

Mayflower RSVP, Inc. ~ 36 Cordage Park Circle, #220 ~ Plymouth MA 02360

The Plymouth County Center for Volunteerism

Recruit, Train, Support, Celebrate volunteers!

FEBRUARY 2010

NEWS NOTES



Call RSVP for Calendar Details (508) 746-7787, Toll Free(877) 746-RSVP

- February 9** 4 pm Mayflower RSVP volunteers serve as Guides and Judges at the **Science Fair**, Plymouth North High School
- February 15** **Presidents Day** – Holiday: RSVP offices are closed
- February 15-19** **School Vacation**, Plymouth & Brockton Public Schools
- February 24** 8 am – noon **“Use of Social Media – Time to Blog & Tweet?”** RSVP seeks social network “Explorer Volunteers” to attend the Feb. 24 seminar at the Center for Marketing Research, U MA Dartmouth. Bring back the research findings and explore with RSVP the interest among our Service partners for joining the Social Network World. RSVP will pay the registration fee for RSVP volunteers chosen to attend. This trail-blazing opportunity begins with attending the seminar to you an overview of the field. Then decide with us where to take the new knowledge. Interested? Call Joan or Susan at RSVP.

... Coming in March:

- March 6** Mayflower RSVP volunteers will man the **Greater Plymouth Food Warehouse Food Drive** sites from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Shaw's in Carver and from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at Stop and Shop, Samoset Street. (See Volunteer Opportunities, this issue.)
- March 11** 4 pm Students in the Play Production class of Dreamchasers Theatre Arts Center will present **Steel Magnolias** as a free performance to seniors age 62 and older. The curtain will rise on the Thurs., March 11 final dress rehearsal at 4 p.m. Dreamchasers Theatre Arts Center is located at 142 Main St., Norwell (Norwell Grange Hall). A discussion session between audience, cast and director follows the performance. For more information contact artistic director Rosann Weeks at 508 224-4548 or visit their web site at www.dreamchaserstheatre.org

“State of the Pennies” for 2009 – A Report from American Pennies for Hunger

Mayflower RSVP welcomed American Pennies for Hunger as an RSVP member agency in August 2009. This agency is entirely volunteer run, from their President & Founder, Wendy Hinden, to the volunteers on the front lines collecting pennies at area events and shopping centers. Every cent collected is given directly to area food pantries for the express purpose of supplying food to those in need. We endorse the philosophy of American Pennies for Hunger and welcome them in joining RSVP's other 35 agencies working to make volunteerism a viable and productive part of life in Plymouth County! Call us for information on how you, too, can benefit from APH or help them meet their 2010 goal of further reducing hunger.

We hope that you have all enjoyed wonderful holidays with friends and families. We are writing to report on the "State of the Pennies" for 2009. Thanks to all of you we have had a fantastic year of growth, financially and organizationally. Quite simply, we raised \$400 in 2007, \$10,000 in 2008 and \$19,000 in 2009! Of that amount, \$2,850 was earmarked by a few individual donors to cover our overhead. But 100% of Pennies raised in the collection cans go directly to local pantries, including the Greater Plymouth Food Resources Group. As a result, drum roll please, \$16,150 went directly to feed our local area hungry neighbors. This money went to 17 emergency food providers. Our goal for 2010 is to raise \$25,000.

We have forged many new relationships with individuals and organizations which will surely help us to reach this goal. We still need your help, however, and there are many ways that you can help us to make a difference. We remain committed to helping local communities feed their hungry neighbors. We host collection cans. We are in need of your help in order to continue to form new relationships with schools, individuals and businesses. The more we expand and grow, the more money we can donate back to the communities where we fundraise. Please spread the word and visit our web site at www.americanniesforhunger.org. As a not-for-profit organization under 501(c)(3) of the IRS tax code, donations are tax-deductible. They may be made online or by mailing a check to American Pennies for Hunger Inc., PO Box 6272, Plymouth, MA 02362.

The first penny drive for 2010 was held at the Kingston Stop and Shop, but many others are in the planning stages for other locations and throughout the year. Penny collectors receive a team tee shirt. On behalf of the Board of Directors, we would like to thank you for your support and wish you all a happy and healthy New Year!!



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36 Cordage Park Circle #220
Plymouth MA 02360-7320

Return Service Requested

***RSVP mobilizes Volunteer Service Activities that get things done for local communities.
Visionary Volunteering - Limited only by your Imagination***

Mayflower Retired and Senior Volunteer Program is a national community service program funded primarily by the Corporation for National and Community Service and locally sponsored by **Mayflower RSVP Inc.**, with support from United Way of Greater Plymouth County, businesses and individual donors across Plymouth County. RSVP connects volunteers age 55+ with service opportunities in their communities. In strategic partnerships with local agencies, Mayflower RSVP provides opportunities for volunteers to help meet critical community needs. Currently more than 350 Mayflower RSVP members serve more than 30 agencies. RSVP provides placement, support, training, and recognition for its members – with a commitment to help volunteers make the difference they seek to be in the world, even when life changes what was their pattern or plans!

Employment Opportunities with the 2010 United States Census

The US Census Bureau has a number of employment opportunities available for those interested in assisting taking the 2010 Census. They include census takers, crew leaders, crew leader assistants, recruiting assistants and census clerks. Rates begin at \$15 per hour. More information, including a practice test is available online at www.2010censusjobs.gov or call their toll-free jobs line at 1-866-861-2010. Be a part of the 2010 Census Team! Earn good pay, get paid weekly, work flexible hours, receive paid training, receive reimbursement for authorized mileage and other work-related expenses, and help your community have a successful 2010 Census!

Tax Tips for Volunteers . . .

Certain volunteering costs are deductible. Volunteers in the U.S. can receive federal tax deductions on costs associated with volunteering such as: mileage and other travel expenses, paper, copying, convention attendance fees, parking, uniforms (if the volunteer purchases his/her own) and more. More next month or visit www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/p526.pdf for complete details.

Last month in South Shore Senior News . . . Pay It Forward!

If you read Elder Law Attorney and South Shore Senior News columnist, Judith M. Flynn, last month you already know about Janet, a real-life Pay it Forward model. If not, let me help you meet her – thanks to Judith's introduction.

An associate in Judith's real estate company needed help for the clean-out of an elderly client's home. He called Janet LaBerge of Dirty Deeds Done Cheap (dirtydeedscheap.com). Janet has a reputation for being a real work horse, "getting tough jobs done at a reasonable price." This particular case involved an elder who could no longer safely remain in his home due to dementia and some significant safety issues. Much of his property would simply need to be disposed of because he had lost his ability to maintain the home years earlier. There were also some items of value, however, and we knew Janet would sell what she could for the owner. Most importantly, we knew that the items that were not trash, while not monetarily valuable, would still have value to somebody. After completing the clean out, Janet posted those items on the internet, free of charge for any body willing to pick them up.

And Janet always informs her client where their use-ables go – that she is helping someone out by finding a home for the items, but she does not charge for that service; she simply expects the recipient to do a good deed for someone else in return...to Pay it Forward. Janet was formerly a Social Worker! The people who benefit from her generosity could not be more thankful, and are eager to Pay it Forward despite their own seemingly insurmountable difficulties. The wash machine went to a single mother who had just found housing after two years of homelessness, major health issues and losing her husband. A bed went to the single father who had been unemployed for over a year. He and his child had been sleeping on a couch. These situations bring new meaning to the expression "one man's trash is another man's treasure."

If you know someone who has benefited from Janet's service, let us know. We'd love to spotlight more of her results!