

RSVP NEWS

Welcome, ACCESS of WNY

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ACCESS WNY a nonprofit organization with a main focus to assist families living in the Greater Buffalo Region. Their focus is to promote understanding and strengthen the bonds of faith and friendship between members of the Arab American community and people of other nationalities and cultures living within America; to help newly arrived immigrants adapt to life in America; to foster a greater understanding and appreciation of Arab culture within the American public; and to promote the common good and general welfare of the Arab American community

Many of the services offered by the organization are utilized by the region's immigration population, however, their services are meant for immigrant and non-immigrant families alike. As an organization addressing and combating poverty among low income families within the community has been an uphill battle. Locally, families are confronted with the responsibility of making crucial sacrifices due to a poor economy. Some have lost homes, jobs, healthcare, retirements, etc., making it exceedingly more difficult to raise a family. Unemployment takes its toll on the whole family, rearing a chain of despair including; increased incidences of domestic violence; increased youth vulnerability to crime, drug abuse, and bullying. When a family loses stability, they become increasingly vulnerable to the many ills of society. As an organization, they aim to alleviate these strains on our community members.

ACCESS of WNY is located at 609 Ridge Rd. 2nd Floor Lackawanna NY 14218 . As an RSVP volunteer, you can serve there to assist with clerical tasks, locally promote events, work on their monthly newsletter, sort and enter data into a computer database, coordinate books to be read by the afterschool program, and more. If you are passionate about ending poverty, breaking down stereotypes and helping those in need, this is just the place for you! Call Carrie at the RSVP office to get more information and to get involved today! (716)858-7548

Presidential Volunteer Service Award Recipients

You may recall in last month's edition, Carrie Smith and the Department of Senior Services Commissioner, Randy Hoak, had the privilege of honoring RSVP volunteer, Richard Reading of the Buffalo and Erie County Naval & Military Park, with the Presidential Volunteer Service award. Richard was unable to attend the special luncheon planned for all the recipients which took place April 26th at the ECC Statler Room. Seven other volunteers earned this distinct honor and we are honored to serve with these extraordinary people.



Pictured:

(Back Row L to R: Department of Senior Services Commissioner, Randy Hoak, Gary McKee (VA Medical Center), William Sutherland (DAV Van Transportation of the VA), Erie County Executive Mark Poloncarz.

Bottom Row L to R: Mary Ann Campbell (Ladies of Charity), Bea Moy (Operation Good Neighbor), Sr. Johnice Rzakiewicz (Response to Love Center) and May Chou (Amherst Senior Center).

Not Pictured: Walter Matthis (VA Medical Center)

The Presidential Volunteer Service Award is an initiative of the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) and is administered by Points of Light. Through a shared mission of inspiring more to answer the call to service, the President's Volunteer Service Award celebrates the impact we can all make in bettering our communities and our world. This distinguished honor is bestowed to individuals who have given 4,000 hours or more of volunteer service in a lifetime.

Honorees receive a pin, a framed certificate and a letter from the president, as well as, recognition from the Commissioner of the Department of Senior Services and the Erie County Executive.

Congratulations and serve on!!

SENIOR CORPS WEEK MAY, 16TH-20TH



Americans 55+ have a lifetime of experience to share and the desire to make a real difference in their world. They've managed households, been business owners and nurses, farmers and salespeople, artists and executives. Now they are ready to put their unique talents and expertise to work in their communities, and enrich their own lives in the process.

Senior Corps connects today's 55+ with the people and organizations that need them most. We help them become mentors, coaches or companions to people in need, or contribute their job skills and expertise to community projects and organizations.

Conceived during John F. Kennedy's presidency, Senior Corps currently links more than 250,000 Americans to service opportunities. Their contributions of skills, knowledge, and experience make a real difference to individuals, nonprofits, and faith-based and other community organizations throughout the United States.

Senior Corps offers several ways to get involved. Volunteers receive guidance and training so they can make a contribution that suits their talents, interests, and availability.

The Foster Grandparent Program connects volunteers age 55 and over with children and young people with exceptional needs. Volunteers mentor, support, and help some of the most vulnerable children in the United States.

The Senior Companion Program brings together volunteers age 55 and over with adults in their community who have difficulty with the simple tasks of day-to-day living. Companions help out on a personal level by assisting with shopping and light chores, interacting with doctors, or just making a friendly visit.

RSVP connects volunteers age 55 and over with service opportunities in their communities that match their skills and availability. From building houses to immunizing children, from enhancing the capacity of non-profit organizations to improving and protecting the environment, RSVP volunteers put their unique talents to work to make a difference.

Senior Corps is a program of the Corporation for National and Community Service, an independent federal agency created to connect Americans of all ages and backgrounds with opportunities to give back to their communities and their nation.

Thank you to all the Senior Corps Volunteers serving Buffalo and Erie County!!

One-Time Opportunities

Hospice Memorial Walk

Sunday, May 22nd

Downtown Buffalo at Canalside

10am- 1pm

Contact: Lisa Nestico at lnestico@Palliativecare.org or (716)686-8309



Volunteers are needed to help on the day of the Hospice Memorial Walk. Below is the list of jobs and shifts.

Please note that volunteering for this event requires standing.

Route – direct walkers (10am-1pm) – 25+ volunteers needed (volunteer instructions below)

You will be assigned your location at the Volunteer Check-in. Please walk or drive to that location.

Cheer for walkers as they approach!

Tell walkers to (turn right, left or straight) as per your individual instructions. Hold up arrows provided.

Take a garbage bag & clean up any litter that you see along the route.

A sag wagon will follow the last walker and let you know when you can leave your post.

Please join us back at Canalside for lunch.

Buffalo Marathon

Traffic volunteers for Leg #2

Buffalo Waterfront, Templeton Landing Parking Lot – Please note new and different meeting time for us!

Sunday, May 29, 2016

6:30 am

Contact: Carrie Smith carrie.smith@erie.gov or (716)858-7548

All volunteers MUST register on line as a volunteer. In Addition, please email or call me to let me know you have registered.

Here is the link: <https://runsignup.com/Race/Volunteer/NY/Buffalo/BuffaloMarathonVolunteerPrivateGroups>

When you sign up, sign up for traffic, and look for the name Peggy Guenther – Leg #2. Very easy.

Please RSVP as your organization as we will receive \$20.00 donation per volunteer to be used for this year's Tribute Day expenses. (must be a minimum of 5 volunteers to get the donation.) If you, or anyone you know, does not have a computer, please let me know so I can sign you up!

NEW AND DIFFERENT VOLUNTEER MEETING TIME!!!! We will meet at the Marathon Expo on Saturday, May 28th, between 10am and 2pm, instead of the marina in the morning! Peggy Gunther will be at the Buffalo Marathon T-Shirt sale booth. She will hand out your assignments, instructions, and t-shirts. This will be the only time we will be meeting before the race, so please make sure you see her then. Assignment will also be emailed for your records. If you participated last year, you will be at the same intersections as you were last year.

On race day, please be at your assigned corners no later than 6:00 am.

Don't forget about the post-race party for all volunteers in the Convention Center after the race!

Elder Law Day

Thurs., June 16th

Adams Mark Hotel, 20 Church St., Buffalo

Contact: Carrie Smith carrie.smith@erie.gov or (716)858-7548

Room Monitors: There are two volunteers in each seminar room. One introduces the speakers. The second is the Monitor, who welcomes people, helps them find seats if needed, takes attendance, passes out printed material, and collects evaluations at the door as people leave. If interested but not for the whole event, this job can be shared with another person.

Stuffing Folders for Elder Law Day (1:00-3:00 on Friday, June 10th & if needed-Monday, June 13th)

Four volunteers would help get the job done on Friday, and possibly Monday, of filling pocket folders with handout materials for participants. We meet on the 13th floor of the Rath Building.

Helping Direct Traffic & Providing Information- We need six people (strategically spaced throughout the Event with a clipboard, map & event information) to help with questions and directions to seminar rooms, bathrooms, the parking ramp. If you are welcoming, with patience and a good sense of direction, and don't mind standing, we could really use your help. We'd like to have help during the busy morning 7:30am – 9:00am, and around the lunchtime 10:30am to 12:00pm.

Registration-If you would like to help out but also want to participate in Elder Law Day, just let us know and we'll find a job for you that meet your needs.

Ride for Roswell

June 24th & 25th

UB North Campus

Register online:

<https://rideforroswell.org/volunteers/new-volunteer-sign-up/>



Volunteers are needed for set-up and take down, guide riders and traffic along the routes, to check-in and greet riders, serve food, and so much more! Shifts are generally 3-4 hours and you can self-schedule based on your availability.

Funds raised through The Ride For Roswell support the cutting-edge research and patient care programs that benefit the 31,000 patients who turn to Roswell Park for hope. Donations are further used to improve the patient and family experience, support new clinical treatments and procedures and educate the next generation of cancer scientists and clinicians.

TRIBUTE DAY IS COMING!

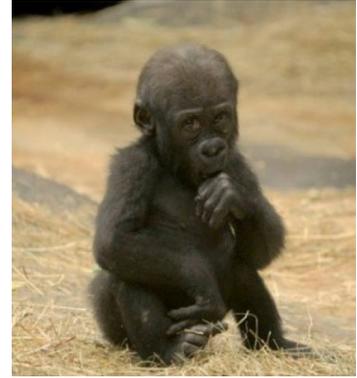


SAVE THE DATE!

Tribute Day 2016

Thursday, September 1

The Buffalo Zoo



A baby gorilla and a newborn lion cub. The exciting Arctic Edge exhibit. Volunteers. They'll all come together at RSVP's 2016 Tribute Day!

At our 2012 Tribute Day at the Zoo, our volunteers had a fantastic time, and many said it had been years since they last visited the Zoo.

We are excited to bring Tribute Day back to the Zoo this year so that even more volunteers can stroll the beautiful grounds and re-discover all the fun and wonder at the Zoo.

We are planning a summer afternoon celebration with free admission to all Zoo exhibits, music, door prizes, and healthy refreshments such as wraps, fruit, salads, and beverage.

Free bus transportation will be available from several locations in Erie County.

All active RSVP volunteers who have submitted at least 40 hours of service to the RSVP office during the period will be invited as our guests. We also will invite all RSVP volunteer supervisors. Invitations will be mailed to eligible volunteers in late July.

So circle September 1 on your calendar! You'll have a roaring good time!