



# NORFOLK COUNTY RSVP VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

Your Invitation to Respond to Your Community

614 High Street P.O. Box 310 Dedham, MA 02027 781-329-5728



Mar 2015



Randolph Health Care Center and Weymouth Health Care Center are 2014-15 Leadership Sponsors of RSVP

## SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

### Avon Senior Center Receptionist

Welcome callers and visitors, book van appointments, answer questions about the center and help with projects as they arise.

### Avon or Stoughton Meals on Wheels

Drive meal deliveries to homebound Avon or Stoughton seniors. Avon Tues/Thurs, Stoughton can use drivers any day.

### RSVP Rides for Veterans Drivers

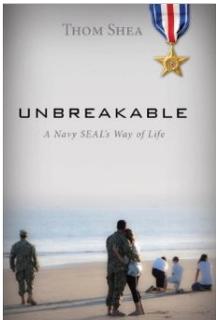
Transport nearby veterans to medical appointments and other needed services in your own vehicle once or twice a month. Choose to take or pass on any ride request.

### Weycare Extended Day Program

Lead activities like knitting, painting, fitness, carpentry, chess or help with homework for children ages 6 to 10 in an afterschool program sponsored by the Weymouth Schools, 1-2 hours per week.

### Afghans for Veterans, Veterans Hospice, & Westwood Food Pantry — see page 2

## UPCOMING EVENTS



If you are a veteran or know a veteran to invite, please consider RSVP's veterans book club for our first book, *Unbreakable* by Thom Shea. Locations in Dedham and Quincy. Call 781-329-5728 to sign up.



If you like sharing your passion for science, technology, engineering, arts, or math with young children and families, sign up to lead an activity at the Needham Science Center's STEAM Night, Thursday March 19, 6-8pm.

### School Volunteers—Save the date

Share experiences and receive resources at upcoming meetings. Please let us know if you (and/or your partnering teacher) can come.

- Thursday April 9, 9:30-10:30am at the Endicott Estate in Dedham
- Thursday April 16, 2:30-3:30pm at the Thayer Public Library in Braintree

## THANK YOU FOR YOUR FEEDBACK

Wonderful RSVP volunteers *Roberta Poff* and *Laura Kulas* have been calling this spring to catch up with RSVP members about their service and suggestions. Your feedback will be shared with the RSVP advisory committee and incorporated in our April grant report.



## Spotlight on Oakdale School

This February we visited Emma Mahony at the Oakdale School, where she has volunteered for 2 years. Emma serves one morning each week. Her teacher, Mrs. O'Brien writes:

*Emma is always so enthusiastic and loves reading with the kids. She not only reads the texts that I assign, but she also asks students questions about the reading and evokes wonderful discussions. I remember her joking with me last year that she was learning so much from our non-fiction books. Her enthusiasm for the knowledge was contagious with the children. She loved listening to their text connections and the students love telling stories. It's a win-win.*



Emma listens to small groups of children read, asking them about vocabulary words and the meaning of the story. The kids are very eager—right off the bat they want to talk about the book they read. As one group reads with Emma, teachers lead two other groups in different reading activities, and then the students rotate between tables.

Emma reflects:

*It's a real pleasure to read with them... It's very rewarding because you feel that you're doing something that's helpful. Reading is so important. They say this is the grade. If children go on to third grade with a good base in reading, they're going to have an easier time learning other subjects.*

RSVP is funded in part by a national Senior Corps grant and sponsored by the Norfolk County Commissioners:

- Peter H. Collins of Milton, Commissioner
- John M. Gillis of Quincy, Commissioner
- Francis W. O'Brien of Dedham, Chairman

**AFGHANS FOR VETERANS**

*Recipient organizations express thanks*

Norfolk County RSVP is very grateful to the many individual, church and senior center volunteers who continue to make and donate beautiful, creative, warm and colorful afghans and lap robes for our veterans. These donations have been graciously acknowledged by our local VA Medical Centers and our two hospice veteran-partner Organizations: Old Colony Hospice and Hope Health Hospice.

Most recently Norfolk County RSVP has received a letter of thanks from the Boston VA Health Care System for a donation of over 30 handmade afghans. The letter offers appreciation for volunteers 'thoughtfulness in reflecting the concern that you feel for our Veterans and for the service they provided to all of us while in service to our country. Without your support, we could not provide for the smaller niceties that make hospitalization more bearable. Your thoughtfulness also reflects the concern and compassion that our community feels for our Veterans.' We at Norfolk County RSVP feel grateful and proud to have such a great team of volunteer crocheters and knitters. If you are interested to join our team, please call 781-329-5728.



Norfolk County RSVP's Robert Pierson and Hope Health Hospice Coordinator Jo-Ann Richards receiving 'Red, White and Blue' afghan donations

**VETERAN- HOSPICE PROGRAM**

*Volunteers with military or veteran understanding comfort vets in their last weeks*

Old Colony Hospice of Randolph and HopeHealth Hospice of Brockton are both partners with Norfolk County RSVP through the 'We Honor Vets' National Program to support veterans in a most special and important way. Volunteers who are veterans themselves are preferred, though any volunteer age 55 or over with a connection to the military or to veterans are encouraged to participate. Volunteers are trained over 3 or 4 class sessions for hospice home visits and are matched to visit a veteran from a nearby town or city in Norfolk County.

The volunteer brings a certificate of appreciation to the veteran for their service, as well as a homemade afghan or lap robe for the veteran in their home. Visits typically occur on a weekly basis. In this vital role, you are part of a team, including family members and hospice medical caregivers.

For those veterans who do not have family or friends nearby, these visits bring companionship and much comfort, especially with a special visitor who is there to talk and listen; someone who can truly appreciate their service to our country. Please consider whether you yourself or someone you know may be right for helping in this most meaningful of ways. Please call 781-329-5728 for more information.

**WESTWOOD FOOD PANTRY**

Norfolk County RSVP has formed an exciting new partnership with the Westwood Food Pantry. Currently hosted by the Westwood Council on Aging, the food pantry served 45 households per month and is pursuing its own 501c3 non-profit status this year. Recently, the pantry also decided to team up with Westwood's Faith Communities to deliver food to residents at a motel shelter twice a month.

As the pantry transitions and grows, committed volunteers are needed to take on projects from organizing shelves and noting what's needed, to riding into the Greater Boston Food Bank once a month, to investigating new possibilities for fresh produce or client feedback. Pictured below, RSVP volunteers Mary Courtney and Richard Mackey, both Westwood residents, tour the pantry. For questions or to sign up, call 781-329-5728.

