

**MINUTES**  
**October 1, 2020**

- Call meeting to order, Secretary, Sharon Kolstad

**IN ATTENDANCE: Laurie Allen, Al Barth, Perry Beise, Amy Christensen, Sue Hanks, Jon Knopik, Sharon Kolstad, Ann Matvick, Kris Peterson, Jeff Proell, Janet Reigstad, Keisha Scheie**

**Aging Service/RSVP staff: Jennifer Wucherer, Heather Brooks & Joleen Christiansen**

- Approval of minutes: **APPROVED with motion by Janet Reigstad, second by Perry Beise, none opposed.**

- Adjustments to the agenda - **None**

--Ice Breaker – If circumstances like time and Covid-19 were a non-issue, where would you choose to give back and volunteer if you could?

**ITEMS OF INTEREST:**

- Community Partner/Volunteer Highlight – Jennifer – This is a new standing agenda item to highlight a community partner or a volunteer. The highlight will provide us with a 5-7 minute overview on a partner program in our community or a human service story told by a volunteer.
- Community Partner Highlight – Amy Christensen, Tri-Cap – Amy shared information about Senior SNAP, a nutrition assistance program (formerly food stamps) to the group. Over 4 million older adults use SNAP. Tri-Cap just received a grant to conduct outreach to seniors and plan to utilize RSVP volunteers.
- Program Specific Performance
  - Volunteer Impact & Initiatives
    - RSVP’s Women in Action – Jennifer – A creative RSVP program to engage female volunteers, with COVID is in developments. We have heard for years that women join RSVP to not only serve but to meet and make new friends. Often, they are widows or new to the area and tell us that making friends after retirement can be a challenge. We surveyed current RSVP women to find out who is interested in joining a small group to plan and do a monthly COVID friendly volunteer project. This way friendships can cultivate while groups work together to make a difference.
    - 9/11 Day of Service Update – Joleen & Heather
      - 10 Sherburne area volunteers served at Sherburne County Area United Way’s #ShareASmile event for Day of Service.
      - 12 Greater St Cloud RSVP volunteers were present at two grocery stores and Whitney Senior Center for a 3-hour food drive to promote and collect food to benefit local seniors. RSVP brought in \$200 and a couple pallets of food. Donations went to Senior Dining and Emergency Services programs serving seniors.
    - Day of Caring – Hats, mittens, masks distribution – Jennifer – 430 hats, 227 mitten sets and 50 youth size face masks were delivered to 16 community partners such as CC Emergency Services, Tri-Cap, Reach Up, Boys & Girls Clubs and St Cloud area elementary schools. Volunteers from Coborns and Cetera Investment Services sorted, packed and delivered the items on September 17, 2020. Jennifer read a thank you card from Talahi Elementary school.

- Volunteer Recruitment & Engagement – Heather & Jennifer  
25 contacts were made to Sherburne area volunteers, 16 of which being for birthday calls, 1 re-engagement follow up, and 8 volunteer checks ins. 3 volunteers were placed at Big Lake Community Food Shelf, one at the RSVP office, and one in Elk River Parks and Rec.  
2 new volunteers for CC Emergency Services. Big Brothers Big Sisters and RSVP are partnering to create a pen pal program- 8 new pen pals for BBBS
- Funding
  - Women’s Fund Grant – Joleen  
Submitted an application to the Women’s Fund of Central MN for an \$8,000 grant to support our newly forming program, called RSVP Women in Action Teams on 9/30. Decision is expected within 90 days.
- New Federal re-branding – Jennifer shared research statistics behind the branding of RSVP, Senior Corps and the Corporation for National and Community Service, now called AmeriCorps. She also showed the new logo branding of AmeriCorps Seniors and what this means for RSVP.
- PR/Marketing Committee update – Jennifer – working on a meeting date meet by mid-October.
- Fundraising Support Committee update – Jennifer – working on a meeting date meet by mid-October.
- Aging Service Department – Lisa  
The east parking lot was resurfaced on September 30<sup>th</sup>.  
Two hydration stations have been ordered  
A card reader is being installed on the Whitney main office door which RSVP staff uses  
RSVP volunteers are back serving at Whitney Senior Center in the following areas:
  - Fitness Center
  - Woodshop
  - Tour Guides
  - Coffee Corner Hostess – new position to serve coffee rather than self-serve
 We are working with the City on a transition plan for the Aging Services Department to work more collaboratively together.  
Whitney Senior Center received a Live Well at Home grant for about \$270,000 for 2 years which included 5 hours a week for a position to coordinate the RSVP Senior Friendship Circles.  
Whitney Senior Center membership is about 40 members higher than at this same time last year.
- Additional staff updates – See report below
- Other items of interest - None

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- Next Meeting –**November 5, 2020 at 2:30pm**

**ADJOURNMENT: Motion by Kris Peterson, second by Sue Hanks, none opposed.**

**Aging Services RSVP  
Monthly Report  
SEPTEMBER 2020**

**MAJOR ACTIVITIES**

**Marketing/Promotion:**

Facebook posts related to a variety of Day of Service activities – before, during & after.

Press releases related to Day of Service distributed to 3 outlets, none were picked to publish.

Created Day of Service materials/collection boxes & distributed

Registered Day of Service activities through the Corporation – Senior Food Drive in St Cloud area and #SmileShare2020 in Sherburne County.

Created thank you cards for Day of Service business donors/supporters.

Website updates related to Advisory Council minutes and agenda

Worked with our volunteer, Lalita S, on interviews with Day of Service volunteers that were both used in that event promotion & for a feature submission to Bright Side of 50's Winter 2020 edition.

Articles sent to 3 Senior Newsletters and 2 local Newspapers

1 Article sent to Volunteer Bridge for FB page.

RSVP Recruiting flyer posted at YMCA of the North – Elk River location.

**Grants:**

Submitted Women's Fund of Central MN for an \$8,000 grant to support a newly forming program, called RSVP Women in Action Teams.

Senior Corps All Grantee Call Meeting

**Fundraising:**

Thank you letters to donors for Volunteer Recognition created and mailed.

Held recap meeting with Foster Grandparents (FGP) for 2020 Move the Mall to review statistics for Walkers, Sponsors, Vendors & Donors. Vendor fees from 2020 were excluded with assumption most or all will roll over to 2021. Door prizes not distributed will be retained for 2021 use. FGP recommended & all approved a sharing of net revenue at 66% to RSVP & 37% to FGP. It was agreed that FGP funds will remain in RSVP Revenue for use in planning 2021 Move the Mall.

**Trainings:**

Cyber-Seniors Webinar - Reddit: "The Front Page of the Internet".

Cyber-Seniors Webinar – Cybersecurity: Deepfake Technology

Trained and retrained 2 volunteers who will be helping facilitate the timesheet process. Both Terry S. & Marilyn F. will be helping. Howard S. was also reengaged to audit timesheet information & data entry.

**Financials:**

August Revenue: \$22,748.00

August Expenses: \$32,722.00

*Mileage checks distributed for Jan-Jun in the amount of \$6,190.78 are reflected*

**Community Collaborations:**

Volunteer Tutor Meeting with Greater St Cloud Development Corps

Discussion with United Way of Central MN regarding Retire United

Discussion and planning with SCSU Gerontology Department regarding food drive for seniors partnership

Tour of the Elk River Activity Center

Drop in of the SCAUW Site

## **PROGRAM SPECIFIC PERFORMANCE INDICATORS**

### **Volunteer recruitment:**

8 RSVP volunteers were placed to begin as volunteers with the Boys and Girls Club Pen Pal Program

2 RSVP volunteers were placed to begin as volunteers at Catholic Charities Emergency Services

18 RSVP volunteers recruited to serve at the Salvation Army Coat Distribution events

1 new RSVP volunteers recruited and enrolled

5 RSVP volunteers were placed to start at: Big Lake Community Food Shelf X3, RSVP Office, and Elk River Parks and Rec

10 RSVP volunteers served at #ShareASmile Assembly with SCAUW

### **Volunteer retention:**

88 contacts were made to RSVP volunteers (birthday greetings, volunteer satisfaction follow-ups, re-engagement follow-ups)

Coffee with Tom & Bonnie

### **Volunteer impact:**

Hosted 9/11 National Day of Service event – On 9/11/20 - 12 RSVP volunteers were present at two grocery stores and Whitney Senior Center for a 3 hour food drive to promote and collect food to benefit local seniors. RSVP brought in \$200 and a couple pallets of food. Donations went to Senior Dining and Emergency Services programs serving seniors.

Hosted United Way Day of Caring event –Day of Caring volunteers organized, bagged and delivered 430 winter hats, 227 mitten sets and 50 youth size face masks (707 total items), all made by RSVP volunteers. These products were delivered to 16 community partners such as CC Emergency Services, Tri-Cap, Reach Up, Boys & Girls Clubs and St Cloud area elementary schools.

RSVP organized volunteers to put together 250 activity kits for Big Brothers Big Sisters.

## **INTERGOVERNMENTAL ACTIVITIES**

2 Department meetings

3 Staff meetings

Hosted RSVP Advisory Council Meeting

Sherburne County Safe Roads

In process of development of the timesheet process for Whitney RSVP volunteers to enter time via the WSC SchedulesPlus (SP) system. Met with SP representative to collaborate on best options to enter time; testing & reviewing options with Charlotte H. to determine best method to adopt. Reviewing the process with RSVP team.

## **OTHER MEETINGS ATTENDED**

Aging Network Association

Community Connect

Volunteer Bridge

MSSA Region 7

Central MN Council on Aging Virtual Network

St Cloud Area Volunteer Coordinators

Foster Grandparent Program Advisory Council

United Way Partner Championship

## **TESTIMONIES**

Volunteers who helped with the Senior Day of Service food drive were invigorated by being out volunteering again, as demonstrated by excerpts from Lalita's interviews with volunteers at the event.

.... it was a very special moment: her first-time back volunteering in person since March when the COVID-19 pandemic struck. "It was great to be back," she declared, in a post-event interview. "This pandemic has been very difficult," she said.