



Spring 2024

The Connection



RSVP Volunteer Management for Disasters/Emergencies 101



Central Iowa RSVP volunteers have been a part of the solution when disaster strikes since 2006. If the past 18 years have taught us anything, we know three things for sure:

- ◆ It is not a question of IF a disaster or public health/public safety emergency will strike, it is a matter of WHEN.
- ◆ Preparation in advance is essential.
- ◆ When a local disaster or emergency does occur, volunteers play a critical role in response and recovery efforts.

RSVP VME 101

MEET, GREET, EAT & LEARN

**TUESDAY, APRIL 23, 2024
5PM—7PM**

**City Church of Ames
2400 Oakwood Rd, Ames**

Meet RSVP’s new coordinator, Paul Litscher. Learn how RSVP volunteers serve in the event of a local disaster/emergency, and hear from local professionals including Melissa Spencer, Director—Story County Emergency Mgmt. and Nic Briseno—Story County Sheriff’s Communications Commander (MEAL PROVIDED).

If you plan to attend please contact RSVP at 515-292-8890 or rsvp53@cirsvp.org.

This event is a refresher for RSVP Disaster/Emergency volunteers who have served or been trained in the past and an introduction for new volunteers interested in learning more about making a difference in times of crisis.

RSVP Welcomes Paul Litscher

We are happy to introduce the latest addition to our staff team. Paul is a Volunteer Coordinator serving Story County and is overseeing our Volunteer Management for Emergencies Program.



To combat the need for increased food security, especially among children, United Way of Story County (UWSC) will hold the annual LIVE UNITED Food Drive in Story County **April 22—May 2**. Help RSVP fight hunger in Story & Marshall Counties!

TO DONATE

Items will be collected at all RSVP Offices— Ames, Story City, and Marshalltown (see page 4 of this newsletter for office locations). Help us fill the pantries before school gets out for the summer!

More information, including lists of desired items and all drop off locations, can be found at www.uwstory.org/food-drive.

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The 2024 Senior Expo is fast approaching. Come and connect with many exhibitors serving “seniors” in Central Iowa and/or attend informative presentations. Everything is free including beverages, refreshments, and lunch! Stop by the RSVP booth to say “Hi” and get a gift! Don’t miss out!

SENIOR EXPO
PRESENTED BY *Seniors in Story*

THURSDAY, MAY 9TH
9:00 A.M. - 3:00 P.M.
GATEWAY HOTEL & CONFERENCE CENTER
2100 GREEN HILLS DR, AMES

SENIORSINSTORY.ORG

“Fraud Fighters” Wanted

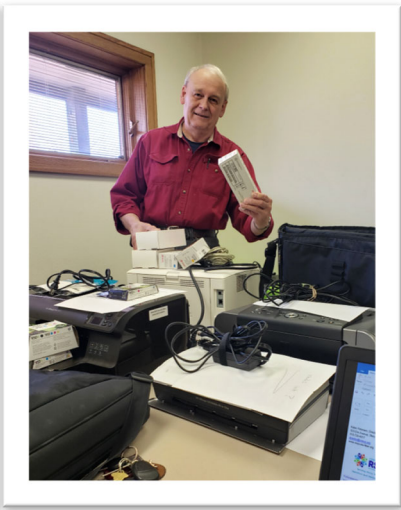
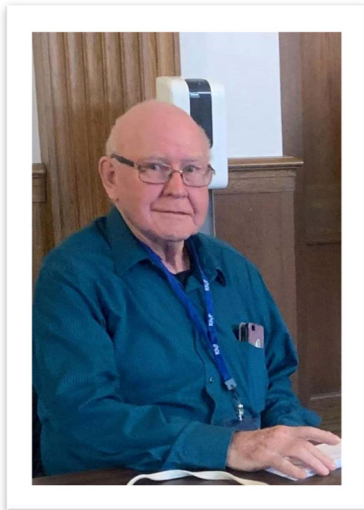
Sharing Information to protect Iowans from Scam Artists



RSVP is looking for volunteers to **become part of our “Fraud Fighter” team**. Join other RSVP volunteers who are trained to **conduct presentations and share vital information about scams and investment fraud**. RSVP facilitates this project in partnership with the Iowa Insurance Division (IID), having a primary focus of reaching groups of retirees and pre-retirees who are the prime target for financial fraud. IID provides training and materials, including videos and PowerPoint presentations that can be modified to fit a variety of time frames. For more information, contact any RSVP office (page 4).



Brag Book



Thanks to these and all of our amazing volunteers for what you do. Check out more pictures and RSVP updates on the Central Iowa RSVP Facebook Page.

We hope you LIKE US!

Featured Volunteer Activities

- ◇ City of Ames—Event Ticket Takers
- ◇ Central Iowa RSVP
 - Volunteer Driver Program
 - IT Equipment Testing—Ames Office
 - Fraud Fighters—Marshalltown

WELCOME New Arrivals to Central Iowa RSVP

- Kristine Johnston, Story City
- Bethany Meyer, Gilbert
- Jerry Ober, Story City

CURRENT VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

UPCOMING EVENTS & NEEDS

For information or to volunteer for any of these events, please call RSVP at 515-292-8890

SENIOR EXPO

Thursday, May 9, 2024*
9am to 3pm (2-hour shifts)
Gateway Hotel & Conference Center
2100 Green Hills Dr, Ames

The Seniors In Story **Senior Expo** provides opportunities to connect Central Iowa's older adults and families with area agencies that provide services.

- [Main Entrance Greeters](#)
- [Registration Table Assistants](#)
- [Presentation Greeter/Assistants](#)
- [Exhibitor Assistant](#)
- [Breakfast Assistant](#)
- [Lunch Assistant](#)
- [Gift Table Assistant](#)
- [Clean-Up Assistant](#)
- [Parking Lot Assistant](#)

*Volunteers also needed on Wednesday, May 8 from 3pm to 7pm to be a [Booth Check-In Assistant](#).

CITY OF AMES PARKS & RECREATION EVENT

Thrash of the Titans
A Tribute to the Big 4 of Thrash Metal
(Metallica, Anthrax, Megadeth, & Slayer)
April 13, 2024
5:45pm to 7:15pm
Ames City Auditorium
520 6th St, Ames

Usher: Usher patrons as they come in the theater doors. You may be asked by patrons to identify accessible seating.

Ticket Takers: Take tickets at a table in the foyer.

Dress code: Casual; informal and comfortable, yet clean and professional.

Perk: All volunteers are welcome to stay and watch the show for free.

THE COMMUNITY ACADEMY PLANT SALE

Saturday, June 1, 2024*
7am to 11am (2-hour shifts)
ISU Agronomy Greenhouse
935 N University Blvd, Ames

The Community Academy youth grow over 12,000 native plants. These plants are planted throughout Ames as part of collaborative projects with the City of Ames and Story County Conservation.

Plant Sale Volunteers— Help set-up and clean-up plant displays, carry plants, post signs, assist customers and accept payments. (Individual or group opportunity.)

*Volunteers also needed on Thursday, May 30 and Friday, May 31 to [post signs at nearby intersections](#).

REIMAN GARDENS PLANT SALE EXTRAVAGANZA

Saturday, May 11, 9am to 6pm and
Sunday, May 12, 10am to 3pm
1407 University Blvd, Ames
Public Sale

Plant knowledge is not a pre-requisite for this activity. Trained staff and other horticulture-minded groups will be available to help answer questions.

Cashier Assistants—Pull and count tags for guests ready to check out, work at holding tables to keep items for each guest together.

Event Volunteers—Move stock into empty spaces, keep tables clean and tidy, help carry products to holding table for guests, and provide a cheery atmosphere.

Online Order Pick-up—Work with Staff at the online order pick-up station to hand out orders as visitors arrive.

Customer Assistance—Welcome visitors to the sale, assist customers with purchases, and direct customers to plant locations and horticulture staff for questions.

The final shift of the Plant Sale Extravaganza will also include tear down of tents and movement equipment.

Your RSVP Connections

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, Marshalltown
Marsha Hegland, McCallsburg
Diana Schwendinger, Ames
Gaylan Scofield, Story City
Doni Sheldon, Marshalltown
Jeff Sodt, Nevada
Roe Welker, Marshalltown

Find us.
Like us.

Follow us.
Love us.

Central Iowa RSVP

Serving Story and Marshall County

503 Elm Avenue

Story City, IA 50248

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Welcome
Spring



United Way of Story County



AmeriCorps
Seniors



Marshalltown Area
United Way