



# Volunteer Voice

## Newsletter Jan.-Mar. 2019

### **2019 is our paper newsletter's last year!**

To improve the efficiency with which we communicate with our readership, we've decided to go completely electronic with our newsletter. Our Oct. 2019 edition will be the last released in print. Beginning Jan. 2020, all newsletters will go out via email. To begin receiving the newsletter via email, please call 970-243-9839, ext. 7 or email [info@rsvpgrandjunction.org](mailto:info@rsvpgrandjunction.org).

### **Strengthen Your Community—Volunteer!**

**AARP— Tax Preparer** will prepare federal/state personal taxes for low-income seniors and others February-April. No experience required. 3-hour shifts; one shift or more per week. 3-day training is required in early January. Must have good communication skills and be computer literate.

**Agape Food Basket in Fruita— Director** will coordinate food pick-up through the Food Bank of the Rockies Grocery Donation Program. Receive donations from local food drives. Manage distribution of food to clients. Manage Food Basket finances and volunteers. Having a truck is helpful but not required. On the job training provided.

Diane Barger, 243-9839, ext. 5 or  
[rsvpgrandjunction.org](http://rsvpgrandjunction.org)  
for more ways to help.

### **Jean A. Brewer Retires After Almost 25 Years With RSVP**

Jean joined Mesa County RSVP in 1994. 5 years later she was promoted to Executive Director. Jean said, "I love this organization and it has been my privilege to guide it as the Executive Director for the past 18 years. The volunteers are amazing and the staff is the best team anyone could have."



### **Welcome Alisha Howard, RSVP's New Executive Director**

Alisha was born and raised on the Western Slope. She has an extensive background in both the marketing and non-profit worlds. Most recently she was the Marketing Director for a home health company. She is excited to bring her knowledge and ideas to RSVP and work with the wonderful team that RSVP already has.



### **We could fill our entire newsletter with thank you notes!**

We are so thankful to live and work in this wonderful, unique, friendly, close-knit community. Here is just a short list of those who have generously helped us recently:

- 1. Everybody who donated office supplies (and printers!) and made life so much easier**
- 2. Our Colorado Gives and other funds donors**
- 3. Our friends at City of Grand Junction**
- 4. Hercules Industries (HVAC)**
- 5. Community Hospital**
- 6. Buffalo Wild Wings**
- 7. Cost Vida**
- 8. Meals on Wheels**

**Office Location:**

422 White Ave, Suite 090  
Basement of the US Bank

**Mailing Address:**

PO Box 1077  
Grand Junction, CO 81502  
970-243-9839

[rsvpgrandjunction.org](http://rsvpgrandjunction.org)

[info@rsvpgrandjunction.org](mailto:info@rsvpgrandjunction.org)

Facebook: MesaCountyRSVP

## Board of Directors

Bill Mitchell, **President**  
Debbie Vavak, **Treasurer**

Veronica Yonts  
Terri Potente  
Jacque Pipe  
Karen Zimmerman  
Craig Swenson

## Staff

**Executive Director:**

Alisha Howard

**Administrative Assistant:**

Maggie Sanders

**Volunteer & Senior Scholar  
Manager:**

Diane Barger

**SHIP & Handyman Manager:**

Ruth McCrea

### 2017-18 FY volunteer recruitment and agency partnership figures:

Partner Agencies: 60  
New Volunteers: 112  
Total Volunteers: 60

### 4 Easy Ways You Can Help RSVP Strengthen Our Community:

1. Tired of packing away all of those Christmas decorations? Take some of them to The Encore Shoppe instead and donate the consignment proceeds to RSVP.
2. Share this newsletter on Twitter and Facebook.
3. Switch to reporting your hours online. This saves us paper, toner and time, and saves you the cost of getting paper timecards to us.
4. Mark your calendar for next year's Medicare's Annual Enrollment Period (Oct. 15-Dec. 7).

### Here's What Our SHIP Medicare Annual Open Enrollment Clients Say:

**"They're a miracle for me."**

**"I come here because I trust you."**

**"I was so scared to come in because I didn't know what to expect, but everyone is so nice!"**

**"I was here last year and you all helped me save \$2,000 on my prescriptions. This year, I brought my mom and my neighbor!"**

**"Thank you so much for your work in finding less expensive coverage for me. The amount of savings is amazing! So fortunate to work with you!"**

## Overhead: Necessary, Not Evil

Everyone knows what non-profit ‘overhead’ is. It’s that thing nobody wants their donated dollars to pay for, right? Who wants to help pay for staff and bills when you’d rather all of your donation go ‘toward the cause’?

Until I entered the non-profit world, I didn’t give much thought to overhead. It wasn’t long before I made this connection: a non-profit is no different from a household or a for-profit organization in the need to allocate funds where they’re needed most.

For instance, think of how a household runs. Life is infinitely easier when the mortgage and bills are paid on time and there are groceries in the cupboard, right? Chasing income doesn’t make for an efficient, smoothly-running household.

Look at it this way: when an employer distributes paychecks, he probably doesn’t specify which portion goes to employees’ bills, entertainment, or their savings. He can’t, as his employees are the proper stewards of their paychecks. They have a vested interest in running a household well and using funds efficiently.

I have changed my thinking. I now know that ‘overhead’ would be better described as ‘core needs’. After all, without staff, an office, lights and phones, what happens to ‘the cause’?

**We are so very thankful for every dollar we receive.** We maximize that generosity in every way possible. Just think how much more efficient we could be if more donations were marked ‘non-profit’s discretion’!

## RSVP Calendar

**Volunteer Hours due by the 15th of each month**

**Medicare Help: SHIP Walk-in Day**  
Every Thursday—9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

### January

- 1 OFFICE CLOSED for New Year’s Day**
- 2 Medicare 101—Introduction to Medicare 10 a.m. to Noon**
- 21 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day**
- 22 RSVP Board Meeting Noon—1:30 p.m.**

### February

- 6 Medicare 101—Introduction to Medicare 10 a.m. to Noon**
- 18 Presidents’ Day**
- 26 RSVP Board Meeting Noon—1:30 p.m.**

### March

- 6 Medicare 101—Introduction to Medicare 10 a.m. to Noon**
- 26 RSVP Board Meeting Noon—1:30 p.m.**

## We Appreciate Our Volunteers!

### Watch For Your Invitation!

Volunteers are invited to attend our annual Spring Volunteer Appreciation Event in April!





PO Box 1077  
Grand Junction, CO 81502  
ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

NON PROFIT ORG.  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
GRAND JUNCTION, CO  
PERMIT NO. 142

THANK YOU **usbank**  
for the generous donation of our office  
space!



Place label here

## Support RSVP and our mission!

*“Strengthen our community by engaging volunteers ages 55 and over.”*

### SIGN UP

**City Market Community Rewards  
Is An Easy Way to Support  
Mesa County RSVP**

- Register by calling 1-800-576-4377 or online at [www.citymarketcommunityrewards.com](http://www.citymarketcommunityrewards.com).
- Choose Mesa County RSVP, ID#10238.
- Use your loyalty card at City Market.



## *The Encore Shoppe*

NOW LOCATED AT 1909 N. 1st St.

**Donate Your Gently-Used  
Clothing and Household Items  
To Support RSVP**

- Take your used items to The Encore Shoppe Tues. - Sat. 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.
- The Encore Shoppe will select the items they can sell.
- Tell them you are donating on behalf of RSVP.
- When the items sell, the 40% consignment will be donated to RSVP.

