



The Connection



Fall 2023

Volunteers Needed to Help Kids Succeed

Now that schools are back in session, there are a variety of opportunities to help our students succeed...academically, socially and emotionally. Contact RSVP to find out how you can help.

- **Be a writing partner through RSVP's Pen Pal Program**—exchange letters throughout the school year with an elementary student. Help them learn letter writing skills while building a relationship with and learning from a caring adult from another generation.
- **Be a Mentor or Tutor**—serve as a friend, advocate, and role model to a 5-17 year old student in your community or be a tutor to students and promote early literacy skills.
- **SPEAK UP!**—be trained to present SPEAK UP!, a public speaking curriculum presented over 8 sessions (once a week), helping students learn how to prepare and present a speech and more importantly, overcome the fear of public speaking in a fun and nurturing environment.

Don't miss out on this BBQ fundraiser for RSVP. **Baked good donations are needed** and can be dropped off on Thursday, November 9 at either the RSVP Ames (110 Crystal St.) or Story City office (503 Elm Avenue). We hope you come for lunch!

Senior Expo 2023!

Mark your calendars for Wednesday, **October 18th** and don't miss out on this event. Visit dozens of exhibitors providing valuable information (and goodies) about services for the 55+ population in Story and surrounding counties. Educational presentations and lunch will also be available...all free of charge!

Many volunteers are needed to help at this event in 2-hour shifts so please consider signing up to help. Contact Kim at RSVP: call 515-292-8890 or email at coordinator@cirsvp.org.

Bonus for RSVP Volunteers

Stop by the RSVP booth and we will have a gift especially for you. Just come and tell us you are an RSVP volunteer. We look forward to visiting with you and for some, meeting you in-person for the first time. We can't wait to see you at Gateway in Ames!



RSVP Welcomes Laura Severson!

Central Iowa RSVP welcomes the newest staff member to our team, Laura Severson. Laura is a Story City resident serving as the RSVP Office Coordinator, working out of our main business office (in Story City). Stop by and say "Hi"!

Inside this issue:

RSVP Brag Book	2
New Arrivals	2
Current Volunteer	3
RSVP Office Locations	4
Story/Marshall County Advisory	4
Inserts: Newsletter Sponsors	

This & That

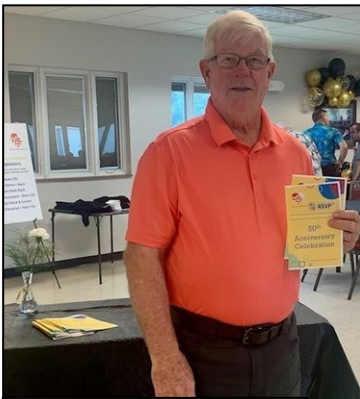
Are you a snowbird?

If so, please let us know your winter address so we can send you our winter newsletter, which always includes a gift!

Contact Laura:
515-733-4917.

officemgr@cirsvp.org

2023
Central Iowa RSVP
celebrates 50 years
serving Story County!
See photos inside.



Older citizens helping themselves with RSVP

By BILL WEAVER
Journal Managing Editor

STORY CITY—new freedom had a first for this community 50 years ago. He was the first person to have a passenger operator.

"It is on my 40th now — the first time I had put in an hour with the other two were done at Ames. He didn't arrive until about 1960. He was the first to arrive here and stay in the community, and not waiting for passenger operators to bring him to town and then drive him home."

That momentous service citizens are provided in all of our most important programs of self-betterment that include apartment, supplies, or any other thing that is needed by the very enthusiastic members of our organization, Story City Senior Citizens, Incorporated.

Every Wednesday at noon, Story City Senior Citizens, Inc. (SCSCI) holds a meeting at the American Legion Hall here. This room is made up of the elderly people, most of the elderly and by the way, it is not an elderly people's center. It is a meeting place for members of the organization, and other citizens, all of whom volunteer for the service.

This meeting and the program which follows, is part of an extensive program underway here in Story City, Iowa.

The first need was a transportation service. Notified through the weekly church bulletin, many elderly people turned out for that first time. The initial meeting was held here, and the organizers decided a new service should be started.

The American Legion was willing, as the Story City Senior Citizens, Inc. was organized. It was a group of elderly people who were the primary force in starting the program, and again the American Legion was the place to hold the meetings.

"It made hundreds and hundreds of phone calls and had many meetings. The first meeting was held in the American Legion. The first meeting was held in the American Legion. The first meeting was held in the American Legion."

Elderly Transportation for elderly to begin soon

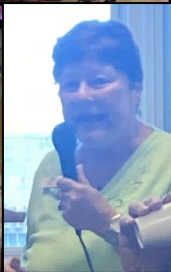
DEED MONROE—A new transportation program for the elderly, which began in Story City, Iowa, is now being expanded to other communities in the area.

The program, which is being run by the Central Iowa RSVP, is a new service that will help elderly citizens get to their appointments and other places. The program is being run by the Central Iowa RSVP, which is a non-profit organization that provides services to elderly citizens.

Photo here on Page 4



Thanks to the many volunteers and supporters who helped us commemorate 50 years of service! We celebrate the thousands of RSVP volunteers, past and present, who have defined "senior service" and through their contributions and commitment have transformed our communities! Special thanks to our event sponsors who made our celebration possible.



CENTRAL IOWA RSVP
Connecting People To Purpose

STORY CITY SENIOR CITIZENS, INC.

50th Anniversary Celebration Event Sponsors

Our sincere thanks to these Story County businesses for making this celebration possible!

- Bethany Life
- Hy-Vee Stores—Ames
- Reliance State Bank
- State Farm Insurance—Story City
- Story City Floral & Garden
- Thrivent Financial—Story City



In May, Central Iowa RSVP's Transportation Program Drivers and Grocery Delivery Volunteers were selected to receive a 2023 Governor's Volunteer Group award! Congratulations and thank you to all of our drivers and grocery deliverers. Special thanks to this group who were able to take time from their busy schedules to attend the ceremony.

WELCOME New Arrivals

- Marlys Barker, Nevada
- Patrick Hashman, Story City
- Marsha Hegland, McCallsburg
- Lynn Jennison, Ames
- Elizabeth "Liz" Meimann, Nevada
- Mike Miller, Cambridge
- Carey Novak, Ames
- Lana Ragaller, Story City
- Vicki Schaeffer, Nevada

FALL 2023 VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Opportunities are available to RSVP volunteers in Marshall and Story County. Mileage reimbursement is available. For assignment details, please contact

RSVP: **Story County:** 515-292-8890, coordinator@cirsvp.org

Marshall County: 641-752-0279; mvcv@cirsvp.org

Opportunities on this page are new or seasonal.

Please see the enclosed insert for many more opportunities for you to serve our communities!

THE COMMUNITY ACADEMY - Ames: *Develops and offers year-round, community-based, extracurricular programming that meets the needs of youth.*

After School Program Support: Volunteer tutors are needed to work with young kids in a mentorship setting, teaching kids various subjects, assisting with schoolwork, and hosting events. Most lessons are active, where the kids are rarely sitting down.

MUSTARD SEED COMMUNITY FARM - North and west of Ames: *Organization dedicated to sustainable, simple living, love of our neighbor, and creating a community in which everyone can participate in growing and eating delicious, healthy, locally produced food.*

Produce Helpers: Harvesting and food-packing, delivering food to pantries.

Non-Harvesting Helpers: Carpentry and farm maintenance.

Home-based Volunteers: Remote projects such as thank-you note writing.

Perk: Volunteers receive a box of diverse, seasonal produce at the end of each shift.

NEVADA FOOD-AT-FIRST – Nevada: *Every Monday and Thursday over 200 free meals are cooked, and packaged for people in Nevada and eastern Story County. There are four ways you can help:*

Meal Delivery: Deliver free meals to neighborhood locations in Collins, McCallsburg and Zearing.

Meal Preparation: Help prepare meals on Mondays and Thursdays from 2:00-5:00pm.

Meal Packing: Help pack meals on Mondays and/or Thursdays from 4:30-6:00pm.

Food Rescuers: Pick up food from Dollar Fresh (Nevada) that would otherwise be discarded. Food is transported to Nevada First United Methodist Church where it is safely stored until distributed to area food pantries. Training is provided. Choose one day a week or multiple days a month to volunteer.

RAISING READERS IN STORY COUNTY - Ames **Public Library, Northminster Church in Ames, North Grand Mall in Ames and Memorial Lutheran Church in Nevada:** *A non-profit organization that supports the language and literacy development of young children by providing books, caregivers guidance, and early childhood programs. Reading Buddies is a free, out-of-school literacy development program.*

Reading Buddies: Volunteer tutors provide 45-minute literacy sessions for children starting 1st, 2nd, and 3rd grades in the **FALL of 2023**. Tutors will meet with students for personalized reading sessions twice/week to help with literacy skills. Sessions are supervised by the RRSC Reading Program Site Facilitator. Volunteer training occurs on the first day of the program without children present.

Story Pals: The Story Pals program provides quality reading experiences and supports the development of language and early literacy skills. The intended goal is to increase participant readiness for school and help lay the foundation necessary for them to become proficient readers. **(Also FALL 2023)**

REIMAN GARDENS - Ames: *With a mission to educate, enchant, and inspire an appreciation of plants, insects, and the beauty of the natural world, Reiman Gardens is a year-round university-owned, public garden with events, programs, lectures, and tours.*

Reiman Gardens is gearing up for their annual pumpkin stenciling and carving event in October. Every year, hundreds of jack o' lanterns are featured throughout the Gardens during the *Spirits in the Gardens* community event, which will be held October 13-15 & October 20-22. (Contact RSVP for shifts/times for each of these assignments.)

Tracing: Use pre-cut stencil patterns to draw designs onto pumpkins. This is a critical step before the carving begins! This will take place Oct. 4—8.

Gutting: Help us gut pumpkins quickly with our ingenious gutting method. This activity can get messy, so we have goggles, lab coats, gloves, and head and shoe covers available for volunteers to use. This will take place Oct. 11, 12, 18, & 19.

Carving: Wednesday, Oct.11 & 18: 12-8pm; Thursday, Oct. 12 & 19: 12-8pm; Friday, October 13 & 20: 10am-2pm.

Placing: Place the pumpkins throughout the gardens with our staff. Friday, Oct. 13 & 20.

Business Office
503 Elm Avenue
Story City, IA 50348
515-733-4917

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

Marshalltown Office
2608 S. 2nd Street,
50158
641-752-0279

For RSVP staff contact information, including email addresses, please call one of our offices or visit the staff page of our website:

www.rsvpvolunteer.org

Facebook:
www.facebook.com/rsvpcentraliowa

2023 RSVP Advisory Council Members

Nancy Long - Chair, Gilbert
Marlys Barker, Nevada
Nic Briseno, Ames
Deb Grove, State Center
Marsha Hegland, McCallsburg
Caitlyn Lien, Ames
Diana Schwendinger, Ames
Gaylan Scofield, Story City
Doni Sheldon, Marshalltown
Jeff Sodt, Nevada

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AmeriCorps
Seniors



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Serving Story and Marshall County
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