

RSVP NEWS

National Volunteer Week

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April 10-16, 2016 marks National Volunteer Week! A week designed to inspire and encourage volunteering and to recognize the dedicated citizens making a difference in their communities and the lives of others. During National Volunteer Week, we celebrate the millions of Americans who volunteer and recognize the extraordinary benefits of service to individuals, communities, and our nation.



America always has had a strong spirit of neighbor helping neighbor. Since our earliest days, citizens have given generously of themselves to improve the lives of others. Today, millions of volunteers serve annually, strengthening the nation's safety net and providing hundreds of billions of dollars in vital services to our communities. They are doing hard but necessary work: tutoring and mentoring youth, assisting seniors who live independently, supporting veterans and military families, helping communities recover from disasters, and so much more.

Though volunteers aren't looking for recognition or reward, they learn the timeless lesson of service: when you help others, you also help yourself. So we thank you for all your tireless efforts, your compassion, your dedication and commitment to making our community and our world, a better place for all.

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Dedicated Hearts

Dedicated hearts like yours
 Are not so easy to find.
 It takes a special person to be
 So generous and kind.
 To care so much for your fellow man
 Is a quality all too rare.
 Yet you give of your time and talents,
 For all in need to share.
 So thank you for being a volunteer,
 We're privileged to work with you.
 We want you to know how appreciated you are,
 Not just today, but the whole year through

Author Unknown

CELEBRATE SERVICE!

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 bestowed to individuals who have given 4,000 hours or more of volunteer service in a lifetime.

We will be honoring eight recipients this year! 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. A special luncheon is planned for the recipients to show our appreciation.

Richard Reading is one of our honoree's and is unable to attend our event so we went to him at his volunteer station, The Buffalo & Erie County Naval Park.



Richard is a retired poultry farmer from his family farm, Reading Farm located in West Fall, NY. The farm was established in 1891 and seven generations of Reading's have been operating it ever since. Since retirement, Richard began volunteering at the Buffalo and Erie County Naval and Military Park. Though a former Army service member, Richard was very interested in the history of the vessels that served his country and have called the waterfront of Buffalo their home since the park opened in 1979. Richard has given numerous tours of the ships to countless amounts of school children, community members and tourists. Then one year, the Tin Can Sailors, the National Association of Destroyer Veterans, planned a trip to visit the park and wanted to sleep aboard the Sullivan. Richard and a fellow volunteer got to work to make that happen. He helped restore the restroom including installing new plumbing, showers, sinks and sewer tanks. Keeping the history and stories of WWII is a personal mission of his and his service is a clear testament to that. Not only has Richard given so much of his time and energy to the Naval park but, he also volunteered for 18 years with Habitat for Humanity restoring and building 75 houses on Buffalo's east side. We are proud and honored to have Richard as an RSVP volunteer and are grateful for his service to our country and community.

(Pictured: Carrie Smith, RSVP Volunteer Coordinator, Richard Reading, RSVP Volunteer and Randy Hoak, Commissioner Department of Senior Services.)

CELEBRATE SERVICE! cont.

On Tuesday, April 6th we celebrated the 4th annual Mayor and County Recognition Day for National Service. The Mayor and County Day of Recognition for National Service is a nationwide bipartisan effort to recognize the positive impact of national service in counties, to thank those who serve, and to encourage citizens to give back to their communities. Alongside our sister Senior Corps and AmeriCorps programs, we honored RSVP Volunteer Alan Bartlett for his outstanding service performed at the Charles Drew Science Magnet School and the Habitat for Humanity Restore.



(Pictured left to right: Deputy County Executive, Maria White, Mayor Byron Brown, Alan Bartlett, Commissioner Randy Hoak, RSVP Director Pat Dowling, Director of Citizen Services Oswaldo Mestre)

Alan Bartlett moved to Kenmore from Jacksonville, Florida – and says that he is one of the few people that probably have made that transition in retirement. He originally lived in Boston where he was a University Professor, and a middle school and elementary school teacher. He said that he decided to get involved in volunteer service because he wanted to get integrated in his new community, but also because he is in a position that he is able to do this – and volunteering is one way to express his gratitude and give back.

Alan volunteers in a 6th grade at Charles Drew Magnet School (Buffalo Public School #59 attached to the Buffalo Museum of Science). Many of the 13 and 14-year-old students are newly settled immigrants/ refugees from Thailand, Korea, Burma, and other nations, so he also helps a lot with English as a Second Language.

At the Habitat for Humanity Restore, he sorts donations of household items such as furniture, cabinetry and more and assists customers with their purchases. The store is ran by only 13 volunteers and they are need of more. Join Alan at the Restore!

Station Spotlight

Catholic Charities A Gathering Place

Adult Day Program Activities Assistant

A Gathering Place provides daytime community-based support for adults who are in need of supervision, stimulation, and assistance, or prompting with Activities of Daily Living (ADL).

The program consists of physical, cognitive, creative, and socially engaging activities as well as inter-generational collaborations with local community organizations. Our goal is to provide support to individuals and families ultimately allowing older adults to remain at home and connected to their communities. As part of this effort we provide caregiver support by providing informational workshops, and by linking caregivers to support services. We welcome new volunteers who enjoy working with a dynamic group of older adults. For information, please call Heidi at 896-6388 x 212.



Buffalo Museum of Science

Customer Service/ Hospitality Volunteer

- Answer patron questions including inquiries on admission, exhibits, programs
- Use <http://www.sciencebuff.org/site/> & calendar as reference for many questions and/or transfer to appropriate party (see black binder for exts, FAQs)
- Record in Phone Log
- Check Voicemails for Personal & General Mailbox and call all back with requested information and/or transfer VM to appropriate party (option on display)
- Organize Calendars by adding events/meetings etc. to Operations Calendar
- General administrative duties such as assist with development and membership department mailings/data entry .

