

Annual Report 2017



Volunteer Center
of Racine County, Inc.
Volunteers are the Heart of the Community



Volunteering: How Helping Others Helps You - Al Volmut, Exec. Director

Volunteering has a positive effect on your community and it's good for you too. Giving back is valuable in itself, but helping others offers many benefits. It can help you learn more about yourself and even put you on a path to your future career.

Whether you build houses for the homeless or work in a food pantry, you can experience the real world through hands-on work. Both the people you are helping and your fellow volunteers can give you new insights. No matter what group of people you're working with, you'll find that they have information and ways of looking at the world that can broaden your horizons.

In my seven year affiliation with the Volunteer Center, I have learned many lessons; formed strong friendships, and have experienced the generous nature of the folks who call Racine County home. I've experienced the non-profit community identify the various needs of our most vulnerable citizens, especially our seniors, the homeless, and our youth.

The Volunteer Center continues to offer support to our senior and youth population. The primary goal of our senior programs is to support efforts to keep the elderly safe, sustainable, and healthy in their homes. Senior programs supported by the Volunteer Center include Meals on Wheels, Senior Home Companion, MyRide, and the Skill Bank.

Area youth are introduced to the concept of "Service Learning" by participating in our free summer Volunteer Youth Camps and being involved in National Days of Service. (Make a Difference Day, Martin Luther King Day, and Earth Day)

Personally, you'll receive the benefit of really knowing that you're doing something to help someone else and get that wonderful joy of giving back.

Get involved and make yourself and someone happy.
Keep on giving, Racine

Al Volmut, Executive Director

RSVP – Racine County Refines its Focus Bruce Davis - RSVP Director

RSVP – Racine County concluded 2017 with 249 volunteers contributing nearly 17,000 hours of service with fifteen agencies.

RSVP – Racine County will start the second year of its three-year cycle April 1, 2018 that, upon its completion in 2020, will mark a twenty-year association with its sponsor, the Volunteer Center of Racine County, Inc.

As federal funding has become increasingly challenging, RSVP projects, which operate under the authority of the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS), are being required to place more emphasis on uniform reporting standards.

These National Performance Measures (NPM's) are designed to give lawmakers, when considering funding levels, a better idea of RSVP project impacts on communities they serve, regardless of their location.

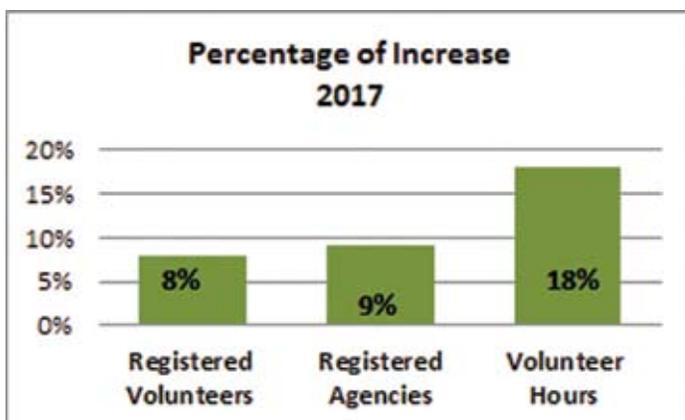
NPM's are set by CNCS as are the range of projects that they measure. Most projects have outputs which measure unduplicated volunteers or volunteer hours, depending upon the activity.

Select projects also report outcomes as well as outputs. Outcomes are usually derived from surveys designed to measure the satisfaction recipients report from RSVP projects serving them. RSVP projects are increasingly being evaluated by outcome-defined activities.

Over one hundred volunteers are projected to work on three outcome work plans in the RSVP-Racine County project: ADRC's Meals on Wheels, the Dominican Sisters' Senior Companion, Inc. and the Volunteer Center's MyRIDE senior transportation project. All three programs fall under CNCS' Healthy Futures - Aging in Place objective that aims to help senior citizens maintain their independence.

RSVP matches fifty-five plus volunteers with assignments designed to address these and other local community concerns. Any volunteer program faces attrition issues, but the challenges are especially acute for programs like RSVP that define its volunteers by age. The three outcome based projects also serve populations with their own built in attrition concerns.

If you are interested in lending your time and talent to RSVP, especially the Healthy Futures – Aging in Place projects, contact RSVP – Racine County. All RSVP volunteers are eligible for mileage reimbursement and complimentary supplemental accident and liability insurance.
Call 262.886-9612;
bdavis@volunteerracine.org.



We ended 2017 with 5637 registered volunteers, and 329 agencies. Our goals: recruit new volunteers, add new organizations or agencies in need of volunteers. Those goals were met or exceeded in 2017. The recording of volunteer hours is an ongoing challenge. Our goal is to record all donated time in Racine County, which is an enormous challenge.

Volunteers and agencies are sometimes hesitant to register for fear of someone getting their personal data. This is not the case. We want to assure you that our web site is very secure and only you or the Volunteer Center has access to your data. It is a **free** tool for you to find volunteer opportunities and record the hours you volunteered. It is also a **free** tool for agencies to list their needs. We are looking forward to 2018 and would like to continue to increase users, both volunteer and agencies.

To register go to www.volunteerracine.org. Scroll to bottom of the page, in the left corner you will see Register Volunteer or Register Agency. Click on register. Follow the prompts. Now you can keep track and log your own volunteer hours, and search numerous volunteer opportunities. Hope to see your name entered in 2018.

MyRIDE Senior Transportation **Jenni Chap - Senior Transportation Coordinator**

What is MyRIDE? MyRIDE is a senior transportation program in Racine County for seniors aged 55 years and over, who live in Racine County, and who are no longer able to drive to appointments. MyRIDE provides transportation to medical appointments, grocery shopping, and other destinations as needed. Our hours of operation are Monday thru Friday 8:00am until 5:00pm.

The MyRIDE program has been in existence for just over four years. In 2017, we provided 3,552 rides to seniors and of those rides, 85% were to medical appointments. Included with the 3,552 rides, MyRIDE drove over 2,646 hours and 39,789 rider miles. Our goal is to provide transportation for seniors to allow them to remain independent in our community -- the community that they call home.

As the need for rides increases, the need for volunteer drivers has also increased. Some benefits of driving for MyRIDE include meeting nice people, providing a service to a senior who otherwise wouldn't be able to make it to appointments, and the feeling of satisfaction knowing that you are providing a service to a senior who is in need of getting to an appointment. If you are 55 years or over and drive for MyRIDE, you will receive mileage reimbursement and additional supplemental insurance. In additional benefit of driving for MyRIDE is that you are able to set your own hours. Each week you will be asked what days and hours you are available to drive the following week.

If you are interested in volunteering for the MyRIDE program, please call Jenni or Terri at 242-417-7544.

Many of our parents, community members, and students already believe in the power of volunteerism to change communities and outcomes. We have been partnering with the Youth Volunteer Corps for over 20 years to raise the bar for youth by expanding the avenues of engagement through:

- **Service-Learning projects:** this is a form of experiential education that integrates meaningful community service with instruction and reflection to enrich learning, teach civic responsibility, and strengthen communities. There are two basic types of service-learning: school-based and community-based. Here is how they work at YVC.

- **School-based projects** tend to engage the same group of youth over an entire semester or school-year. Service-learning is implemented as a teaching strategy, closely tied to curricular objectives and state education standards.

- **In a community-based context**, service-learning tends to focus more on the issue being addressed, with projects and activities typically taking place at the nonprofit agency being served. This type of service-learning involves planning activities to illustrate for youth the importance of their service so they leave with a deeper understanding of the need and the impact of their contribution.

The Volunteer Center's Youth program engages young people throughout the county primarily in Community Based Service-Learning Activities.

We partner with various non-profits on Saturday projects and summer camp opportunities. This year was no exception - we had 6 successful summer camps and two monthly Saturday activities. Thanks to the generous sponsorship from S.C. Johnson Foundation, we will continue to grow the program and strengthen the skill sets of our youth.

SafeAssured™ ID Update **Dave Voss - RSVP Outreach Coordinator**

SafeAssured™ ID events were held at area schools, safety fairs, preschool, senior living apartments, Expo and home shows. This year marked the first time we had funding to process residents living in group homes. This was done on a limited basis through a grant from We Energies. Those processed had the potential of leaving the facility. When they left law enforcement utilized many hours of overtime looking for these endangered citizens.

A Disaster preparedness summer camp was held for area youth. This program was designed to give youth the confidence to take care of themselves, their family and neighbors during a disaster. At the end of the program, the youth practiced in a mock-up of a mini-disaster.

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Check out our page on



<http://www.facebook.com/volunteercenterofracine>

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