQUIS HERITAGE FESTIVAL-Guilford, Sept. 25**

**LEONARD'S MILLS-Living History Days, Bradley, Oct. 1-2.**



### TRIVIA CONTEST WINNERS FROM OUR MAY ISSUE:

**Aggie Guthrie**— has been a Meals for ME Bangor Kitchen volunteer

**Betty Ann Boyce**— a part of the volunteer crew that resides at the Finson Road Assisted Living Facility

Both won \$25 gift cards from *Target*





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Orono ME 04469-5719  
(207) 581-4412/ Fax (207) 581-9320  
www.mainecenteronaging.org  
5-2-11340

### TRIVIA CONTEST

Answer the question below and send in the contest entry for a drawing for a gift certificate. Please return completed form to the address printed above by September 26.

**What is the name of the theme song for the Bud Leavitt Show about the Maine outdoors?**

Answer \_\_\_\_\_

Your name \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing address \_\_\_\_\_



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Smart people are always looking for a low-cost-with-high-returns opportunity to promote their agency, business or corporation. For a small fee, you can place your ad in this space. Our newsletter is mailed to 500+ older adults and 100+ organizations in Penobscot, Hancock, Washington and Piscataquis Counties. (Your ad will support our Trivia Contest.)  
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Please call 581-4421 for more information or to place an ad.

RSVP receives funding from the Corporation for National & Community Service, the Bureau of Elder & Adult Services, the United Way of Eastern Maine and other community funders.