

RSVP VOLUNTEERS: READY TO HELP WHEN DISASTER STRIKES



September is National Preparedness Month and Central Iowa RSVP is proud to be a part of the five mission areas of disaster preparedness: prevention, protection, mitigation, response, and recovery.

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What do Disaster volunteers do? Central IA RSVP Disaster volunteers do a variety of things. Here are some of the most common roles:

- Staff a Volunteer Reception Center (VRC) which is activated by Story County Emergency Management. Volunteers process community volunteers responding to the need, provide safety training, and refer them to specific assignments and locations to assist with recovery efforts.
- Answer the Story County Sheriff's Office's Tip Hotline. This is activated in the event of a missing or abducted person. Our volunteers answer the phone line where tips and information are called in.
- Present the Disaster PrepWise program to community groups about how to prepare to meet shelter and other basic needs for up to three days in the event of a disaster.

Why is training needed? While on-the-job training can be provided for any volunteers, it is important to have a group prepared for **when** called upon. We now have a regular schedule for VRC and Tip Hotline training, happening every three months. While we would love to see all of our Disaster volunteers at every training, we know that isn't possible. We have scheduled the dates ahead of time so that you can look ahead and plan. Additionally, we have taken feedback from previous trainings and incorporated it into our future trainings so we can ensure they are effective and a good use of your valuable time.

If you are interested in learning more, or becoming a Disaster volunteer, contact Paul at (515) 292-8890.

UPCOMING TRAINING

Volunteer Reception Center



- OCTOBER 28, 2026** The Safe Room, Huxley
- JANUARY 27, 2027** Hobby Hub, 60 Forward, Ames
- APRIL 28, 2027** Story City Community Center
- JULY 28, 2027** Gates Memorial Hall, Nevada

Training will be from 12:00 - 2:00 pm (snacks provided) and will include a simulation of a VRC and time to debrief. The training at 60 Forward will be a tabletop exercise.



UPCOMING TRAINING

Tip Hotline



- NOVEMBER 18, 2026** Story County Sheriff's Office
1315 S B Avenue
Nevada, IA 50201
- FEBRUARY 17, 2027**
- MAY 19, 2027**
- AUGUST 18, 2027**

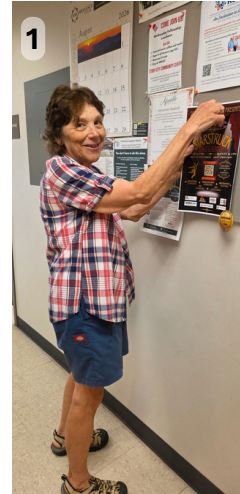


Each training will be held from 5:30 - 7:00 pm, dinner provided.

A background check is required for all Tip Hotline volunteers with the Story County Sheriff's Office. If you are interested in becoming a Tip Hotline volunteer, please reach out to Paul Litscher at (515) 292-8890 or vme@rsvpvolunteer.org.

BRAG BOOK

1) Marsha Scofield hanging event fliers in Story City, **2)** Linda Conner & Dennis Conner at the prize table for the City of Ames Duck Race, **3)** Joel Gabrielson presenting the Fraud Fighters program, **4)** RSVP Pen Pals attending the kick-off information meeting at 60 Forward, **5)** Heather Sanders & Tim Garner at the City of Ames Duck Race, **6)** Cindy Martin at the City of Ames Duck Race, **7)** Linda Griffin at the Raising Readers of Story County summer program, **8)** Marsha Scofield at the Senior Variety Show, **9)** Cindy Martin at the City of Ames Duck Race, **10)** Heather Sanders, Stan Valenta, & Tim Garner at the City of Ames Movie Night, **11)** Edward Morton & Roger Jones at the City of Ames Movie Night



Sixty Forward connects those 60+ and supports a physically active, socially vibrant and healthy life.

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at 515-233-2906

WELCOME

NEW ARRIVALS TO CENTRAL IOWA RSVP

Christine Antinori, Ames
 Deb Bagby, State Center
 Kathy Baker, LeGrand
 Susan Baker, Marshalltown
 Diane Beck, Roland
 Kristi Brink, Marshalltown
 Randy Brink, Marshalltown
 Larry Butler, Roland
 Chris Cantonwine, Ames
 JoAnn Castell, Marshalltown
 Dona Cowman, Cambridge
 Carol Eddy, Marshalltown
 Kimberly Elder, State Center
 Jane Frericks, Nevada
 Marcia Fricke, Melbourne
 Lucas Funk, Huxley
 Holly Goodell, Ames
 Joel Greer, Marshalltown
 Donna Grimm, Ames

Becky Hacker-Kluver, Ames
 Rita Hamers, Ames
 Ted Hammes, Story City
 Pat Hand, Maxwell
 Mary Handorff, Rhodes
 Bob Hartzler, Ames
 Sue Herrington, Ames
 Lara Hicok, Ames
 Matthew Hicok, Ames
 Jennifer Holdredge, Story City
 Laurie Kasal, Marshalltown
 Sherri Keigan, Story City
 Jewell King, Marshalltown
 Kristy Klyn, Boone
 Susan Larson, Ames
 Sue Lindemann, State Center
 Kim Lively, Ames
 Jill Macken, Ames
 Alys Miller, Ames

Edward Morton, Ames
 Carol Newton, Maxwell
 Diana Peck, Fairfield
 Mary Pfantz, State Center
 Mary Pieper, Marshalltown
 Marilu Raman, Ames
 Marie Schropp, Ames
 Bernadette Siebert, Ames
 Angie Stover, Story City
 Dawn Tallman, Marshalltown
 Janet Weis, Marshalltown
 Karen Weiss, Maxwell
 Kathy Wellik, Story City
 Colette Winfrey, Ames
 Susan Witzel, Ames
 Lorraine Woolery, Ames
 Lisa Yoder, Parkersburg
 Bill Yungclas, Ames

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 or cruise ship."**

— Florine Swanson



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 Gaylan Scofield, Story City—Chair
 Jeff Sodt, Nevada

BRANDING & MARKETING UPDATE

You may have noticed a different logo on the front of this newsletter. If you were not already aware, RSVP (Retired & Senior Volunteer Program) is a national service program administered by AmeriCorps Seniors. Central Iowa RSVP receives federal funds from AmeriCorps Seniors to operate in Story, Marshall, Hamilton, and Webster counties. As a way to acknowledge the support we receive from AmeriCorps Seniors, RSVP programs have been asked to update their branding and marketing materials to reflect this. There are certain guidelines for us to follow as part of our agreement. So, don't be surprised if you start to see this logo and different updates or terminology on our marketing materials.

In addition, we received a small grant from the Story City Friends Endowment to update our marketing photos. We are so thankful for all of the amazing work that you, our volunteers, do in the community. We would like to be able to show off real people making a real impact in our marketing materials, instead of using stock photos. At the end of August we did a day-long photoshoot with some of our volunteers, capturing them in action. Here is a sneak peek of some of the photos from the day!



Tedd Devick



Anne Kohler



Rose Fowler



Susan Hayes

Village Cooperative of Ames
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Peggy Kohler



Joanie Fitzsimmons



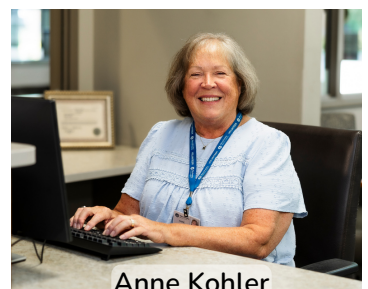
Arlyss Peterson



Michele Olson



Rick Hackett



Anne Kohler

STAFF SPOTLIGHT

Since our staff is spread out among various offices, we thought it would be nice to spotlight each one so you can get to know us, and our roles, better. This month we are highlighting our Story County Volunteer Coordinator, Kim.



Kim Anderson
Volunteer Coordinator



Kim has been with Central Iowa RSVP for 4 ½ years and works in our Ames office, which is located at the 60 Forward Center. Kim works with partner organizations that are in need of volunteers in Story County, as well as with the volunteers in Story County. She helps make the connection of volunteer interest with community need. Kim is a very creative individual and brings so much energy and passion to the job! Here is what Kim has to say about her role:

"I enjoy building authentic relationships with volunteers by learning about their interests and goals, then shaping their volunteer experiences to support what matters to them. I also enjoy identifying new volunteer opportunities by partnering with community organizations. I strive to be a steady source of encouragement, helping volunteers feel valued for their dedication and connected to both the organizations they serve and the broader community. Volunteering brings people together across backgrounds and experiences—turning strangers into friends and creating a sense of belonging in the world."

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- Home Health Aide
- Care Coordination



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WE NEED YOUR HELP TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE



Drivers **NEEDED**

The impact of our volunteers in 2025



49 | **VOLUNTEERS**
81 | **CLIENTS**
2,002 | **TRIPS**
2,065 | **HOURS SERVED**
24,299 | **MILES DRIVEN**

Our Volunteer Driver Transportation Program in Story County continues to grow as more older adults are in need of our services. This is such an important role in our rural communities and **we need more drivers!**

Make a difference one ride at a time. Older adults in Story County rely on volunteer drivers to get them to medical appointments, grocery stores, and other important destinations. This can fit even the busiest schedules!

When you're a volunteer, you're doing more than providing a ride. You're helping someone stay independent, connected, and involved in their community.

Drivers are covered by our supplemental insurance while driving, are eligible for mileage reimbursement, and get to spend time meeting new people, making friends, and making a difference to those in need.

Our challenge to you: if you have time to give and want to make a meaningful impact, contact us to learn more about becoming a volunteer driver. *If you don't have time, pass this information to at least one or your friends!* Contact Shari at (515) 230-7429 or marshall@RSVPvolunteer.org.

BASE SENIOR FITNESS



Central Iowa RSVP's BASE Senior Fitness program offers free, fun, and safe exercise classes designed to improve balance, agility, strength, and endurance for those 55+.

Our BASE program is growing! We recently started a new class in Maxwell, and our class in Colo is going strong. We would love to expand this class to other rural communities.

If you would like to learn about becoming a BASE leader, a back-up leader, and/or starting a class in your community, contact Laura at (515) 733-4917 or laura@RSVPvolunteer.org.



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For more information on Home Health Services, visit www.mgmc.org/homehealth or call 515-239-6730.

CURRENT VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

7

STORY COUNTY

The following opportunities are currently available in Story County. Mileage reimbursement is available. For additional details, contact: Kim at (515) 292-8890, story@RSVPvolunteer.org.

Habitat for Humanity ReStore, Ames



- **Opportunity:** Store Clerk
- **Time/Shift:** Saturdays, 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM
- **Duties:** Greet and assist customers, organize and shelf donations.

- **Opportunity:** Tool Repair
- **Time/Shift:** Thursdays, 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM and Saturdays, 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM or 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM
- **Duties:** Repair donated tools and provide customer assistance as needed.

Main Street Ames



- **Opportunity:** Fall Harvest
- **Time/Shift:** Thursday, October 15th, 8:30 AM - 10:00 AM
- **Duties:** Harvest the potatoes in 25 planters along downtown Main Street in Ames.

Mid-Iowa Community Action, Ames



- **Opportunity:** Monthly Food Boxes
- **Time/Shift:** Once a month on the 2nd Wednesday, 2-3 hour shift
- **Duties:** Select items for the monthly food boxes. A cart is provided.

The Salvation Army, Ames



- **Opportunity:** Food Box Delivery Driver
- **Time/Shift:** Thursdays September 17th, October 1st, and October 15th, 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM
- **Duties:** Deliver family food boxes to clients in Ames.



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CURRENT VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

STORY COUNTY

The Well Resource Center, Ames



- **Opportunity:** Hospitality
- **Time/Shift:** Tuesdays, Thursdays, Fridays, 9:30 AM - 4:30 PM, 3½ hour shifts
- **Duties:** Manage reception area, welcome guests, offer refreshments, office tasks, tidy up, engage in conversation with guests.

Worldly Goods, Ames



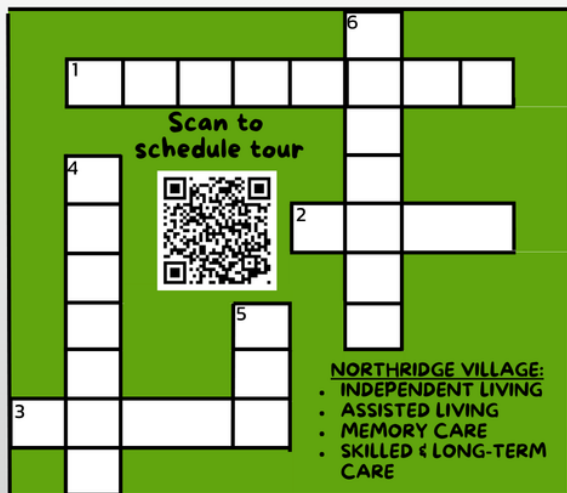
- **Opportunity:** Store Associate (Receive 20% discount on purchases!)
- **Time/Shift:** Fridays and Saturdays, 10:00 AM - 5:00 PM, 2 hour shifts
- **Duties:** Greet and assist customers, organize shelves, keep store tidy.

- **Opportunity:** Window Display Designer
- **Time/Shift:** As needed, seasonal, flexible times
- **Duties:** Design and set up the front window display.

For additional Story County volunteer opportunities, scan this QR code
or visit www.RSVPvolunteer.org/story-co-opportunities



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of physical,
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emotional, social
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in your life.



CURRENT VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

9

MARSHALL COUNTY

The following opportunities are currently available in Marshall County. Mileage reimbursement is available. For additional details, contact: Shari at (641) 752-0279, marshall@RSVPvolunteer.org.

Marshall County Conservation Board, Marshalltown



Zombie Run 5k at Grimes Farm on Saturday, October 10th

- **Opportunity:** Registration Volunteer
- **Time/Shift:** 5:30 PM - 6:30 PM
- **Duties:** Check-in runners, hand out race belts and swag, answer race questions.
- **Opportunity:** Finish Line Volunteer
- **Time/Shift:** 6:30 PM until the last runner finished (~8:00 PM)
- **Duties:** Greet runners as they finish and hand out medals to each participant.
- **Opportunity:** Meal Service Volunteer
- **Time/Shift:** 5:30 PM - 9:00 PM (approximately)
- **Duties:** Serve prepared food, refill dishes, organize serving area, clean up.

For additional Marshall County volunteer opportunities, scan this QR code
or visit www.RSVPvolunteer.org/marshall-co-opportunities



Mid-Iowa Community Action, Marshalltown



- **Opportunity:** Health Programs Admin. Support
- **Time/Shift:** 1-2 hours/week during open hours
- **Duties:** File charts, organize paper and supplies. Training/support provided, background check required.
- **Opportunity:** LIHEAP Administrative Support
- **Time/Shift:** Up to 8 hours/day during open hours
- **Duties:** Answer/return calls, schedule appointments, answer questions about LIHEAP energy assistance. Training/support provided, background check required.
- **Opportunity:** Short Term Filing Project
- **Time/Shift:** As your schedule allows between 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM, Monday - Thursday
- **Duties:** Do some catch-up filing in the office.

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Lifelong Learning for Adults

The Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at Iowa State University (OLLI at Iowa State) nurtures a joyful community of lifelong learning for adults of all ages. A variety of in-person and online courses as well as social experiences spark curiosity with no tests or grades, simply learning for the fun of learning.



Learn more at <https://olli.iastate.edu/>
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We don't need to tell you why being an RSVP volunteer is so great, but **we need your help telling your friends!** RSVP volunteers are our best recruiters because you can speak to the impact and difference you make in the community through your volunteer efforts, as well as the benefits you receive by being a volunteer.

Tell your friends about Central Iowa RSVP and encourage them to contact us!

Office Locations

Business Office

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

Ames Office

205 S Walnut Avenue
Ames, IA 50010
(515) 292-8890

Marshalltown Office

2608 S 2nd Street
Marshalltown, IA 50158
(641) 752-0279

Want to learn more about Central Iowa RSVP?

Visit us online at:

www.RSVPvolunteer.org

Stay up-to-date between newsletters with volunteer opportunities, events, training opportunities, pictures, and more:

www.facebook.com/RSVPcentraliowa

When you visit, don't forget to

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& Webster Counties
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