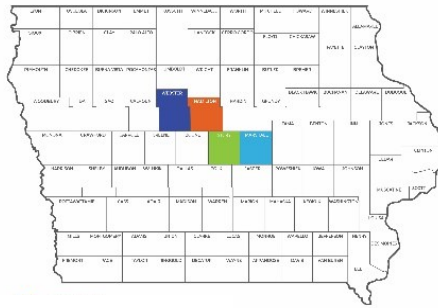




Serving Story, Marshall,



Annual summary of accomplishments and impact

# Engaging Volunteers Age 55+

## Feature Story

### COVID-19 POSES CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

RSVP focused efforts on safe ways for volunteers to contribute during the COVID-19 response. Numerous volunteer assignments were halted abruptly in March (i.e. volunteers in the schools, public libraries/offices, non-profits that suspended volunteer activity, etc.). However, many critical volunteer activities continued as new needs emerged.

RSVP COVID-19 response related activities:

- Community gardening
- Writing letters of encouragement to nursing home residents and staff, including the Iowa Veteran's Home
- Delivering mobile meals and food boxes with no contact delivery/drop off at the door
- Firing up their sewing machines to make masks for Mary Greeley Medical Center and other organizations
- Made wellness and friendly visitor calls to



### OUR MISSION

Enhance the lives of adults age 55 and older by connecting them with rewarding volunteer experiences that meet community needs

### OUR VISION

## ADDITIONAL SERVICES

### Emergency Services

Contracting with Story County Emergency Management, RSVP coordinates the management of volunteers mobilized in natural disasters, public health and/or public safety emergencies.

### Transportation Services

RSVP supplements existing transportation services by providing the recruitment, management, and scheduling of volunteers providing rides to Story County residents. The primary (but not exclusive) purpose of the program is to provide Story County's older adults with safe and reliable transportation to and from medical appointments and other essential services.

*(This program was suspended in March 2020 but resumed June 1 with new safety measures and*

*“Having a pen pal during this time really helps with decreased feelings of loneliness and gives residents a feeling of connection with the community. Especially since we are unable to resume our activities in the community. Getting a card or letter always brightens people's day and is meaningful to them. Everyone's time and efforts have been very much appreciated!”*  
Emily Hall, Recreation Supervisor—Iowa Veterans Home

RSVP provides a proven and effective infrastructure to screen, recruit, and place volunteers to meet local needs

# CENTRAL IOWA RSVP SIGNATURE PROGRAM ACCOMPLISHMENTS

*RSVP Signature Programs are those assignments that are either coordinated exclusively by RSVP or ones that RSVP plays a significant role*

## EDUCATIONAL SERVICES — *Helping youth succeed academically*

### Reading Tutors

**22 RSVP volunteers (380 hours) worked one-on-one or in small groups with 105 students**, helping build reading skills and improve reading performance. **Partners:**

### SPEAK UP!

**4 RSVP volunteers (66 hours) taught 43 students**, by conducting 8-week sessions of SPEAK UP!, a public speaking course designed by RSVP to improve 5th grade students' confidence and public speaking skills. **Partners:** Schools: Colo-NESCO, St.

*"I have been participating with the RSVP Pen Pal Program since 1997. This program is an invaluable life lesson that can't be taught out of a textbook. The students practice their writing skills by hand writing their letters to their buddy. They practice their sentence structure and phonics skills. They practice their reading skills as they open up their letter and share out loud what life story is written on the page. With all of the "high tech" gadgets availa-*

### RSVP Pen Pal Program

**352 RSVP volunteers (3,725 hours) were matched one-on-one with 527 elementary or middle school students as Pen Pals.** Students learned important letter writing skills and developed a relationship through the mail with a "grandbuddy". **Partners:** Schools - Colo-NESCO, Gilbert, Nevada, Roland-Story, Northeast Hamilton, South Hamilton, SE Webster- Grand,



### Youth Teaching Garden

**12 RSVP volunteers (277 hours) served as garden mentors and day camp instructors to 92 Marshall County youth**, taking them through multiple steps of gardening and connecting them to the importance of preparing and eating healthy foods. **Partner:** Iowa State University Extension –

## HEALTHY FUTURES — *Helping citizens stay healthy and maintain control of their well-being*

### RSVP Volunteer Driver Program—38

**Story County RSVP volunteer drivers (1,060 hours) served 72 Story County residents** with safe and reliable transportation to and from essential services, with priority given to older adults needing rides to medical appointments. Volunteers used their own vehicles to **provide 537 round trips and drove 15,083 miles.** (Although suspended in March 2020 due to COVID-19 concerns, this service resumed June 1 with new guidelines and safety protocols.)



### RSVP BASE Fitness Program

**(celebrating 6 years)— 29 RSVP volunteers in Hamilton and Webster Counties (1,187 hours) facilitated free senior fitness programs at 18 locations for 219 seniors** that focused on increasing healthy exercise habits that positively impact *Balance, Agility, Strength, and Endurance.* **Partners:** Webster City Parks & Recreation Dept; McFarland

### Winter Weatherization

**13 RSVP volunteers (139 hours) along with other community volunteers weatherized 39 homes of low-income families, elderly/disabled citizens, and veterans in 3 counties of the RSVP service area, serving 84 individuals).** Volunteers conducted energy-related audits of the homes, put plastic on windows, sealed leaks, installed door sweeps, etc. **Partners:** Volunteer Center of Story County, New Covenant Christian





# CENTRAL IOWA RSVP SIGNATURE PROGRAM ACCOMPLISHMENTS

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## **EMERGENCY SERVICES, PUBLIC HEALTH & SAFETY**—*Keeping our communities safe and prepared*

### **Disaster Services**

**Volunteer Management for Emergencies serving Story County:** In a natural disaster or other emergency, RSVP volunteers staff a **volunteer reception center** and a **non-emergency phone bank** conducting community volunteer intake and providing information and referral services for non-emergency calls related to the disaster. **Trainings/Drills: 5 conducted with 24 volunteers (35 unduplicated and 6 new); 64 training hours.** **Partners:** Story County Emergency Management (EMA), Cities of Ames, Huxley, Nevada, and Story City

### **Assist Local Law Enforcement**

**RSVP volunteers (29 provided 1,133 hours) served local law enforcement in a variety of capacities** including: data entry, scanning, fingerprinting the public, overseeing jail visitation, and providing pre-trained volunteers to assist the Sheriff's Office in the event of a child-abduction or missing person (answering a tip hotline and registering spontaneous volunteers who want to assist with search and rescue). **Partners:** Ames Police Department, Story County Sheriff's Office/Jail



### **COVID-19 Response**

**RSVP volunteers (117 served 665 hours) helping in the following capacities to specifically address needs that emerged**



*"The residents of Grandview Care thoroughly enjoyed all of the letters and cards they received from the RSVP volunteer pen pals. Each resident enjoyed reading their kind words."*



**Capacity Building** – *Providing diverse volunteer recruitment and placement support that enhances or supplements the existing services of 55 public, non-profit and health care agencies*

**SPECIAL POPULATIONS** *(meet the needs of Veterans, homeless and low-income individuals, those with disabilities)*

**47 volunteers served 1,586 hours**

**FOOD SECURITY** *(provide food for those in need—home delivered meals, food pantries, community meals)*

**140 volunteers served 5,336 hours**

**ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP** *(conservation, trail maintenance, city garden spaces, Reiman Gardens)*

**27 volunteers served 1,468 hours**

# final thoughts...

## 2019-2020 Statistics

Number of RSVP Volunteers: 660

Volunteer Hours Served: 31,050

### Funding/Budget Information

#### 2019-2020 Funding Sources/General Operating Budget

Federal Grant (CNCS—AmeriCorps Seniors)

Federal Disaster Grant

(CNCS—Marshall County—partial carry-over from 18-19)

State of Iowa

Story County

City of Ames

United Way of Story County

Marshalltown Area United Way

Other Cities: Gilbert, Nevada, Story City

Contractual Funding

**Story County Emergency Management:** Emergency/Disaster Volunteer Management/Disaster Recovery Coordination

**Story City Senior Citizens:** Building Rental Management

**Self-Generated:** Donations, United Way Designations, Special Grants, Newsletter Sponsors, Fundraising Revenues, etc.

**Total 2019-2020 Revenues (Operating Budget): \$354,529**

**Total 2019-2020 Expenses (Operating Budget): \$335,195**

#### 2019-2020 Special Grants and Support

**Senior Variety Show—\$2,000**

(portion of proceeds from the 2019 event)

**ITN America – \$690—“Rides in Sight” grant—Transportation**

To support rides to eye doctor appointments

**United Way of Story County Special Grant (COVID) - \$393.57**

Purchase of mask-making materials

**Memorial Donations—\$125**

**Transportation Service Donations—\$3,615**

**Other general donations—\$2,966**

**Central Iowa RSVP Endowment**

(part of the Story County Community Foundation Family of Funds)



### THANKS To Our Amazing Volunteers



In June, 2020, RSVP held “Drive-by

Hootings” in 9 communities throughout our 4-county service area. Volunteers were invited to “drive by” and receive breakfast in a bag along with other goodies and gifts. Over 250 volunteers “attended” and gave RSVP staff and



**THANK YOU to  
our financial**

### Office Locations

#### STORY COUNTY

503 Elm Avenue (Main Office)  
Story City, IA 50248  
515-733-4917

110 Crystal Street  
Ames, IA 50010  
515-292-8890

#### MARSHALL COUNTY

2608 S. 2<sup>nd</sup> Street  
Marshalltown, IA 50158  
641-752-0279

#### WEBSTER COUNTY

Crossroads Mall  
217 S. 25<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite B3  
Fort Dodge, IA 50501  
515-573-3477

#### HAMILTON COUNTY

749 Second Street  
Webster City, IA 50595  
515-832-2525

[www.rsvpvolunteer.org](http://www.rsvpvolunteer.org)



**AmeriCorps  
Seniors**