

Annual Summary of Impact and Accomplishments 2024-2025



Serving Story, Marshall,
Hamilton, and Webster Counties



Engaging Volunteers Age 55+

Our Mission: Enhance the lives of adults age 55+ by connecting them with rewarding volunteer experiences that meet community needs.



807 Volunteers
aged 55+



Served **35,341**
hours



Valued at
\$1,020,648

Highlights From the Year

RSVP Transportation Program Celebrates 15 Years Serving Story County

In 2010, with sole financial support from United Way of Story County (and donations), Central Iowa RSVP began providing supplemental transportation services by engaging RSVP volunteers (who utilize their own vehicles) to provide rides to residents no longer able to drive.

With a focus on helping older adults get to medical appointments and other essential services, this one-year pilot project has become an important transportation resource that has now served **515** Story County residents. A total of **146** RSVP drivers have traveled 256,700 miles providing needed rides and serving over **20,600** hours. In 2010, 18 RSVP volunteers provided 230 round trips to needed appointments. In 2024, 44 volunteers provided 1,650 rides.

Now funded by United Way of Story County, Story County, the City of Ames, Aging Resources of Central Iowa, a grant from ITN America, and donations, this program continues to thrive! Growth over the past 15 years is evidence of how important this service is to our communities and how incredible our volunteer drivers, past and present are.



2010



2025

"Driving for RSVP is as much a blessing for me as it is the client. It is fulfilling to be able to provide such a valued service to those in need in our community." - Steve Johnson, RSVP Volunteer Driver - Ames

Signature Program Accomplishments



Educational Services

Helping youth succeed academically

Academic Success

Volunteers helped students improve their academic performance by learning important letter writing skills (pen pals) and helping students improve readings skills (reading tutors).



- **329 volunteers served** in education-based assignments
- **3,930 hours were served** being matched one-on-one or in small groups with **510 elementary/middle school students** as pen pals or reading tutors
- **93%** of students demonstrated improved academic engagement or social-emotional skills



Partners: Schools - Community Christian, Marshalltown, Roland-Story, South Hamilton, Southeast Valley, St. Thomas Aquinas, Stratford, Webster City, West Marshall, & Raising Readers in Story County



Disaster Services and Public Safety

Keeping our communities safe and prepared

RSVP Volunteer Management for Disasters/Emergencies

Partners: Story County Emergency Management; Story County Sheriff's Office; Iowa Department of Insurance & Financial Services; University of Iowa



"I appreciate the opportunity to train for the Volunteer Reception Center and the Tip Hotline. While we don't volunteer regularly for these positions, I feel glad that these services are ready to be spun up in a moment's notice and that I will be able to contribute during emergencies." - Shari Reilly, RSVP Disaster/Emergency Volunteer

Tip Hotline Trainings

Trained by the Story County Sheriff's Office Communications Commander, 15 RSVP volunteers participated in 63 hours of tip hotline trainings, preparing to answer calls that will come in when there is a missing/abducted child/person event.

PrepWise

Partnership (launched in June, 2024): PrepWise is a University of Iowa program dedicated to preparing older adults for disasters. PrepWise helps individuals develop disaster management plans before a disaster or emergency situation happens, with an emphasis on helping older adults be prepared to shelter in place for three days.

- **3 volunteers conducted six disaster preparedness presentations**
- **138 residents learned about disaster preparedness and how to develop a personalized disaster plan**

Fraud Fighters

The Iowa Department of Insurance & Financial Services partners with RSVP to inform the public about fraud and scams, training RSVP volunteers to present fraud prevention information to groups in their community.

- **10 RSVP volunteers conducted 11 Fraud Fighter presentations** in Marshall, Story, and Webster counties to community groups and organizations
- **342 retirees were provided fraud prevention tips** - 96% of those surveyed reported an increased understanding of how to protect personal finances and avoid becoming a victim of fraud

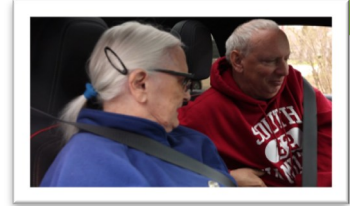


Health, Wellness, and Independent Living

Helping citizens stay healthy and maintain control of their well-being

RSVP Transportation Program

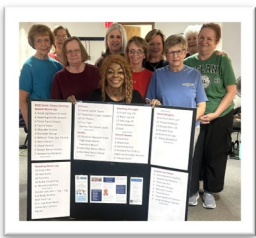
Primary Purpose: Providing Story County's older adults with safe and reliable transportation to and from medical appointments and other essential services



- **47 volunteers served 2,034 hours** providing **1,804 rides for 71 clients**
- **22,119 miles were driven**, taking Story County residents to needed services
- 100% of surveyed riders reported an increased capacity to maintain their independence and overall well-being

"The RSVP Transportation Program is heaven! I don't know what I would do without it. I haven't met a driver that wasn't absolutely wonderful. They are so kind and I always look forward to the conversations (and laughs) I have with them." - Donna Erickson, Story City - Transportation Program Rider

BASE Senior Fitness



Free senior fitness exercise program helping older adults improve **B**alance, **A**gility, **S**trength, and **E**ndurance

- **25 volunteers served 1,331 hours** leading fitness classes for **348 participants** in 17 locations throughout Hamilton & Webster Counties, with one volunteer trained to start a class in Story County in 25-26
- 94% of surveyed participants reported improved overall health as a result of BASE classes

Food Security Assignments

RSVP Grocery Delivery Program

- **232 grocery deliveries** made to homebound individuals
- **19 volunteers served 268 hours and drove 3,653 miles** delivering groceries

Other Food Security Assignments

- **81 volunteers served 2,602 hours** serving hot meals, helping at food pantries, stocking mini pantries, and assisting with food rescue programs
- **63 volunteers served 1,933 hours** delivering meals and commodity food boxes to individuals and families



Capacity Building

Providing diverse volunteer recruitment and placement support that supplements or enhances the services of public, nonprofit, and healthcare agencies (*not reflected in other areas of this report*).

Environmental Stewardship

- **29 RSVP volunteers served 504 hours** at conservation centers, garden spaces, and Reiman Gardens

Other Education

- **61 RSVP volunteers served 1,602 hours** at libraries, museums, ISU Extension, community programs, school-based activities, and adult literacy programs

Housing / Financial Stability

- **41 RSVP volunteers served 1,450 hours** as representative payees/bill payers, and at agencies meeting housing, shelter, and financial security needs

Medical and Support Services

- **105 RSVP volunteers served 4,682 hours** at local medical/senior care facilities, substance abuse prevention and support programs, hospice, agencies serving the disability community, and serving Military Veterans

Other Public, Non-Profit Support

- **166 RSVP volunteers served 3,715 hours** at thrift stores, special events/projects, historical societies, senior service agencies, government and other offices (clerical support), etc.



Funding/Budget Information

2024-2025 Funding Sources/General Operating Budget

- Federal Grant (AmeriCorps)
- State of Iowa
- Story County
- City of Ames
- City of Story City
- United Way of Story County
- Marshalltown Area United Way
- Story County Emergency Management: *Emergency/Disaster Volunteer Management*
- Story City Senior Citizens: *Building Rental Management*
- Self-Generated: *Donations, Special Grants, United Way Designations, Newsletter Sponsors, Fundraising Revenues, etc.*



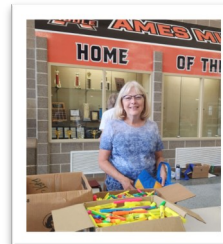
For a staff directory, contact information, and office locations, visit our website at:

www.rsvpvolunteer.org



2024-2025 Special Grants and Support

- Aging Resources of Central Iowa - **\$5,020** Transportation grant
- ITN America - **\$1,840** "Rides in Sight" grant - transportation to support rides to eye doctor appointments
- Transportation Program Donations - **\$5,695**
- Iowa Department of Insurance and Financial Services - **\$1,550** Fraud Fighters Presentations
- Other general donations - **\$820**



Central Iowa RSVP Endowment

(Part of the Story County Community Foundation)

- FY 24-25 Contributions - **\$3,312.50**
- Total Balance - **\$40,766.36** as of June 30, 2025

What People Are Saying...

"I feel good about being able to get food boxes delivered to the people they (The Salvation Army) serve. I feel I am gaining insight to more parts of the Ames community that I didn't know about. It is good to see that there is a "social safety net" in place that serves to help out our various neighbors" - **Ames Volunteer** placed by RSVP

"The BASE Senior Fitness program provides the opportunity for community members of any age to participate in a structured, scheduled exercise program each week. The program is beneficial for overall health and wellness with the exercises geared for balance, endurance, stretching, and mobility. When attending classes, I notice the participants modifying the exercises to suit their own physical capabilities and confidence level. It is a great opportunity to meet new people and establish lasting friendships as well.

- **Susan Quade, PT** - Manager of Rehab Services, UnityPoint Health, Trinity Regional Medical Center

"Nevada Food at First is volunteer-driven and serves households in six communities in Eastern Story County. Our RSVP volunteers build relationships, pick up food donations, partner with other volunteers, prepare and pack free carry-out meals, organize food for distribution at area food pantries, and connect local residents to nutritious food closer to home. They are the duct tape, screws, zip ties, velcro, and magnets that keep the cogs of our food access system operational!" - **Barb Mittman** - Community Meal Coordinator, Nevada Food at First

