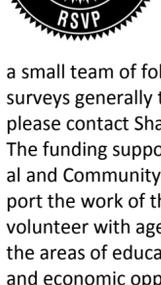


**HAPPY NEW YEAR! RSVP PROGRAM NEWS**

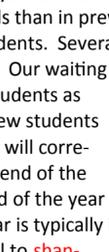


The New Year has begun! Your Volunteer Connections team is hard at work developing our next round of work plans for the RSVP grant funding 3 year period. For those of you who volunteer with one of the Retired and Senior Volunteer Program “stations” you may be getting an email or phone call from us asking for the yearly information we need to report. If you are a mentor or tutor we’ll be contacting you with a brief survey about your experiences. We’ll also be looking for a small team of help us do surveys at the local food banks. These brief surveys generally take only a few hours to complete. If you would like to help please contact Shannon ([shannons@hsc-wa.org](mailto:shannons@hsc-wa.org)) to let us know.

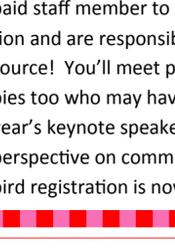
The funding supporting the RSVP program is through the Corporation for National and Community Service and the Senior Corps program. Funds received support the work of the staff to help recruit and refer volunteers age 55 and over to volunteer with agencies (stations) working to solve critical community needs in the areas of education, environment, healthy futures, veterans, disaster services, and economic opportunity.

**MLK DAY OF SERVICE JANUARY 15**

Several one day volunteer opportunities have been posted to “celebrate” the Martin Luther King federal holiday on January 15. Rather than have this federal holiday be a day off, it is typically a “day on” with people descending on non-profits and organizations nationwide to help get projects done. There are several projects posted on our website ranging from cleaning up a park to making quilts for traumatized children. To check out the opportunities you can be involved with visit [this link](#).



**PEN PAL PROGRAM UPDATE**



Grandma Rose and her Pen Pal Imerta, from last year.

171 volunteers ranging in age from 20 to 95 are writing monthly letters to 270 fifth grade students in 11 classrooms at four different schools for the 23<sup>rd</sup> year of the Pen Pal Program. Though we have fewer schools than in previous years, we actually are serving more students. Several volunteers are writing to multiple students. Our waiting list has seen new volunteers get assigned students as some adults are unable to continue or as new students have moved into classrooms. The students will correspond with their adult Pen Pal through the end of the school year. They will get a chance to meet face-to-face at an end of the year dessert party at their school. Recruitment for the next school year is typically in July and August. To get on the recruitment list just send an email to [shannons@hsc-wa.org](mailto:shannons@hsc-wa.org).

**VOLUNTEER MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE FEBRUARY 22**

The annual Directors of Volunteer Programs Volunteer Management Conference is February 22 from 9:00 a.m. -4:00 p.m. This conference is open to anyone interested in the management of effective volunteer programs, you don’t have to be a paid staff member to attend. If you are involved with an all-volunteer organization and are responsible for recruiting and managing volunteers this is a great resource! You’ll meet people who’ve been doing this work for decades and newbies too who may have a great recruitment idea you hadn’t thought of! This year’s keynote speaker is Amy Faulkner, a Jefferson Award winner with a unique perspective on community building, volunteerism, and public engagement. Early bird registration is now open till February 16. Here’s a [link to the flyer!](#)

**UPCOMING VOLUNTEER TRAININGS & SPECIAL CLASSES**

**COLUMBIA SPRINGS VOLUNTEER TRAINING STARTING SOON!**

Columbia Springs is now recruiting volunteers for the Volunteer Lead or Volunteer Docent positions. Training for these positions begin February 3<sup>rd</sup>. Lead Volunteers lead crews of volunteers during restoration events, assist with school field trips, and work special events. Docents lead interpretive tours of Columbia Springs, host activity booths in natural areas, and work at the Columbia Springs Visitor’s Center. Columbia Springs has 100 acres of forest, streams, wetlands, lakes, and over two miles of maintained hiking trails. Click this [link to the flyer](#) for more information.

**DO YOU LOVE CATS?**

If you get the “feels” for felines, West Columbia Gorge Humane Society wants you! This small, no-kill shelter in Washougal houses kitties waiting for their forever homes. Volunteers are needed in the mornings to help with cleaning, feeding, and socializing the purr-beasts and in the early evening from 6-8 p.m. to come by and “tuck” everyone in. (Basically scoop the litter boxes, make sure everyone has what they need for the evening, medicate as needed, and provide some social time). They are always in need of foster families for the dogs and cats who come through the facility. Most dogs are not kept on site, but rather in foster homes. There are a couple of large rooms for the cats to enjoy, though some cats are also fostered. If you are interested in helping email [shannons@hsc-wa.org](mailto:shannons@hsc-wa.org) so we can connect you to this opportunity!

**NATURESCAPING NW CLASS**

Take a trip to Brush Prairie for a special Intro to Perennial Agriculture class at Naturescaping Wildlife Botanical Gardens. The class is January 20 from 10:00 a.m. till noon presented by Eve Hanlin owner of Evelyn’s Garden and self proclaimed “plant nerd”. Eve is also a landscape designer and garden mentor with a special affinity for teaching gardeners how to incorporate perennial edibles into your garden landscape. (hint: It’s more than an apple tree). You’ll learn the basics of planting a “food forest”. The class will be held at CASEE Center Building B Room 205 11104 NE 149<sup>th</sup> St Brush Prairie. Naturescaping members are free or \$15 for non members. Registration or more information at [info@naturescaping.org](mailto:info@naturescaping.org) or call 360-737-1160.

**NEWS YOU CAN USE ABOUT MEDICARE**

**MEDICARE CARDS**

For those of you who are enrolled in Medicare you’ll be getting a new Medicare number on a brand new card that will be unique to you! The new cards will no longer have your social security number to help keep your information more secure and protect your identity. The new cards will be sent between April 2018 and April 2019. To make sure Medicare has your up-to-date information contact social security at [ssa.gov/myaccount](http://ssa.gov/myaccount) or 1 800 772 1213.



**We’d appreciate a “LIKE” and a “SHARE” on our facebook page: [www.facebook.com/HSCVolunteerConnections!](https://www.facebook.com/HSCVolunteerConnections)** It’s also the way you can stay up-to-date with special events and new volunteer opportunities. We update our Facebook page several times a week.

The Volunteer Voice Newsletter is a publication of the Human Services Council  
Volunteer Connections Program.  
*Volunteer Connections mission is to connect the wisdom, experience, and talents of volunteers with opportunities to enrich the quality of life for themselves and their communities*  
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