

February



- 7th: TIMESHEETS DUE
Recognition Team Meeting
- 9th: Super Bowl LIX
Puppy Bowl XXI
- 14th: Valentine's Day
- 15th: Winterfest - Stroudsburg
- 17th: President's Day
RSVP OFFICE CLOSED
- 22nd: Dementia Support Group
Stroudsburg & BARC
- 28th: Credit Reports & Scores
Seminar

6 MORE
WEEKS OF
WINTER



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RSVP of Monroe County
411 Main Street, Suite 102B
Stroudsburg PA 18360
570-420-3747



RSVP Program Spotlight:

Aging in Place with Dignity: RSVP's Minor Home Repair Program

As Pennsylvania's population ages, with 1 in 4 residents currently over the 60 and projected to grow to 1 in 3 by 2030, the demand for senior services that promote independence is rising. Governor Josh Shapiro emphasized, ***"It's critically important that older Pennsylvanians are able to age with dignity here in the commonwealth."*** And part of that includes remaining in their own homes.

(continued on page 3)

Director's Corner

Happy Valentine's Day to all of our wonderful volunteers and their beloved families. It's awesome to help spread the love and joy we have for life to others. You are a blessing to so many in our community. Thank you for your heart and kindness. It is special.

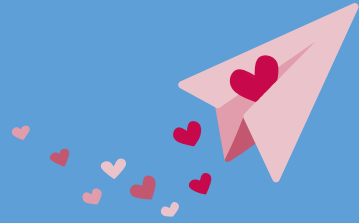
We are prepping for the BIG 35. We are planning our next recognition luncheon and talent show for **June 12th** at Mt. Airy Resort, once again. Please mark your calendars and save that date. An official save the date will be coming out very soon. Many hands make light work. Please give us a call to review how you can make a difference for the big day. We are having meetings the first Friday of each month. 2/7/25 at 2pm at RSVP is the next one and all are invited.

It's a New Year with the same results. There is still a lot of confusion and chaos in Washington. No surprise here. We are still patiently waiting on feedback of our grant submission, but we are confident in expecting good news from AmeriCorps Seniors with the submission of our grant to cover the next 3 years. Fingers crossed. We will be sure to keep you updated.

Please stop in the office to say hello to the RSVP office team. We love seeing our volunteers and we always appreciate the feedback and support with helping us manage our main programs, the **3 R's, (Recruit, retain and recognize)**, events and everything else that is needed to run the program effectively. Thank you, volunteers, for the making RSVP a hub of community volunteers who are getting things done & making an impact in our community. We truly appreciate the Love you spread.

Blessings,

Neal



Fun Facts About ...

Erica's Philadelphia Eagles

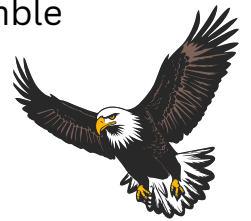


The Eagles played in the **first televised NFL game** against the Brooklyn Football Dodgers on October 22, 1939.



The 1960 Eagles were the only team to ever **beat Vince Lombardi's** Packers in the playoffs.

Eagles Safety **Brian Dawkins** is the only NFL player to record a sack, a fumble recovery, an interception, and a touchdown ... all in the same game.



Billboard has listed the Eagles fight song, “Fly, Eagles, Fly”, as one of the **NFL's best jingles**.

The Eagles have won 4 NFL Championships and one **Super Bowl**. They're in the hunt for ring number 2 this week.

RSVP Community Partner: A Note from SMP

Attention!

You are **NOT** getting a new Medicare card

- If anyone calls saying “you need a new Medicare card,” it's a scam!
- If you think your Medicare is compromised, call the PA-SMP today! We can HELP!

P.S. Medicare never calls. Ever.



Looking to make a difference?

Senior Medicare Patrol is seeking a few volunteers to help positively impact their community. For more details, please reach out to the RSVP Office, 570-420-3747.



1-800-356-3606



www.carie.org



SUPPORTED BY GRANT # 99999999 FROM ALL THE Senior Medicare Patrols. Established by the Administration on Aging, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of the Inspector General, and the Administration on Aging, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The activities are those of the participants and do not necessarily represent the official position of any government agency.



RSVP Program Spotlight (cont'd)

RSVP's Minor Home Repairs (MHR) Team is answering the call, helping seniors live safely and independently in their homes. Volunteers provide essential repairs such as grab bar installation, ramp and railing construction, and minor electrical and plumbing work. These efforts enable seniors to avoid moving to nursing homes or assisted living facilities.



A Growing Need for Volunteers

Despite its impact, the MHR program faces a volunteer shortage. Many current volunteers are aging out or unable to continue due to individual or family health issues. Projects are prioritized based on risk and need, but the demand often exceeds the team's capacity.

Volunteer Bill Blackwell shared, “Elderly people who live on their own fall and get hurt trying to navigate stairs. I've seen many clients experienced this, and as baby boomers like myself age, this need will only grow.”

*"I had trouble getting up and down my steps. Now, my friends can visit me again."
-- Verlo Schupp*

Transforming Lives, One Ramp at a Time

RSVP volunteers like Blackwell and his team have built ramps that have profoundly changed lives. For example, an 85-year-old man was able to remain in his home during his final months, thanks to a ramp re-constructed by the team.

Residents like Verlo Schupp, 88, expressed her gratitude as volunteers built a ramp at her home: “I had trouble getting up and down my steps. Now, my friends can visit me again.”

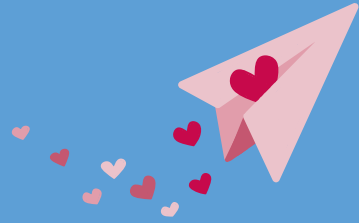
To expedite projects, younger family members are often invited to assist with ramp builds, fostering community involvement.

How You Can Help

RSVP needs volunteers of all ages to support these vital programs. Opportunities range from building ramps to making home repairs. As one volunteer said, **“Your greatest satisfaction is the smiles you get from those you've helped.”**

**Make a difference with RSVP and the
Minor Home Repair Program!
Call Neal or Erica at 570-420-3747 to learn
how you can support seniors in need.**





RSVP

RETIRED AND SENIOR VOLUNTEER
PROGRAM OF MONROE COUNTY



SPECTACULAR
SPANISH FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD TRAINING AND
CULTURAL LANGUAGE ARTS
MARCH 19TH - MAY 14TH 2025
“SPANISH FOR PRESCHOOL”
WEDNESDAYS FROM 10AM - 11AM

An early childhood program designed to teach children **ages 3-5** Spanish through arts and crafts, songs, and interactive story time.

LESSONS INCLUDE:
LETTERS - NUMBERS -
COLORS - SHAPES
ANIMALS - AND MUCH MORE!

\$15 PER STUDENT*
*Scholarships available for financial hardship cases

EASTERN MONROE PUBLIC LIBRARY
1002 NORTH 9TH STREET, STROUDSBURG

Emma Campos-Jurado, Bilingual Teacher
Neal Gallagher, RSVP Director


All volunteers have current DHS required clearances to volunteer with minors

LIMITED SEATS AVAILABLE.
TO REGISTER, PLEASE CONTACT RSVP AT:
Call: 570-420-3747 Email: rsvp@monroecountypa.gov

Community Calendar

February

*RSVP Station

- 6th: Tech Thursdays, 2pm at *Eastern Monroe Public Library**
- 7th: Recognition Event Team Meeting, 2pm at RSVP Office (or Teams)
- 13th: Tech Thursdays, 2pm at *Eastern Monroe Public Library**
- 14th: Valentine's Day** 
- 15th: Winterfest, 11am to 4pm in Downtown Stroudsburg
- 17th: **RSVP OFFICE CLOSED** - President's Day
- 20th: Tech Thursdays, 2pm at *Eastern Monroe Public Library**
- 22nd: Dementia Support Group - Stroudsburg, 10am at *Eastern Monroe Public Library**
Dementia Support Group - Barrett, 1:15pm at BARC
- 27th: Tech Thursdays, 2pm at *Eastern Monroe Public Library*
- 28th: Credit Reports and Scores Seminar presented by the Monroe County Bar Assoc.
11:30am at *NCC Pocono**, Pocono Hall - Room 108



March

- 6th: RSVP Presentation at Lake Naomi Lion's Club, 6pm at Lake Naomi Clubhouse
- 10th: Community Technology Outreach Program through East Stroudsburg Area School District - Registration required - please call 570-424-8500 (x10616) for more information
- 19th: SPECTACULAR (first class), 10am at *Eastern Monroe Public Library**



~ Save the Date ~

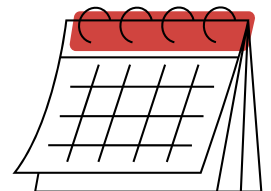
June 12, 2025

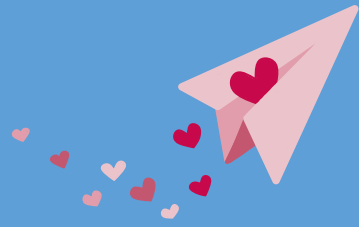
35th Annual Volunteer Recognition Event

Please keep an eye out for the official announcement!

November 12, 2025
Share Your Career Day

If interested, please call the RSVP office to sign up.





RSVP Volunteers in Action



RSVP volunteers have been actively engaging with the community, showcasing our program at fairs and expos while assisting our community partners. We truly appreciate all the incredible work you do.

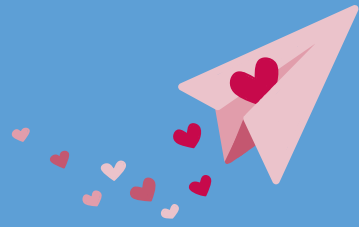


LEFT: RSVP Volunteers Al Raudabaugh, Eileen Landon, Barbara Schlegel, and Nancy Koch helped **Monroe County Meals on Wheels** with their newsletter bulk mailing.



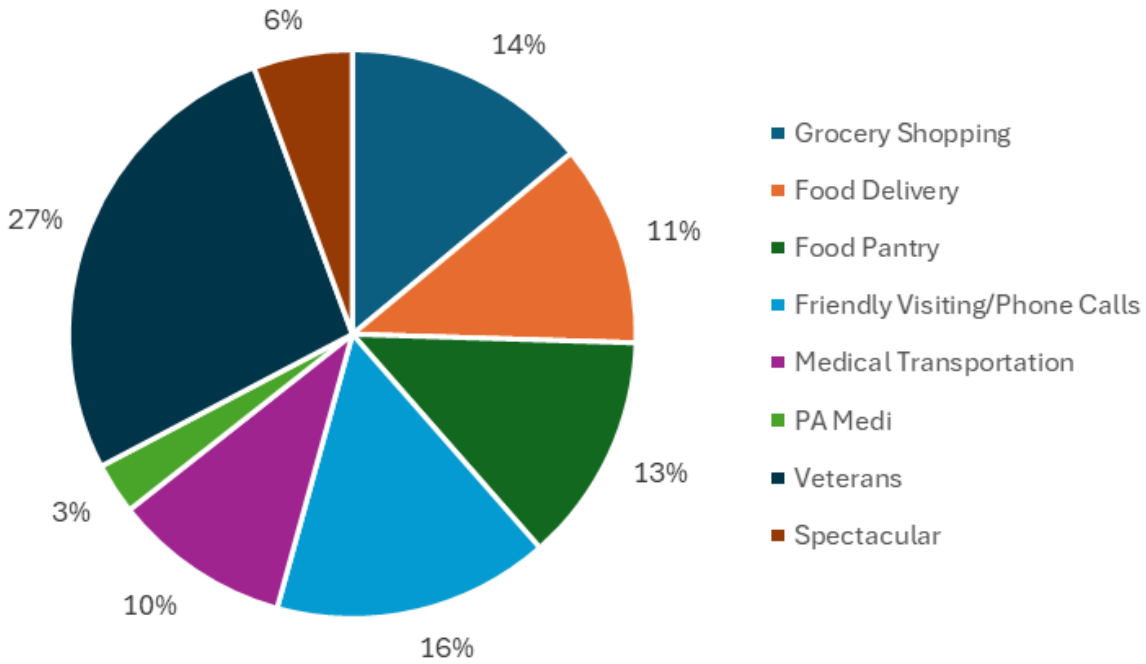
RIGHT: RSVP Volunteers Nancy Koch and Barbara Schlegel help out the **Monroe County Area Agency on Aging** by shredding boxes and boxes of old documents.

Interested in helping out? Give us a call at the office. Helped out in community? Send us a picture to be featured here! We love to see our volunteers in action!

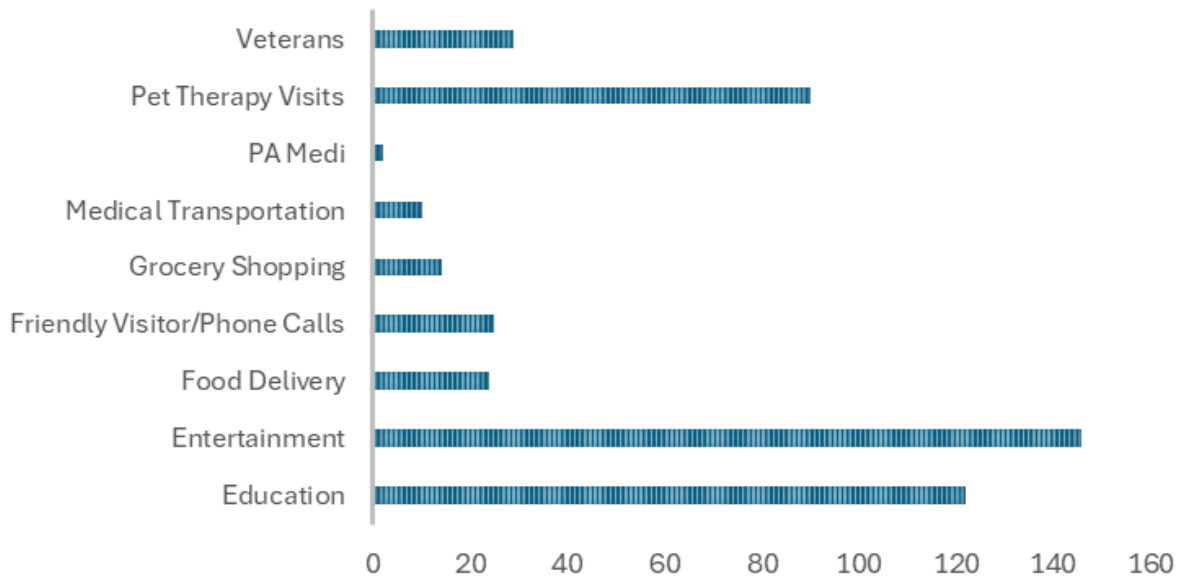


RSVP’s IMPACT is profound in our community!

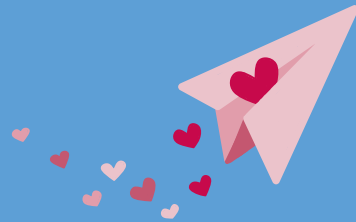
Ever wonder what programs most of our volunteer hours go to? Well wonder no more! Take a look at this graph to see the breakdown of **December’s** hours!



DECEMBER PEOPLE SERVED



This is just a small slice of the approximate \$1 million RSVP volunteers save the county each year with their service!



SOS

SAVE OUR SERVICE!

In 2024, RSVP handled more than **180 requests for medical transportation** related to surgeries, procedures, or appointments outside the county. This was achieved with just **5 to 6 active drivers**. Despite their remarkable commitment, there were still some appointments that our volunteer drivers were unable to fulfill.

We Need Your Help!

RSVP is seeking additional volunteers who are willing to assist with **medical transportation**.

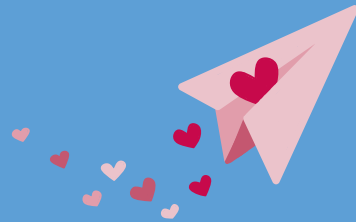
DRIVER REQUIREMENTS:

- Current PA driver's license
- Pass Driver Information Check
- Provide proof of insurance
- Ability to drive County Car as needed

Our seniors are counting on you.

Call RSVP today at 570-420-3747





Updates from the Office

WELCOME NEW VOLUNTEERS!

We look forward to working with you!

Our numbers are keeping steady. Please be patient with the onboarding process. It can take some time, and while RSVP will make this a priority, sometimes things are beyond our control. Please call or email us to stay in touch. We appreciate the new help with serving our community the best way we know.

We are proud, we are strong, and RSVP leads the way in serving our neighbors in need. Please help us out by staying in touch with the office. We are here to answer any questions or concerns. Thank you again. Plus, please continue to spread the word, RSVP needs volunteers.

WELCOME

Patricia Backus, Vicki Bardsley, Carol Dymond,
Deborah Slinger, Karen Sommers



RECRUIT, RETAIN,
RECOGNIZE

THE 3Rs

Volunteers are the heart of RSVP and all we do. We are working hard to recruit volunteers, retain our existing volunteers, and recognize volunteer efforts. Keep your eyes peeled around the newsletter for the 3R signs.



SPECTACULAR:

SPECTACULAR is our program that teaches Spanish to preschoolers, 3 to 5 year old. The **Spring Semester** starts on **March 19th** and runs through **May 14th, 2025**. Great job ladies. We appreciate the fact that you are keeping this intergenerational program thriving in our community. We are better and more resourceful because of your efforts.



Minor Home Repair (MHR):

This program is still on hold.

Our seniors need you! If you are able to contribute, please give the office a call.



Group Presentations:

RSVP is interested in presenting RSVP services to all senior groups. Do you go to church/religious organization and/or have a contact of somebody who may be interested? We are also in search of ambassadors who are willing to help with this project. Please call the office or send us an email with the information.



Senior Express Times:

Are you signed up for the Monroe County Seniors' Express Times Newsletter? Please call the Area Agency on Aging at 570-420-3735 and ask to be signed up. You can get a printed copy mailed to you or an email.



Updates from the Office

ABUSE OR NEGLECT?

If you ever have a question about how to follow up with issues, concerns, abuse or neglect, please call the Monroe County Area Agency on Aging at 570-420-3735. They will guide you through the process to make sure all seniors stay safe and sound in Monroe County. Monroe County Area Agency on Aging has 24/7 on-call services. If in doubt, please call and report your concern.

Just a reminder.....If you have a client who you see on a regular basis, it is important to tell the office that things are going well or to tell the office when you are not seeing that client for any given time past 2-3 weeks. We need to make sure all clients are being seen regularly or the referral needs to be closed. Please send us a note, email or call so that we can all be on the same page. Good communications is the key to keeping us informed. Thank you for helping our community be better. You are making an impact! Keep up the great work.

Our community thrives when RSVP is out and “getting things done!” Please stop by the office and say hello. We look forward to it.

**THANK
YOU!**

Updates from Community Partner - AARP

Join AARP Chapter #633 for a trip to **Sight and Sound** to see a production of “Noah”, then have lunch at the incredible **Shady Maple Smorgasbord**, Tuesday, April 8th. Cost for members is \$150.00, invited guests is \$155.00.

Looking for a fun summer trip? AARP Chapter #633 is taking a **3 day, 2 night trip** to **Atlantic City, New York City, and Philadelphia** from Sunday, June 1st through Tuesday, June 3rd. Cost is \$415 per person.

If you are interested in more information on either trip, please contact Cheryl Boyd at (570) 872-7512.





The Comedy Corner

with Barbara Schlegel

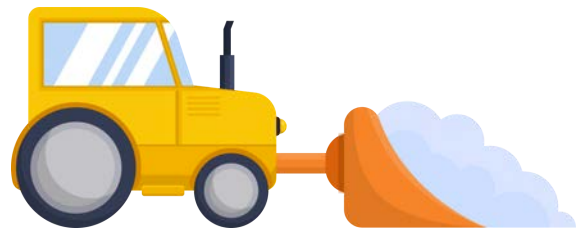


What did the stamp say to
the envelope on
Valentine's Day?
I'm stuck on you!



Does February
march?
No, but April may!

How can you farm during the
winter?
With a snow plow!



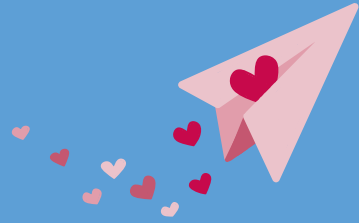
HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO OUR VOLUNTEERS BORN IN FEBRUARY!

Wishing you a wonderful day full of good times
and happy memories! Please know that we
deeply appreciate you. You are a valuable
volunteer we are honored to work with.

Neal

Erica

... and all your friends at RSVP



DONATIONS NEEDED!

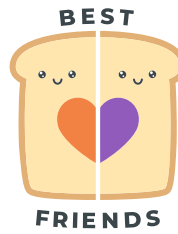
- Clean yarn and cotton fabric
- Greeting cards
- Old prescription eyeglasses
- Personal Hygiene Items
- Gently used backpacks
- Hats, gloves, socks, scarves, blankets



For Our Veterans

Local Veteran's organization is seeking volunteer help with:

- sorting clothing donations
- garden maintenance
- meal preparation for 12 to 13 individuals
- office help (answer phones, light clerical work)
- assist at Stand Downs



Seeking Friends

Volunteers are needed as **Friendly Visitors** in all areas of the county. Multiple male requests waiting for a new friend.

Road Ready

Drivers are needed to assist with medical transportation requests. Must be willing to drive Aging car and pass driver's license check.



The Best from the Rest

Clothing Closet looking for assistance in sorting clothing donations. Monday, Tuesday, and Fridays from 9am - 12pm.



Restored

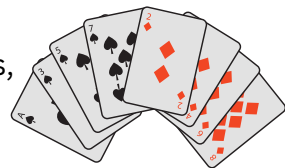
Local humanitarian organization is seeking volunteer help at retail store. Volunteer opportunities include customer service, stocking, unloading items, and sorting donations.

Wednesday - Saturday, 9am to 6pm



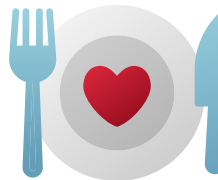
Plenty of Rummy

Personal Care Homes seeking volunteers to perform for residents, assist with activities, and interact with seniors by playing games or cards.



Food On the GO

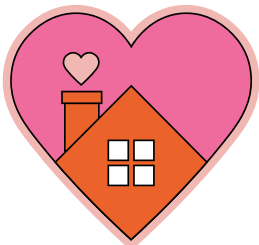
Local organization looking for volunteers to help deliver meals to homebound clients. Routes available throughout Monroe County.



Helping Hand

Local transitional housing organization needs help with reception duties and client intake (training provided).

Monday - Friday, 4 hour shifts available from 9am - 5pm.



BINGO!

Senior Center is looking for volunteers to call Bingo and keep track of the numbers board. Monday through Friday from 12pm to 1pm.

