

# Senior Corps

*Retired Senior Volunteer Programs, Foster Grandparents, & Senior Companions*

## New York State Program Directory



Corporation for National & Community Service  
New York State Office

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## Region 1 - Capital Region

### **Commission on Economic Opportunity**

*Capital District FGP*

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The Foster Grandparent Program at the Commission on Economic Opportunity (CEO) in Troy has expanded into two new counties, Montgomery and Columbia, bringing the total to 9 counties served. Foster Grandparent Volunteers are currently placed at agencies that serve children in the Capital Region and surrounding counties. Placement sites include many public and private Elementary Schools, BOCES centers, Boys & Girls Clubs; YMCA Programs, Head Start, daycare locations and both before and after school programs. We also have an opportunity for Foster Grandparents to work with young adults in the Youth Build programs in both Albany and Rensselaer County. In addition to the volunteer experience, the program has a robust training agenda that includes the new national mentoring curriculum authorized by the Corporation and instituted in 2012. Program staff certified in Financial Social Work will be advising the volunteers in this area to promote financial security. Healthy living practices is another area of interest for the volunteers that the program staff has invested time and training in to assure self-management of chronic disease by means of suggested lifestyle changes.

### **The Research Foundation of SUNY/Albany**

*Capital Region RSVP*

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The Capital Region RSVP Program matches over 650 older adults per year with exciting volunteer service opportunities in community non-profits. Our volunteers provide an incredible array of services that include working with children, families and elders at risk. Our volunteers also are in roles that build the capacity of non-profits, create a safer community and feed hundreds of people. In addition to our many traditional volunteer opportunities you will find our signature programs that focus the work of our volunteers on very specific needs including: tutoring children in low-income schools, leading exercise classes that target Osteoporosis, teaching health and wellness workshops for persons living with chronic condition like arthritis and heart disease; and leading teams of volunteers to assist non-profits with strategic planning, marketing and outreach. There is definitely an opportunity for every interest and as we hear every day, you will receive back much more than you give! Come join us. "Lead with Experience, Experience the Difference".

## **Saratoga County Office for the Aging**

*Saratoga County RSVP*

Nancy Definbaugh, Program Director

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RSVP of Saratoga County provides a variety of opportunities for our volunteers to actively participate to meet their community need. We have 80 stations throughout Saratoga County that RSVP volunteers contribute valuable attributes to. They serve as ... Discovery Box Volunteers, mentors, homework helpers, friendly visitors, docents, kitchen helpers, office assistants, transportation drivers, presenters, exercise leaders, peer leaders and much more. RSVP will match the interest/skills of the volunteer with an organization needing help to meet community need. RSVP provides its volunteers flexibility, along with many benefits such as supplementary insurance, training, bi-monthly newsletters, invitation to annual recognition, mileage reimbursement, and self-gratification. Inspire, Enrich, Unite ... Together we CAN make a difference!

## **Tri-County United Way**

*Warren/Washington RSVP*

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The Retired & Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) of Warren & Washington County offers a wide variety of opportunities for people age 55+ to utilize their experience, talents, and skills in meeting community needs. RSVP accurately tracks and reports the value of service provided to the community by our local senior RSVP members; and recognizes our volunteers through such events as our annual recognition breakfast and the National Volunteer Week celebration. RSVP volunteers assist public and not-for-profit agencies and licensed health care facilities by providing an array of community services, including homebound meals delivery, medical transportation, mentoring youth and the disabled, tax preparation assistance for seniors and local income applicants, osteoporosis prevention classes and continuing education for leaders training, environmental improvement, fund-raising event assistance for non-profits, and housing rehabilitation, and much more. RSVP is a home where organizations partner and work collaboratively for a multitude of opportunities that will better serve our neighbors and make life a little easier.

**Greene County Department of the Aging**

*Greene County RSVP*

Ruth Pforte, Program Director

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Greene County Department of the Aging RSVP is a project dedicated to helping area seniors maintain and improve their social, health and nutritional status. We seek to maintain and secure maximum independence and dignity for area seniors. The majority of our volunteers volunteer in our Homebound Meal Delivery Program. Volunteers also assist at 5 area Senior Centers with the preparation and packaging of the meals and assist with activities for the senior who attend the congregate meals at the Senior Centers. We also operate a Medical Transportation Program providing rides to doctor appointments and necessary medical treatments for ambulatory seniors. Additional volunteers serve as AARP Driver Safety Instructors, Community Hospice Companions, Friendly Visitors and Telephone Reassurance Outreach. The balance of our volunteers volunteer their time by assisting at local nursing homes, libraries, and not-for profit organizations.

## Region 2 - North Country Region

### **Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Ogdensburg**

#### *Clinton/Essex Counties RSVP*

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Clinton and Essex Counties RSVP connects volunteers age 55 and over with service opportunities in their communities that match their skills and availability. From reading to children to immunizing children, from enhancing the capacity of non-profit organizations to improving and protecting the environment, Essex Co. RSVP volunteers put their unique talents to work to make a difference. RSVP offers "one stop shopping" for retirees who want to find challenging, rewarding, and significant service opportunities in their local communities. RSVP connects volunteers with the people and organizations that need them most. The RSVP program helps volunteers become mentors, coaches or companions to people in need, or contribute their job skills and expertise to community projects and organizations. These service opportunities bring senior contributions of skills, knowledge, and experience that make a real difference to individuals, nonprofits, and faith-based and other community organizations throughout Essex County. RSVP is the catalyst for change and champion for the ideal that every American has skills and talents to give which improves lives, strengthen communities and foster civic engagement through service and volunteering.

RSVP of Clinton County partners with local not for profit agencies in effort to fulfill a variety of community needs specific to each agency's objectives. RSVP volunteers perform an array of community service activities such as transportation, conflict mediation, tax assistance, literacy tutors among other assignments. A larger segment of the volunteers serve as Reading Buddies. They provide additional assistance to students who read below grade average. The RSVP volunteer's goal is to help them to achieve the standards necessary to pass regents exams. The RSVP program also places emphasizes on the prevention of Osteoporosis. Volunteer members are trained as exercise instructors and execute resistance training techniques aimed at decreasing the incidence of Osteoporosis among the population of seniors in our area.

### **Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Ogdensburg**

#### *Northern NY FGP (Serving Franklin, Essex, Clinton, St Lawrence and Jefferson Counties)*

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Northern NY FGP is an extremely rural five county program located in upstate New York. The FGP program is sponsored by Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Ogdensburg and serves over a 140 children, focusing on tutoring, mentoring and teaching good behavior skills. This year the FGP program is highlighting the work that Foster Grandparents do with the children in Head Start. Foster Grandparents spend 15 to 40 hours per week working with these children one-on-one or in small groups, further developing their emotional-social developmental areas (social relationships, self concept and self control) and cognitive developmental areas (communication). Much improvement has been shown in these children, thanks to the Foster Grandparents.

## Region 3 - Mohawk Valley

### **Catholic Charities of Herkimer County**

*Herkimer County RSVP*

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The RSVP program offers seniors 55 and older the opportunity to volunteer and share their talents, interests and compassion through service to their communities. Currently there are 54 sites in Herkimer County with approximately 330 volunteers. We offer programs such as Faith in Action's Ride program, through which volunteers transport seniors to medical appointments, and the Companion Outreach program as well as the America Reads program which provides after school tutoring to students in 1st and 2nd grade. A Program Director oversees the entire program with the assistance of a Program Assistant and a Faith in Action Coordinator as well as 2 volunteer Ride Dispatchers.

### **Elderlife, Inc.**

*RSVP of Oneida County*

Kari Johnson, Program Director

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RSVP of Oneida County provides volunteer opportunities for people age 55 and over with a myriad of experience and interests from all economic, educational and social backgrounds to serve on a regular basis in a variety of settings throughout their communities. RSVP volunteers provide services that utilize their own talents and interests; and present their communities with a rich array of options for addressing the full spectrum of community needs.

### **Mohawk Valley Community Action Agency, Inc.**

*Mohawk Valley FGP*

Ann Perry, Program Director

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Mohawk Valley Community Action Agency, Inc.'s Foster Grandparent Program pairs senior citizens with children who have special or exceptional needs. Volunteers serve their communities at a wide variety of stations throughout Oneida, Herkimer, and Madison counties. The Foster Grandparents provide needed one-on-one attention in the areas of health, education, and welfare. Our volunteers serve as mentors, and tutors for at-risk children and youth with special needs through a variety of community organizations including schools, Head Start Centers, day care agencies, and state correctional facilities. Volunteers work with each child one-on-one to develop a positive relationship that will impact the child's physical, mental, emotional, academic and social development.

## Region 4 - Central New York

### **City of Auburn**

*City of Auburn RSVP*

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The City of Auburn RSVP was established in 1973 as a result of a grant written by the Director of the Auburn Senior Citizens Center and the Director of Parks & Recreation for the City of Auburn. The mission of RSVP is to provide volunteer opportunities for people aged 55 and older with a myriad of experience and interests from all economic, educational and social backgrounds to serve in a variety of settings throughout our community. Over 500 RSVP volunteers provide services at 45 agencies/nonprofit stations that utilize their own talents and interests, and present their community with a wide range of options for addressing the full spectrum of community needs. The service categories that City of Auburn RSVP focuses on include: Adult Education & Literacy; Tax Consulting/Counseling; Transportation Services; Hospice/Terminally Ill; Food Security; Adult Day Care; and Community Revitalization/Improvement. RSVP continues to be a successful and well received program in Auburn and Cayuga County.

### **Catholic Charities of Onondaga County**

*Onondaga County RSVP*

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RSVP partners with the Syracuse School District and the Catholic Schools to provide tutors in reading and math. Volunteers also serve with the American Red Cross in blood services which includes delivery of blood supplies to hospitals. Respite is provided to caregivers at the Alzheimer's Association day care to enable persons with dementia to remain living at home. Other assignments for volunteers include tutoring Adults in reading, ESL, Computer literacy, Meals on Wheels and Food Distribution centers which enable seniors to meet their minimum daily nutritional needs.

**Interfaith Works of CNY***Onondaga County SCP*

Larry Crinnin, Program Director

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The Senior Companion Program of Onondaga, Cayuga and Madison counties supports the mission of its sponsoring agency, InterFaith Works, through the commitment to serve an otherwise underserved populations including low income elderly, the Southeast Asian, African American, and Russian populations. The diversity within this program enriches the lives of all of the participants including the senior companions, the clients and the program staff. They embrace learning of each other's cultures and stages of life, and celebrate the differences as well as similarities during monthly in-services and special recognition functions.

Senior Companions help break the cycle of depression and isolation felt by many homebound seniors through regular visits and unrushed, quality time spent with the clients. In addition, many of companions provide critical translation services to some of their clients who have trouble understanding English, accompanying them to pharmacies, doctor visits, and even to the emergency room or hospital as needed.

**Cornell Cooperative Extension of Madison County***Madison County RSVP*

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RSVP of Madison County engages over 600 adults over age 55 in volunteer service to make a positive impact in their communities. RSVP helps individuals utilize their skills and experience through assignments with not-for-profit organizations, focusing on those that help to address priority community needs. With 50 partner agencies in Madison County, RSVP recruits volunteers to assist with one-time events as well as for on-going projects. In addition, Madison County RSVP manages a volunteer-driven Tax Counseling for the Elderly program, the Long Term Care Ombudsman Program, and the Osteoporosis Prevention Exercise Program. RSVP partners with Cornell Cooperative Extension's 4-H program to implement an intergenerational Disaster Preparedness curriculum for local schools and youth groups. RSVP volunteers serve at these additional Impact Stations: Madison County READS Ahead Adult Literacy tutoring program, Collection and proper disposal of expired and unwanted medications, Youth Mentoring, Transportation services to help senior citizens age in place, Food Pantries, and Thrift Stores.

## **Cortland County Area Agency on Aging**

*Cortland County RSVP*

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Cortland County RSVP provides opportunities for persons 55 or older to volunteer and serve their community in a meaningful way. The volunteers address a full spectrum of community needs, ranging from teaching AARP Driver Safety Courses and assisting at bi-annual Drug Take Back Days, to assisting at local food pantries and assisting with various transportation programs used within the county, to name a few. Volunteers in Cortland County utilize their life experiences and skills to answer the call of serving their community through volunteering. Volunteers are matched with one of 65 different non-profit organizations in Cortland County, based on the volunteer's interest and the needs of the organization. In 2011, over 300 RSVP volunteers donated 64,738 hours of service to the Cortland County community.

## **P.E.A.C.E., Inc.**

Onondaga County FGP

Beth O'Hara, Program Director

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FGP of P.E.A.C.E. Inc.'s 85 Foster Grandparents provide volunteer service at approximately 35 sites throughout the City of Syracuse and Onondaga County. Typical FGP volunteer placements include elementary schools, day care centers, Head Start sites, hospitals, detention centers, group homes and children's programs. The majority of FGP assignments are at local elementary schools, including schools in the following school districts: Baldwinsville, Liverpool, North Syracuse and Syracuse City Schools. At schools, foster grandparents provide assistance with reading, language arts, math, and other academic subjects. They reinforce basic skills taught in class, offer guidance, practice lessons, monitor progress, and help students remain focused on tasks. A number of Foster Grandparents are assigned to Head Start centers, where they provide support and nurturing through modeling social skills and appropriate behavior; encouraging self-help skills; supplying positive reinforcement; conversing with and listening to children; promoting self-esteem, encouraging verbalization and language development; as well as small and large motor skills.

**The Research Foundation on behalf of SUNY at Oswego**

*Oswego County RSVP*

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RSVP of Oswego County, New York, is in a rural, middle to low income, county in the Lake Ontario snow belt with no senior center. Because there is limited means for social connectedness RSVP has become a primary means for seniors to integrate into the life of the Oswego County community. RSVP often provides the missing ingredient for both agencies and individuals in mobilizing seniors as a resource to satisfy unmet needs and target underserved areas. The Osteoporosis Program is a good example of this and has grown most rapidly and with greater frequency in the more rural areas and is the RSVP program's largest volunteer placement opportunity. The RSVP program's most ambitious programmatic undertaking was the launching of the Music & Dance Series, which is the recreation of a 1940's nightclub. It has been a stunning intergenerational success almost overnight. Although the original intent of the Series was to offer a social outlet, the physical, mental and emotional impacts were huge.

## Region 5 - Finger Lakes Region

### **The Community Place of Greater Rochester**

*Monroe County FGP*

Katy Allen, Program Director

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Rochester, NY 14609

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The Foster Grandparent Program at The Community Place in Rochester, NY engages over 95 elders providing service to children. Our FGs assist children at 36 area schools, Head Starts and child care centers primarily in the City of Rochester. Our FGs mentor, tutor, provide positive reinforcement, love and encouragement to help these children be successful. Over half of our FGs speak Spanish as their first language and we are unique in our ability to provide Latino volunteers to assist children whose family language is Spanish and primary culture is Latino. We also have a unique mentoring program providing assistance to children who are in or at-risk of being in foster care.

### **The Community Place of Greater Rochester**

*Monroe & Livingston Counties SCP*

Katy Allen, Program Director

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The Senior Companion Program at The Community Place engages over 66 elders in providing assistance to frail elders throughout Monroe and Livingston Counties. Our Senior Companions volunteer with community agencies providing in home support services such as, socialization, transportation to grocery shopping, doctor appointments and essential errands, meal preparation, laundry assistance and caregiver respite to over 100 frail elders. In addition, Senior Companions volunteer at adult day programs and senior centers ensuring that elders at-risk are able to continue attending these important programs. All of our senior companion services are designed to assist elders to age in place and promote independence. Over half of our Senior Companion volunteers speak Spanish as their first language and we are unique in our ability to provide Latino volunteers to assist Spanish speaking elders in their own language and culture.

**Lifespan of Greater Rochester**

*Monroe Co. RSVP*

Mary Beth Gueldner, Program Director

Joanne Powers, Volunteer Coordinator

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RSVP of Monroe County has a long history in Monroe County. RSVP enjoys good relationships with over 100 stations, including those dealing in education, health, youth, animal rights, assistance for older adults, and cultural events. Our volunteers do everything from making quilts, to mentoring children of incarcerated parents, to assisting those undergoing chemotherapy, to delivering blood products, to advocating for those in nursing homes, to driving patrons to local concerts. The program also enjoys a good relationship with a local coalition of volunteer drivers – those who take older adults to medical appointments and other activities, which is a great need in our community. Volunteers are giving the opportunity to volunteer at a number of sites, and take the time to find where their passion lies and they do -- our volunteer with the longest years of service has been with us for 25 years, and our oldest volunteer is 88 years old.

**Wayne County Action Program, Inc.**

*Foster Grandparent Program of Wayne, Seneca, Yates and Ontario Counties*

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The Foster Grandparent Program is a versatile and engaging multi-county program. Over sixty active Foster Grandparents embrace, nurture, and teach the younger generation about caring and sharing. Foster Grandparents service includes tutoring and assisting with reading in elementary schools; school preparedness activities with children in Head Start and Day Care sites; and working with special education children to develop and reinforce basic social, emotional and cognitive skills. As part of its commitment to the children of the community FGP has implemented a program that discreetly recognizes a child of an incarcerated parent. It has been statistically proven that connecting with a child of an incarcerated parent and beginning the process of changing the cycle of the child's environment by helping with self-esteem, vocal communication, and enhancing reading capabilities, the chances of the child becoming incarcerated are five times less than if they were not recognized. It is through the dedication of the Foster Grandparent working with assigned children on a daily basis, that these children can improve their academic skills and move to the next grade level.

**Wayne County Action Program, Inc.**

*RSVP of Wayne, Seneca, Yates and Ontario Counties*

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The RSVP Bone Builder's program promotes exercise to the seniors as well as recruits senior volunteers to become trainers for the classes. RSVP supports a transportation service that provides medical transportation for the elderly to their doctor's appointments with the assistance of a senior volunteer to dispatch the drivers. In addition, a team of seniors volunteer during Tax Season to provide free tax preparation services for low-income seniors, and other low-income families. RSVP recently developed a Chronic Disease Self-Management Program, in which volunteers serve as Peer Leaders to guide participants through steps necessary to learn to self-manage symptoms caused by chronic diseases in their lives. Self-management of chronic disease is a tangible way to help people age in place. A new initiative still in the development stage for this RSVP program is InVEST (Investing in Veterans through Education, Support and Training). InVEST gives volunteers the opportunity to provide support to area veterans while they participate in a job training program. Details are still being worked out on the volunteer assignment.

**Livingston County Office for the Aging**

*Livingston County FGP*

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The Foster Grandparent Program of Livingston, Steuben and Wyoming Counties provides support primarily in the area of (elementary) children with literacy needs. In addition to tutoring children with special needs, the program serves pre-elementary children with support for developmental progress and school readiness, as well as the mentoring of older youth and teens with special challenges.

## **Lifespan of Greater Rochester**

### *Livingston County RSVP*

Sponsored by Lifespan of Greater Rochester

Mary Beth Gueldner, Director

Kathy Wood, Volunteer Coordinator

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RSVP of Livingston County is an expansion program sponsored by Lifespan of Greater Rochester that helps mature adults (age 55+) in Livingston County find an engaging volunteer opportunity in their own neighborhood, assisting local non-profits with meeting critical community needs. We are currently filling LOCAL volunteer opportunities such as those below and hope to expand our available opportunities in the near future:

- Tutoring or mentoring school children
- Giving your older neighbors a helping hand and/or rides to doctors' appointments
- Helping adults with basic literacy skills
- Acting as a Community Engagement Rep – a volunteer who helps recruit and refer other volunteers for all sorts of opportunities throughout the county.

RSVP provides personalized matching of your interests and skills to the volunteer opportunity that is right for you and that will make a real difference in your community. We work collaboratively with local non-profits to help them expand their services through the recruitment and placement of volunteers. We look forward to a long and productive partnership with the residents of Livingston County and the agencies that serve the community. Answer the call to Volunteer ~ RSVP Today!

## **Genesee County Office for the Aging**

RSVP of Genesee County

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Batavia, NY 14020

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RSVP of Genesee County emphasizes community collaboration in the areas of intergenerational programming, emergency preparedness and engaging baby boomers in episodic volunteerism as a vehicle for the mobilization of more volunteers. Through partnership with AmeriCorps, Learn and Serve, United Way and local youth bureaus and schools, RSVP of Genesee County serves children in foster care, children faced with literacy challenges and at-risk youth. Working with the 15 agencies in the Genesee Region Citizen Corps Council, this RSVP program promotes emergency preparedness at a citizen by citizen level, while providing volunteer support for agency preparedness drills. With 50 partner agencies in Genesee County, RSVP recruits volunteers to assist with one-time events as well as for on-going projects.

## Region 6 - Western New York

### **Cattaraugus County Department on Aging**

Cattaraugus County RSVP  
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Through the RSVP, 700 volunteer citizens 55 years of age or older contributed 69,000 hours at 48 volunteer stations in 2007. Typical locations include libraries, schools, hospitals, senior dining sites, meal on wheels, museums, nursing homes and various human services agencies such as The American Red Cross; Interfaith Caregivers Inc. The RSVP provides mileage reimbursement, volunteer insurance, training, special community initiative projects and volunteers recognition events including a yearly tribute event in May. Cattaraugus County is rural with a total population of 81,534 16% are age 60 plus.

### **Catholic Charities of Western NY**

*Erie County FGP*  
Dorothy Turchiarelli, Program Director  
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Buffalo, NY14212  
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Foster Grandparents volunteer in after school programs to reinforce school day learning. Elementary Education volunteers work one on one with K-3 students on remedial reading, social and listening interaction. In Head Start and Pre-K Day Care sites Foster Grandparents work with 3 -8 year olds on literacy, alphabet and number identification. Volunteers also serve with homeless shelters to provide reassurance, companionship and tutoring. The Foster Grandparent Program places volunteers in four area hospitals providing support, roles models, play therapy and tutoring to infants and children.

## **Child & Family Services**

*Erie County SCP*

Lisa Holmes, Program Director

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Fax: (716) 822-1451

Email: [lholfmes@cfsbny.org](mailto:lholfmes@cfsbny.org)

You know how much you value independence in your life. Now you can help others stay independent too. If you're 55 or older, live in Erie County New York and want to share your experience and compassion, you have what it takes to be a Senior Companion. By becoming a companion to a frail person, you help that person stay in their own home. Whether you're giving families or professional caregivers much-needed time off, running errands, or simply being a friend, you'll make a difference that strengthens and helps preserve an individual's independence. In addition, you'll join with thousands of others to help control the rising costs of health care. Senior Companions serve up to 40 hours per week. Some volunteers may qualify to earn a tax-free, hourly stipend. All volunteers have to complete 40 hours of orientation training prior to working with clients. With this orientation, senior companions will receive training from the organization where you serve, and supplemental accident and liability insurance while on duty. Remember, when you volunteer, you're not just helping others—you're helping yourself. Volunteering leads to new discoveries and new friends, plus studies show that volunteering helps you live longer and promotes a positive outlook on life.

## **Erie County Department of Senior Services**

*Erie County RSVP*

Patricia Dowling, Program Director

95 Franklin Street

Buffalo, NY14202

Phone: (716) 858-7548

Fax: (716) 858-7159

Email: [dowlingp@erie.gov](mailto:dowlingp@erie.gov)

Each year, approximately 1150 volunteers age 55+ provide more than 185,000 hours of service at 90 community partner agencies. The largest numbers of volunteers serve in agencies providing environmental education for children and adults, transportation for elderly and disabled adults, home-delivered meals, food pantries and community dining rooms serving high poverty neighborhoods, and hospitals. RSVP volunteers are part of many of the exciting cultural heritage developments in Erie County such as Frank Lloyd Wright's Martin House and Graycliff, the Naval and Military Park, the Botanical Gardens, and the Olmsted Parks system. RSVP coordinates the Erie County Lifelong Learning Program, offering stimulating academic lectures and short courses by volunteer instructors at local senior centers. RSVP also is a lead agency in the Erie County Volunteer Transportation Collaborative made up of agencies involving volunteer drivers to transport elderly or disabled individuals, meals, donated food, blood and medical supplies. The Collaborative pools agency resources to recruit and train volunteer drivers. RSVP sends e-mail notices to over 300 volunteers on-line interested in helping out with one-time special events. Our newsletter, RSVP Connections, highlights the accomplishments of RSVP volunteers and new volunteer opportunities.

## **Health Association of Niagara County – Volunteer Center at HANCI**

*Niagara County FGP*

Michele Long, Program Director  
1302 Main St.

Niagara Falls, NY 14301

Phone: (716) 285-8224 x 223

Fax: (716) 285-8232

Email: [long@hanci.com](mailto:long@hanci.com)

Foster Grandparents help and mentor children and youth in schools, Head Start programs, childcare centers, and after-school and summer programs throughout Niagara County. Volunteers serve between 15 and 40 hours each week, depending on their availability. Foster Grandparents also give back to the community through food drives, sock and underwear drives for needy children, and recycling projects. In addition to their tax-free stipend and ongoing training opportunities, Foster Grandparents enjoy an annual recognition dinner and regular volunteer appreciation events, such as free concerts and other gatherings.

## **Health Association of Niagara County –Volunteer Center at HANCI**

*Niagara County RSVP*

Michele Long, Program Director  
1302 Main St.

Niagara Falls, NY 14301

Phone: (716) 285-8224 x 216

Fax: (716) 285-8232

Email: [long@hanci.com](mailto:long@hanci.com)

Niagara County RSVP volunteers serve in any of 90 different nonprofit and public organizations throughout Niagara County. Available volunteer assignments are too numerous to mention, but the following signature projects receive special attention. PATH (Providing Assistance to the Homebound) builds wheelchair ramps for needy, disabled Niagara County residents; Thanks for the Memories assists older adults with writing their memoirs and family histories. A toolkit developed by RSVP takes writers from the day they were born to the present and includes a section on sharing their final wishes. Volunteers facilitate the classes; *Walk Around Niagara County*: Volunteers lead walking groups to promote senior wellness. Participants walk wherever they like, record their miles and see how long it would take them if they actually walked around the perimeter of Niagara County (110 miles); "The Golden Thread," RSVP's cable television show, highlights volunteer opportunities and community needs. Volunteers operate the cameras and provide technical assistance for the program; through RSVP Goes Green, RSVP and Wegmans supermarket in Niagara Falls are working together to recycle plastic shopping bags. Volunteers collect and return plastic shopping bags, based on the notion that fourteen plastic shopping bags contain enough petroleum to power a car for one mile!

**Health Association of Niagara County - Volunteer Center at HANCI**

*Niagara County SCP*

Michele Long, Program Director

1302 Main St.

Niagara Falls, NY 14301

Phone: (716) 285-8224

Fax: (716) 285-8232

Email: [long@hanci.com](mailto:long@hanci.com)

Senior Companions provide assistance and friendship to older adults who are homebound and, generally, living alone. By taking care of simple chores, providing transportation to medical appointments, and offering contact to the outside world, Senior Companions often provide the services that frail elderly need to live independently. Senior Companions also provide respite care to assist live-in caregivers for short periods of time. Each volunteer usually serves two to four clients at a time, giving 15 to 40 hours of service each week. Nearly all assignments are in clients' homes; assignments are available across Niagara County. In addition to their tax-free stipend and ongoing training opportunities, Senior Companions enjoy an annual recognition dinner and regular volunteer appreciation events, such as free concerts and other gatherings.

**Lutheran Social Services, Inc**

*Chautauqua County FGP*

Debra L. Basile, Project Director

715 Falconer Street

Jamestown, NY 14701-1935

Phone: (716) 665-3038

Fax: (716) 665-8070

Email: [dbasile@lutheran-jamestown.org](mailto:dbasile@lutheran-jamestown.org)

The Foster Grandparent serving in Chautauqua, Cattaraugus, and Allegany counties are a familiar and welcoming presence in the schools where they serve, whether it be pre-elementary, elementary, Head Start, middle schools or after school programs. Foster Grandparents offer that extra element of support and love to all the children they serve.

**Lutheran Social Services, Inc**

*Chautauqua County RSVP*

Debra L. Basile, Project Director

715 Falconer Street

Jamestown, NY 14701-1935

Phone: (716) 665-3038

Fax: (716) 665-8070

Email: [dbasile@lutheran-jamestown.org](mailto:dbasile@lutheran-jamestown.org)

Chautauqua County RSVP is working diligently to assist the needy by serving daily in two area soup kitchen nourishing those less fortunate in our community. In an attempt to aid "the least of our brethren", RSVP volunteers operate and manage twelve Food Pantries locally and direct the four Thrift Stores. Not only do they offer their assistance with the basic needs but they offer encouragement and support to these individuals. Others serve to help area seniors remain living independently by offering medical transportation, acting as "Tele-Friends" or "Helping Hands", or working through our Social Integration Program.

## Region 7 - Southern Tier

### **Opportunities for Chenango, Inc.**

*Chenango RSVP*

Linda Campbell, Project Director

44 West Main St.

PO Box 470

Norwich, NY 13815

Phone: (607) 336-6414 x 103

Fax: (607) 336-6958

Email: [RSVP@ofcinc.org](mailto:RSVP@ofcinc.org)

Chenango County RSVP has been a part of the community since 1996. Volunteers serve in about 50 nonprofit agencies and organizations in all reaches of the county. Unique to Chenango County RSVP is the Christmas for Seniors Program that was started in 2003. Modeled after the Toys for Tots campaign, gifts and food baskets are personally delivered to seniors that need a little extra cheer during the Christmas Season. Referrals come from several sources, and the gifts are wrapped and delivered by RSVP volunteers. In 2007, 111 seniors were recipients in the program. Emergency Beacon Bulbs are available to rural residents. The light bulbs are designed to be put in outdoor lamp posts or porch light fixtures. When there is an emergency and 911 is called, the resident turns the light switch on, off and on again, causing the light bulb to blink. This notifies the emergency personnel of exact the residence that needs their response. Especially effective in a rural community like Chenango County, the bulbs are distributed throughout the year, but especially by RSVP volunteers during fire prevention week open houses at area fire stations.

### **Broome County Office for the Aging**

*Broome County FGP*

Deborah Stewart, Program Director

c/o Broome Co OFA

PO Box 1766

Binghamton, NY 13902

Phone: (607) 778-2087

Fax: (607) 778-2316

Email: [dstewart@co.broome.ny.us](mailto:dstewart@co.broome.ny.us)

In Broome County, 65 Foster Grandparents volunteer their time to help our community's special needs children succeed. Foster Grandparents who volunteer in day care centers help children learn the social, emotional and problem solving skills they will need as they encounter difficult social situations throughout their lives. Foster Grandparents help children learn non-aggressive methods for solving problems by encouraging the use of language, model appropriate behavior and use praise and encouragement to reinforce positive behavior. In Head Start Foster Grandparents help pre-school children in four focus areas: problem solving, reading readiness, independence in the classroom setting and motor development and coordination. They help the children develop their language skills and achieve their developmental goals so they will be prepared for the move to the next level of education. More than half of the volunteers are assigned to elementary and secondary schools, where they work one on one with the students to help them improve in up to three skill sets-academic skills, social skills or classroom behavior. They listen to the children read, help them complete writing assignments, and work on word recognition and penmanship. The Foster Grandparents talk with the students, listen to their concerns, offer encouragement and praise the child's efforts. They serve as role models to help children learn appropriate behavior, and improve their academic skills, social skills and classroom behavior.

## **Catholic Charities of Broome County**

*Broome County RSVP*

Debra Kerins, Interim Program Director

232 Main Street

Binghamton, NY 13905

Phone: (607) 231-0726

Fax: (607) 797-6188

Email: [dkerins@CCBC.net](mailto:dkerins@CCBC.net)

The Retired and Senior Volunteer Program serves Broome County through a variety of Programs with an emphasis on wellness. RSVP enlists the time and talents of over 640 volunteers serving approximately 42 stations throughout the County. RSVP of Broome County offers two exercise programs for seniors, Bone Savers which offers strength training, balance and flexibility exercises to individuals who have osteoporosis or are trying to prevent the development of the disease, and the Arthritis Foundation Exercise Program, designed for individuals who have arthritis or other rheumatic diseases. Both programs use trained RSVP volunteers to facilitate classes. RSVP also trains Peer Educators to facilitate 6-week Living Healthy Workshops and Living Healthy with Diabetes Workshops as well as the Stanford University Patient Education Chronic Disease Self-Management Programs (CDSMP). Both of these programs engage adults and caregivers who have a chronic disease to learn how to manage the effects of a chronic illness. In alignment with our federal initiatives RSVP is working with the Binghamton Vet Center to deliver the CDSMP for Veterans and their families. RSVP volunteers are also serving in a new an education initiative with the United Way's Let's Read Program where preschool and elementary children visit lending libraries staffed by RSVP volunteers who manage the libraries and read to children.

## **Cornell Cooperative Extension of Chemung County**

*Chemung County RSVP*

Carol Houssock, Program Director

911 Stowell Street

Elmira, NY 14901

Phone: (607) 734-4161

Fax: (607) 734-4166

Email: [cwh28@cornell.edu](mailto:cwh28@cornell.edu)

RSVP of Chemung County offers traditional volunteer recruitment and management of individuals ages 55 and over looking to make a difference in their community. We directly manage Bone Builders and RIDE (medical transportation). We operate a volunteer transportation program (to and from volunteer assignments) with our fleet of vehicles. We also participate in the County's TRIAD program, and recently became part of a collaboration of three agencies in a United Way-funded venture grant program called SOS (Supporting Our Seniors). This effort involves the recruitment and placement of volunteers of all ages, who will provide basic services to eligible low-income seniors to enable them to remain in their homes for as long as possible. RSVP of Chemung County manages nearly 1,000 active volunteers making an impact at over 120 participation agencies in Chemung County.

## **Cornell Cooperative Extension of Schuyler County**

*Schuyler/Yates RSVP*

Dick Evans, Program Director

323 Owego St., Unit 5

Montour Falls, NY 14865

Phone: (607) 535-7105

Fax: (607) 535-6813

Email: [rke9@cornell.edu](mailto:rke9@cornell.edu)

RSVP serving Schuyler and Yates Counties has provided senior volunteer service in the rural Finger Lakes region of New York State since 1973, under the continued sponsorship of Cornell Cooperative Extension of Schuyler County. Senior volunteers focus on addressing community need with an emphasis in the area of child literacy, osteoporosis prevention and reduction, food distribution for the needy and unmet medical transportation needs.

## **Steuben County Office for Aging**

*Steuben County RSVP*

Nan Hammes, Project Director

3 E. Pulteney Square

Bath, NY 14810

Phone: (607) 664-2298

Fax: (607) 776-7813

Email: [nanh@co.steuben.ny.us](mailto:nanh@co.steuben.ny.us)

The mission of Steuben County RSVP is to provide meaningful volunteer opportunities for individuals 55 and older and to help meet critical community needs through the placement of volunteers at non-profit agencies, organizations, schools and hospitals throughout Steuben County. RSVP volunteers, through a wide variety of volunteer opportunities, provide major cost savings to agencies within Steuben County and make a significant impact helping individuals in need as they assist with tax counseling, food pantries, helping adults learn how to read and helping children learn how to read as one-on-one mentors. Volunteers also help seniors to remain in their homes as long as it is safe to do so (aging in place) by serving as they deliver meals to homebound individuals for Home Delivered Meals, drive seniors to medical appointments, assist with grocery shopping or serve as friendly visitors. They also help with light housekeeping chores or handyman projects. The demand for volunteers is always greater than the supply so we always welcome the opportunity to reach out to those who are retired or planning for retirement and want to make a difference where they live.

## **Tompkins County Senior Citizens Council dba Lifelong**

Joyce Billing, RSVP Assistant

121 Court Street

Ithaca, NY 14850

Phone: (607) 273-1511

Fax: (607) 272-8060

Email: [rsvp@tclifelong.org](mailto:rsvp@tclifelong.org)

The Retired and Senior Volunteer Program serves Tompkins County through a variety of service programs. In 2007, the dedicated and determined army of volunteers served over 59,029 hours in 65 agencies. RSVP acts as a bridge for volunteers to identify service opportunities in nonprofit agencies. In many cases, the talent and time served by RSVP volunteers "helps keep the doors open." Our volunteers fill a variety of needs including offering health insurance counseling, providing clerical assistance, working at food pantries, caring for abandoned animals, driving community elderly or handicapped to needed medical appointments. Whatever the need, the RSVP volunteers are willing to fill it.

## Region 8 - Mid-Hudson

### **Community Action Partnership of Dutchess County**

*Dutchess County RSVP*

Deborah Wilkins-Flippin, Program Director

77 Cannon Street

Poughkeepsie, New York 12601

Phone: (845) 452-5104

Fax: (845) 625-1510

Email: [dflippin@dutchessCAP.org](mailto:dflippin@dutchessCAP.org)

RSVP of Dutchess County has several program initiatives: Two intergenerational programs that address mentoring, tutoring and literacy, Sincerely Yours, a pen pal program that matches a local student with a senior citizen, for the purpose of improving the students reading and writing skills and learning about the older generation. For the senior it is a way to alleviate loneliness and know they are making a difference in a child's life. And, the Learning Through Others program, where twice a month a group of seniors serve in two local schools for the purpose of working on community projects, reading together, celebrating holidays, etc. The Citizen Corps program was established to address the Homeland Security initiative in 2002. After 9/11, 50 volunteers signed up to be trained by the local Medical Reserve Corps, the Dept. of Emergency Response, 5 local hospitals, the Red Cross, D.C. Health Dept. 25 RSVP volunteers were trained and credentialed to work effectively and safely during an emergency situation. RSVP provides 53 volunteer trainers to the Dutchess County Senior Exercise Program, a progressive weight training and balance improvement program, designed for seniors, to promote positive effects of exercising, thus counteracting the effects of osteoporosis and improving mobility, muscle, strength, stamina and balance and improve quality of life. The Volunteers in Transition program, is unique in that it has over 250 volunteers, most of who are challenged in some way, physically, developmentally and/or isolated and frail. This program brings a volunteer project to where the senior resides for them to work on and then is distributed back to the community. -RSVP volunteers assigned to the Literacy Connections program tutor students one on one for basic reading and to group tutoring for English as a Second Language. And hunger, by providing volunteers to 3 Meals on Wheels programs, a local food pantry and a soup kitchen.

### **Orange County Office for the Aging**

*Orange County RSVP*

Allison Johannessen, Program Director

18 Seward Avenue

Middletown, NY 10940

Phone: (845) 615-3728

Fax: (845) 346-1191

Email: [AJohannessen@co.orange.ny.us](mailto:AJohannessen@co.orange.ny.us)

Orange County, NY is located 50 miles north of New York City on the Hudson River. Many of the RSVP volunteers moved up here from the city some years ago to have a quieter place to raise their children in the country. One program RSVP would like to showcase this year is Aging in Place. The home delivered meals program is a significant and necessary program, providing a hot meal each weekday for 550 homebound individuals. The volunteers who deliver the meals faithfully on a daily basis present a smiling face and the hand of friendship and caring along with the meal delivery. Other volunteers are busy providing Hospice Support, Ombudsman services, English as a second language and Literacy program. Friendly visitor, clerical help at non-profit programs run hand in hand with volunteers who assist at local Humane Society sites, thrift shop, food pantries, and working year round at the county Arboretum.

**Putnam County Office for the Aging**

*Putnam County RSVP*

Mary White, Program Director

110 Old Route Six - Bldg #1

Carmel, NY 10512

Phone: (845) 621-0600, Ext 114

Fax: (845) 225-1915

Email: [marywhitersvp@comcast.net](mailto:marywhitersvp@comcast.net)

Putnam County RSVP operates within the County Office for the Aging. We encourage everyone over the age of 55 to volunteer and currently manage a number of engaging opportunities. To highlight a few: Senior Net is a national program and in Putnam County, RSVP volunteers teach other seniors the basics on how use a computer: internet access, photos, word processing, etc. Other RSVP volunteers counsel entrepreneurs and offer assistance to them as they write a business plan and start up a new business venture, bringing more revenue to the county. Without RSVP, the 3 thrift shops in Putnam County wouldn't run as smoothly! RSVP volunteers manage these 3 shops- coordinating schedules for volunteers, maintaining bank deposits, sorting clothing, selling items and collecting items for sale. Not only have residents of Putnam County had access to quality, affordable goods, but the stores have generated millions of dollars for the county hospital. RSVP also supports the Salvation Army by running their fund drive. RSVP volunteers also provide transportation to seniors for medical appointments, and help at nutrition sites and at food pantries. You'll find that RSVP volunteers are involved in many more activities throughout Putnam County, helping to make the county the great place that it is!

**VCS Inc.**

*Rockland County FGP*

Eva Hernandez-Goley, Program Director

77 South Main Street

New City, NY 10956

Phone: (845) 634-5729

Fax: (845) 634-7839

Email: [ehernandezgoley@vcs-inc.org](mailto:ehernandezgoley@vcs-inc.org)

Rockland County, approximately 20 miles north of New York City is the smallest geographic county in NYS: 174 square miles, one third of which is parkland. Community relationships established by VCS, Inc. will benefit the Foster Grandparent Program to promote supportive one to one service to children with special needs and to enable limited income persons aged 60+ to remain active in their community. Currently, the Foster Grandparent Program in Rockland County manages and nurtures 17 volunteer stations that address the determined community needs: literacy, special education, health and nutrition, disaster preparedness in pre-school, elementary education settings, Head Starts, school districts, BOCES, and day care centers.

**Rockland Community College***Rockland County RSVP*

Gerri Zabusky, Program Director

185 N. Main St.

Spring Valley, NY 10977

Phone: (845) 356-6818

Fax: (845) 574-4498

Email: [gzabusky@sunyrockland.edu](mailto:gzabusky@sunyrockland.edu)

Major volunteer assignments are the Meals on Wheels and Supplemental Nutrition Programs, various Homeless Food pantries and Programs, Friendly visiting which includes volunteers working with Hospice. Volunteers also tutor children in K- 5 with reading and math and mentor High School and Middle School Children in conjunction with the Liberty Partnership program sponsored by the New York State Department of Education. The Ombudsman Program routinely addresses issues of quality of life, transfer requirements, financial concerns, privacy and administrative issues in Rockland County hospitals and nursing homes.

**Sullivan County Legislature***Sullivan County RSVP*

Caryn Mathews, RSVP Project Director

100 North Street

Monticello, NY 12701

Phone: (845) 807-0251

Fax: (845) 794-7409

Email: [caryn.mathews@co.sullivan.ny.us](mailto:caryn.mathews@co.sullivan.ny.us)

The Sullivan County Retired Senior Volunteer Program represents a commitment to the Sullivan County public, providing people resources, energy and a wealth of talents to individuals and organizations. Through important and strategic collaborations and partnerships, feedback from community stakeholders, and the alignment of its work plans with the Corporation's Strategic Plan, RSVP continues to provide much-needed services in our community. With the technical and monetary assistance from the Corporation for National and Community Service, in addition to the support and in-kind contributions from the sponsoring agency, Sullivan County Office for the Aging and the Sullivan County Legislature, we are able to carry on the important work that our 300 plus volunteers engage in on a daily basis. Flexibility, community involvement, and a commitment to enhancing the lives of individuals allow RSVP to respond quickly and strategically to the ever-changing needs within our community.

## **Ulster County Community College**

### *Ulster County RSVP*

Catherine Canzian, Program Director

409 Development Ct.

Kingston, NY 12401

Phone: (845) 339-2181

Fax: (845) 339-2181

Email: [canzianc@sunyulster.edu](mailto:canzianc@sunyulster.edu)

RSVP of Ulster County, New York is sponsored by SUNY Ulster. RSVP promotes volunteerism by offering individuals aged 55 and older the opportunity to meet a variety of community needs through contributions of time and talent. Volunteers provide a wide range of voluntary services and support to assist 65 partnering community agencies' missions in fields such as education, environment, community and economic development, disaster preparedness and homeland security, health and nutrition, public safety, and other human needs. Several signature programs are designed to serve older adults, youth and other vulnerable populations. They are: Senior Net Learning Center - which is designed to teach computer skills to the older learner, Neighbor to Neighbor Program - which matches those who need help to remain independent and age in their own homes with volunteers willing to help, Senior Workers Attack Team (SWAT) - which provides not-for-profit agencies the ability to recruit teams of volunteers to fill variety of episodic volunteer opportunities to assist them in meeting the needs of special events or activities and RSVP Pen Pal program – an intergenerational program that matches 4<sup>th</sup> grade students to seniors to exchange letters throughout the school year and culminates with a picnic at an historic site within Ulster County.

## **Volunteer Center of Westchester County**

### *Westchester County RSVP*

Rosario Samudio, , RSVP Project Director

280 North Central Avenue – Suite 310

Hartsdale, NY 10530-1839

Phone: (914) 227-9303

Fax: (914) 948-3032

Email: [Rosario@volunteer-center.org](mailto:Rosario@volunteer-center.org)

RSVP of Westchester's mission is to assist public and nonprofit agencies in addressing community issues through strategic volunteer service and to enrich the lives of individuals 55+ by involving them in vital activities serving local needs. Between July 2006 and June 2007, 889 RSVP members contributed 104,000 hours of services at over 76 nonprofit organizations throughout Westchester.

## **Westchester Community Opportunity Program, Inc**

### *West COP FGP*

Rosemarie Bahr, Program Director

2269 Saw Mill River Road - Building #3

Elmsford, NY 10523

Phone: (914) 592-5600 ext 114

Fax: (914) 592-0021

Email: [rbahr@westcop.org](mailto:rbahr@westcop.org)

The Foster Grandparent Program of Westchester Community Opportunity, Inc. provides services to children and youth with exceptional or special needs in Westchester, Putnam, Ulster, Sullivan, Orange and Dutchess Counties. This year the program is celebrating its 36<sup>th</sup> anniversary as the FGP sponsor. WestCOP changes people's lives and is strongly committed to children. The FGP volunteers strive to embody the spirit of hope, improves communities, and makes America a better place to live. Through this program partnership, the agency is connected to the entire community.

## Region 9 – Long Island Region

### **Federation of Organizations**

*Suffolk County FGP*

Jessica Acevedo, Program Director

3390 Route 112, Building A

Medford, NY 11763

Phone: (631) 321-8229, Ext. 1224

Fax: (631) 321-6325

Email: [jacevedo@fedoforg.org](mailto:jacevedo@fedoforg.org)

Suffolk County Foster Grandparent volunteers are assigned to elementary schools, day care centers and head start facilities throughout Suffolk County to serve a minimum of 15 hours per week. Volunteers work one-to-one with children who have been identified by the classroom teacher as being in need of additional assistance, and will also provide beneficial help and support to all of the students on a regular basis. The main goal of the volunteer will be to guide, nurture, tutor, mentor and encourage the child or children in their assigned classroom. The individualized services that will be provided by the Foster Grandparents include, but are not limited to, assisting with the completion of class work and/or homework assignments, enhancing reading skills and literacy development, computing math problems, fostering self-esteem and providing emotional support, and prompting a child to stay focused on a task.

### **Federation of Organizations**

*Suffolk County SCP*

Jessica Acevedo, Program Director

3390 Route 112, Building A

Medford, NY 11763

Phone: (631) 321-8229, Ext. 1224

Fax: (631) 321-6325

Email: [jacevedo@fedoforg.org](mailto:jacevedo@fedoforg.org)

Suffolk County Senior Companions volunteers offer direct support, friendship, encouragement and assistance to older individual who are frail or homebound living in their community. Senior Companions are assigned up to three recipients each and serve for a minimum of 15 hours per week. Volunteers may assist with preparing a light meal, participating in recreational activities/hobbies such as playing cards or accompanying their recipient on a walk, assist the recipient with reading and/or writing, or providing helpful resources and referrals as needed. Volunteers also provide occasional transportation to social activities, medical appointments, necessary errands/shopping and community outings, in an effort to maintain or increase their recipient's level of independence.

## **Friends of the RSVP of Suffolk County**

*Suffolk County RSVP*

Pegi Orsino, Program Director

811 West Jericho Turnpike, Suite 103W

Smithtown, NY 11787

Phone: (631) 979-9490

Fax: (631) 979-9490

Email: [porsino@optonline.net](mailto:porsino@optonline.net)

RSVP Suffolk County, NY has a wide variety of creative volunteer opportunities for adults 55+ who wish to remain engaged in civic activity. The project itself runs two licensed programs: The Chronic Disease Self-Management Program is a 6 week workshop series developed by the University of Stanford and offered by 5 Master Trainers to impart knowledge of how to better manage chronic condition symptoms. The Community Computer Connections Program is a licensed, award winning project that takes donated computers, refurbishes them and returns them to financially challenged families in Nassau and Suffolk counties. The Speakers Bureau presents senior issue topics in various senior forums. The Feeling Good Program is a wellness and exercise program available at 18 senior centers. RSVP partners with over 110 non-profits that need volunteers to deliver their missions. Join us and use your past professional skills, talents or interests for the betterment of our community!

## **Federation of Organizations**

*Nassau County RSVP*

Elizabeth Hopkins, Program Director

Mailing Address: One Farmingdale Road/Route 109

West Babylon, NY 11704

Phone: (516) 541-7787, Ext. 5422

Fax: (516) 789-8866

Email: [Ehopkins@fedoforg.org](mailto:Ehopkins@fedoforg.org)

Nassau County RSVP utilizes its volunteers as support to currently available services that provide assistance to all age groups. Some of the activities our volunteers are engaged in include literacy tutoring, tax-counseling, home delivered meals and feeding the hungry and homeless. In addition, our volunteers serve the needs of the physically disabled and frail elderly providing companionship, assistance and respite care services.

## Region 10 – New York City Region

### **Community Service Society**

*New York City RSVP*

Alina Molina, Program Director

105 E 22nd Street

New York, NY10010

Phone: (212) 614-5567

Fax: (212) 598-4782

Email: [amolina@cssny.org](mailto:amolina@cssny.org)

The RSVP project is addressing CNCS Strategic Initiatives with volunteer assignments in the focus area of economic opportunity through its Financial Coaching Corps and the ACES (Advocacy, Counseling and Entitlement Services) Project. ACES volunteers provide information on accessing public benefits, determining client eligibility and assisting in the application process. Financial Coaches assist clients by obtaining and understanding their credit reports, counseling them on avoiding predatory lending practices, and establishing a budget to keep from falling into unmanageable debt. Other focus areas include healthy futures where RSVP volunteers provide assistance through friendly visiting, home delivered meals, telephone reassurance and community based meal programs. The project has also established site-based mentoring programs with an asset building focus, working with children of incarcerated parents and adolescents who are in foster care and/or at risk of entering the criminal justice system. By pairing passionate, committed mentor volunteers with young people, the program strives to break the cycle of recidivism and intergenerational poverty.

### **Henry Street Settlement**

*Henry Street Settlement SCP*

Deborah Lowenstein, Program Director

334 Madison Street

New York, NY 10002

Phone: (212) 406-5044

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In addition to the regular activities of an SCP program, the Henry Street Settlement project goes several steps further. As part of a Healthy Vision 2010 grant (funding period has now ended), we trained the volunteers about vision care and set-up free one day vision screening clinics using our volunteer stations as sites. Companions escorted their clients to these clinics, and now have vision education and eye care as part of their normal annual health care regiment. Additionally, we participated in a pilot project where 7 of our volunteers were trained in health literacy, specifically, how to read medication and nutrition labels. Volunteers were instructed to go back to their homebound clients and review these materials. In another new effort, 4 Senior Companions are currently part of a crafts training through a grant from Eldercraftsmen, a non-profit agency. They are being taught how to create easy to make crafts, and at the conclusion, will be given free materials to go back and do these activities with their homebound clients. These crafts are a wonderful social outlet, as well as helpful for people with memory issues and motor function issues (i.e. arthritis, Parkinson's disease, etc.).

## **New York City Department for the Aging**

*New York City FGP*

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This is the largest Foster Grandparent Program in the United States. Volunteer assignments are with Elementary Education where Foster Grandparents work with K-8 students to improve literacy skills; Head Start Sites that reinforce basic social skills, emotional and cognitive skills and help prepare children for successful transition into elementary school; Pre-Elementary Day Care where volunteers provide nurturing and individual attention to young children while Foster Grandparents serving in hospitals throughout the 5 boroughs nurture and provide individual support to infants and children in the pediatric, newborn, neonatal and therapeutic nurseries. Special Education FG's assist students in the area of self-care, and tutoring. NYC Foster Grandparent Program has also begun an intensive collaboration with the Administration for Children's Services through the Office of Family Visiting to mentor children in foster care.

## **Statewide**

### **NYS OPWDD**

*NYS Office for People with Developmental Disabilities SCP*

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The NYS Office for People with Developmental Disabilities SCP is celebrating 30 years in 2009! As OPWDD evolved from institutional residential and day program operations in that timeframe, the Senior Companion Program followed. Today, our project has 539 volunteers serving adults with Developmental Disabilities in state operated and private group homes, Family Care, independent homes and various levels of nursing care. Our Senior Companions also volunteer in day programs, supportive employment, senior centers, and adult day care.

Volunteer assignments can be socially based, provide independence training for activities of daily living, or offer a variety of community integration opportunities including the creative arts and faith-based initiatives. The goal of all of our Senior Companions is to promote independence allowing the people they are assigned, to live the life they dream of to the best of their capabilities. OPWDD is grateful to have had such a wonderful resource to assist with the transition, moving from institutional to community based life. Senior Companions and the relationships they have with the people they are assigned, made a difference then and continues to benefit today as our population continues to have opportunities to further independence. The agency sees the benefits of this program with its win-win philosophy for both populations and is supportive in future SCP initiatives that will continue to benefit people with developmental Disabilities and the SCP.