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## Protégé Promotes Community Service

Who says the youth of today aren’t engaged in civic responsibility? Just ask a Protégé mentor what they’ve been up to!

Ruth Saks, program coordinator, added a component to the mentoring program that would help kids learn the importance of giving back – a way of connecting them to the people in their communities – a little like the **Pay It Forward** movement (which is what our volunteers do every day!) Several Community Service projects were launched at the beginning of the year and have gained great momentum. Our mentors and students are really awesome!

Projects include helping needy families during the holidays; giving out gifts at a holiday party held for families of deployed military staff; collecting pop tabs for Ronald McDonald House ([www.rmhc.org](http://www.rmhc.org)); Wissahickon Valley Park clean up ([www.fairmountpark.org](http://www.fairmountpark.org)); collecting food for Philabundance ([www.philabundance.org](http://www.philabundance.org)) and Montgomery County Food Cupboards ([www.montcopa.org](http://www.montcopa.org)); providing educational opportunities through Pennies for Peace ([www.penniesforpeace.org](http://www.penniesforpeace.org)) and collecting gently-used items for Cradles to Crayons ([www.cradlestocrayons.org](http://www.cradlestocrayons.org)).



*Mentored youth (shown l to r: Florence Kyomubendo, Mason Smalls and Daisy Quiroz ) participate in pop tab donations at Ronald McDonald House. Recycling tabs translates into cash the McDonald House uses to provide a safe home away from home for families of children being treated in local hospitals.*

*Students participated in a printmaking art project along with siblings of patients. Siblings shared stories and drew pictures that related to their experiences of having an ill sister or brother. Mentored students learned about giving and sharing and that life can sometimes be unpredictable and hard but it’s a little easier if you have the support of friends. Mason relates “The experience made me happy, it was a privilege to help these kids get their minds off their siblings, at least for a little while.”*



## RSVP STAFF DIRECTORY

To contact a staff member in the Central office, call (610) 834-1040, dial the extension or send us an email by using the entire first name and the first initial of the last name @rsvpmc.org. Visit us online at www.rsvpmc.org.

Nancy Alter,  
*Protégé Assistant* . . . . .ext. 22

Margi Cunning,  
*Special Events & Database Support* . . . . .ext. 10

Kevin Evans,  
*IT Specialist* . . . . .ext. 18

Barbara Fitzgerald,  
*Development* . . . . .ext. 13

Elaine Gershenson,  
*VEC* . . . . .ext. 11

Tony Giunta,  
*Office Manager* . . . . .ext. 17

Janis Glusman,  
*Family & Adult Literacy* . . .ext. 16

Ruth Saks,  
*Protégé* . . . . .ext. 21

Marion Silver,  
*America Reads* . . . . .ext. 27

Michele Spencer,  
*Executive Director* . . . . .ext. 14

Donna Uhler,  
*Apprise* . . . . .ext. 20

Dollie Walsh,  
*Eldercare & Western Field* . .ext. 42

Tina Weaver,  
*PR/Communications & Eldercare* . . . . .ext. 23

Lorrie Zabudoff,  
*Speakers Bureau, SAGE & Homefriends* . . . . .ext.15

### FIELD OFFICE STAFF

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## Welcome on Board

**Noah Borenstein** joined the board in May 2010. Noah has a background in technical and business applications in specialty chemical and environmental consulting companies. He is currently a math tutor at the Abington Library. We look forward to Noah's expertise and enthusiasm.



*Noah Borenstein*



*Kevin Evans*

**Kevin Evans** joins us as IT Specialist with a background in Information Technology and has worked within the banking, hospital/healthcare and utility industries. Kevin will be taking on all our computer issues. He enjoys biking, traveling and reading.

## EVEN 15 MINUTES CAN CHANGE THE WORLD! *Please Volunteer If You Can!*

- Work from home scheduling blood drives or help at collection sites in your area.
- Be a driver, greeter, service trainer or supply assistant.
- Become a docent and lead tours through local historic sites or museums.
- If you're good with numbers, help low income families prepare their taxes.
- Help a senior with grocery shopping or organizing their paperwork.
- Read stories to preschoolers or help in classrooms.
- If you love animals, help at local shelters and zoos or work with therapy pets.
- Help anxious visitors find their way in local hospitals.
- Tutor students in after-school programs.
- If you like driving, take a senior to and from a doctor appointment.
- Record books and newspapers for the visually impaired.
- Twirling and dancing your thing? Become a dance instructor.
- Become a dietary assistant or work at a food pantry.
- Good with computers? Teach classes to small groups.
- Mentor an at-risk youth or visit with a special needs child in their home.
- Help those in despair – staff a crisis hotline.
- Do you play an instrument? Play for seniors at facilities or give lessons.
- Use your professional skills to help a nonprofit.
- Enjoy social networking? Maintain a blog for a nonprofit.

### Benefits of Volunteering

- flexible schedule
- meaningful interactions with clients
- improve your community
- make an impact on someone's life
- develop marketable job skills

If you don't see your ideal volunteer opp listed above, give us a chance to create a fun and rewarding match for you. Call your field coordinator (see listing on left.)

# Greetings from the Executive Director

This past year has been a challenge for all of us, especially for nonprofits that provide direct services to their communities. The need for our services has increased at the same time that funding sources have dwindled. We have had to do more with less – and we have.



How have we continued to support vulnerable populations? With the help of volunteers like you.

According to the Corporation for National and Community Service, 26.8 percent of all Americans volunteered in 2009. Our volunteers gave 105,000 hours of their time to help support the local community in 2009. This represents a total savings of about \$2.2 million dollars to nonprofit organizations who benefit from our volunteers.

I invite you to ask a friend to join you in your volunteer effort. As volunteers, we all know we “get back more than we give.” Volunteering doesn’t always mean a long term or huge commitment of time. Just giving an hour can make an impact. Shape your volunteer experience around your schedule, develop marketable job skills, make an impact on someone’s life & improve your community. Volunteering offers many benefits and RSVP coordinators can customize your volunteer experience to meet your needs.

You may not be aware that RSVP offers many programs which you or someone you know can utilize.

- Our trained Medicare counselors can guide you through your Medicare choices, call 610-834-1040 x20.
- Looking for a job but need to brush up on your interview skills? Call for a mock interview and get some tips from our volunteer professionals. 610-834-1040 x16.

Thank you for supporting us and your local community.  
Michele Spencer

# BOARD OF DIRECTORS

## 2010 OFFICERS

- President* ..... Alan Kober  
*Vice-President* ..... Ron Gawel  
*Secretary* ..... Diane Moskal  
*Treasurer* ..... Walter Fisher, Jr.  
*Assistant Treasurer* ..... Ron Williford  
*Past President* ..... Brian McGarvey

## BOARD MEMBERS

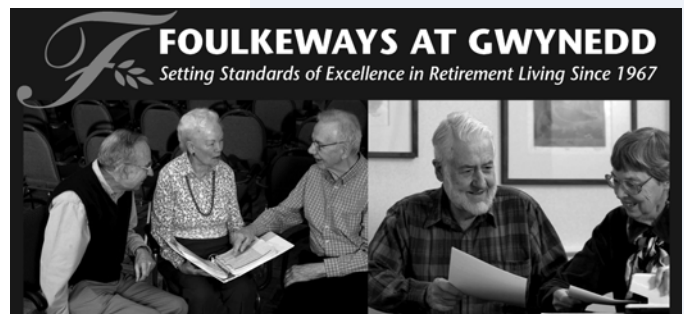
- Joseph Alberstadt  
 Bette Bailey  
 Noah Borenstein  
 Alan Frankel  
 Linda Gedney  
 Richard Getz  
 Gordon Lawrence  
 Robert Leib  
 Bernard Roseman, Esq.  
 Richard Singer  
 Richard Sundheim  
 James Sutor  
 Oscar Vance

## EMERITUS

- William Walsh, Esq.

## IN MEMORY AND HONOR OF . . .

- In Memory of Maripat Pressler – Lilibet & Alan Coe  
 In Memory of Margaret Kalstein – Nancy & Harvey Alter  
 In Memory of Palma Vavala – Staff of RSVP of Montgomery County  
 In Memory of Dr. Morris Gershenson – Staff of RSVP of Montgomery County, Gordon & Ellen Lawrence, Carole & David Soskis, Alan & Joan Kober  
 In Memory of Princess Getz, the “Wonder Dog” – Elaine & Alan Gershenson
- In Honor of the 2 weddings of Rich Singer’s daughters – Elaine & Alan Gershenson  
 In Honor of Carol & David Soskis’ new granddaughter – Elaine & Alan Gershenson



**Vol-un-ter:** (n)

**1. a person who chooses to do something without anticipating a profit or payment.**

**Vol-un-ter-ism:** (n)

**1. a way of life at Foulkeways!**



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On May 26th, RSVP celebrated volunteers with 20 or more years of service. Our volunteers dedicate their talents and energy to programs benefiting the community with countless hours of their time. Recognizing these remarkable volunteers is one small way to acknowledge their great and enduring impact in our communities. Volunteers were recognized with a personal letter from Governor Rendell thanking them for their commitment to volunteering in Montgomery County.

Volunteers receiving this recognition included: Della Amoroso, Yvette Arian, Arlene Balloge, Mary Barrett, Leon Bender, Sally Bixler, Frances Carter, Eleanor Coen, Ralph D. Cohen, Ralph T. Cohen, Elizabeth Covelli, Katherine Cunningham, Phyllis Denny, Ruth Dessender, Meryweather

Ely, Gladys Esser, Harvey Gennaria, Winifred Gillespie, Fern Hauck, Irwin Haupt, Amanda Johnson, Walter Lufkin, Phillippus Miller, Richard Nordberg, Richard Pratt, Harry Snyder, Sylvia Sussman and Jane Voss.

Additionally, RSVP presented plaques to three winners of the *2009 Senior Corps of PA Volunteers of the Year* award. Award winners include Susan Wortman who received 1st place in the *Mentoring Over 12-Year-Old* category, Jim Harris who received honorable mention in the *Seniors Helping Seniors* category, and VEC-TEC, an RSVP program which received honorable mention for their commitment to providing *Community Service* through their workshops and consultations with nonprofits.

RSVP would like to recognize the generous support of Blue Bell Place for hosting the event and Laurel House for their donation in recognition of RSVP volunteers.

## DO YOU USE THE INTERNET?

You could make a donation to RSVP every time you use the internet to shop or conduct a search. By selecting [www.goodsearch.com](http://www.goodsearch.com) (powered by Yahoo) as your search engine, we can earn dollars. 50% of the revenue generated from the site's sponsored advertisers is shared with the listed charities, earning us about 1¢ for each search. If you like shopping online, some retailers will donate between 3 to 20% of the total sale to us.

To register, visit [www.goodsearch.com](http://www.goodsearch.com) and click on goodshop, then simply select RSVP of Montgomery County from the list. Thank you!



RSVP Executive Director Michele Spencer presents Susan Wortman (center) with 2009 Senior Corps of PA Award for 1<sup>st</sup> Place in *Mentoring over 12-year-old* category. Far right, Susan's mentored youth Moriah with her new (and adorable) son Shawn.



*RSVP recognizes volunteers who have served Montgomery County for 20 or more years. Shown: front row, l to r: Michele Spencer, RSVP Executive Director, Katherine Cunningham, Winifred Gillespie, Mary Barrett, Fern Hauck, Gladys Esser, Jane Voss. Rear row, l to r: Ruth Dessender, Leon Bender, Alan Kober, RSVP Board President, Richard Pratt, Ralph T. Coben and Harry Snyder.*

## The Mock Interview Sessions are Back!

Back in April, we partnered with the Wissahickon Valley Public Library to offer the public free mock interview sessions. The goal was to provide job seekers with a chance to practice their interview skills and an opportunity for them to rehearse and refine their techniques in a supportive and educational environment.

Trained RSVP volunteers are conducting the mock interviews, helping the public avoid common mistakes and giving job seekers a chance to polish their skills.

If you know someone who is out of work and may benefit from a session, call Janis (610) 834-1040, ext. 16 to schedule an appointment. A sample employment application along with interview tips will be sent to you prior to your meeting.

The library is offering a free resume review service as well as a whole host of books on successful job searching and resume writing techniques.



*Janis Glusman planning interviews with VEC volunteer Jerry Bapst*

## PUT THE RUBBER TO THE ROAD

*Our Eldercare/Help On Call program desperately needs drivers to take elderly clients to doctor appointments or grocery shopping. If you can spare a couple of hours here and there, please call your field coordinator and help our seniors remain as independent as possible.*

## Ready to Run Wild?

Are you ready for something fun and different? This year, we will hold our 5th Annual 5K and 1 Mile Walk on October 3, 2010. And we're at a brand new and very exciting location – the Elmwood Park Zoo in Norristown; making this a great family-fun event!



The theme is **Run Wild**. The run and walk course will meander through the Elmwood Park Zoo offering participants a chance to visit with our wild friends.

Theresa Miller, a student from North Montco Technical Career Center, created the fun logo, depicting a racing lion, inspired by her trips to the zoo.

We are pleased this year to have a new major sponsor: Merrill Lynch Wealth Management, Bank of America Corporation.

All proceeds from this event (and every RSVP event) will benefit RSVP's Children's Literacy programs which provide support and hands-on learning opportunities for students. Through **America Reads**, **SAGE** and the **Family Literacy** programs, our volunteers will be able to reach 700+ students throughout the county.

By attending this fun day at the zoo, you also support our Children's Literacy Program in several ways:

- you provide new gift books to each of the 540 Montgomery County Head Start students six times a year.
- you support read-aloud workshops for parents of Head Start students
- you support 80 volunteer one-on-one reading tutors for more than 200 young elementary school children.

*On October 3rd, the event begins at 9:00 a.m. (registration at 8:00 a.m.) and finishes at noon. Free admission to the zoo with race registration. \$5.00 of your registration fee is being donated to support the zoo's conservation programs. To register, contact Margi at extension 10.*



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# To Our Major Supporters... Thank you, Thank you!

We are deeply grateful to the following foundations, corporations, government agencies, community organizations, and individuals for their support of \$500 or more from January 1, 2010 through August 31, 2010. We would not exist without you, particularly during this difficult economy. *If we have inadvertently omitted anyone who donated at this level during the time period please let us know and we will acknowledge you in a future RIPPLE.*

## Annual Funding of \$100,000+

Corporation for National and Community Service\*  
Montco. Office on Aging and Adult Services

## \$20,000-30,000

United Way of Southeastern PA • Pew Charitable Trusts\*

## \$10,000-\$19,999

Annenberg Foundation, last year of five year grant\*  
Green Tree Community Health Foundation  
Helen Groome Beatty Charitable Trust, a Mellon Mid-Atlantic Charitable Trust  
Lenfest Foundation  
Patricia Kind Family Foundation, second year of three year grant\*

## \$5,000-\$9,999

Anonymous • Child Development Foundation  
Genuardi Family Foundation • North Penn United Way  
State Representative Mike Gerber • State Representative Kate Harper  
State Representative Tom Murt • United Way of Western Montgomery County

## \$1,000-\$4,999

Bard Foundation • Barra Foundation  
Cassett Foundation • Catalyst 360  
Douty Foundation, second year of a two year grant\*  
Emergency Aid of PA Foundation • Andrea Thomas Merrick  
Merrill Lynch Wealth Management, Bank of America Corp.  
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Plymouth Township • Rentschler Foundation • Skilling Foundation  
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## \$500-\$999

Montgomery County Medical Society  
Office of the Montgomery County District Attorney  
Tim and Allison Merrill\*\* • Perkiomen Valley Ambucs

## In-Kind Contributions

Automobile Dealers Association of Greater Philadelphia  
First Book • NHS

*\*RSVP of Montgomery County is grateful to these funders for pledging multi-year grants. The first year of multi-year grants are acknowledged under category representing total commitment. Subsequent years are listed under yearly amount.*

*\*\* Include employer matched funds to double donation*

*You may recently have received our annual request for your support. We recognize that you make a significant contribution each time you volunteer and we cannot thank you enough for that commitment. Economic times are still very hard for nonprofits and we need your help to remain vital and responsive to the changing and growing needs of our communities. Please give what you can. Thank you!*

## DO YOU NEED EXTRA HELP?

If you are currently receiving Medicare and are having a hard time paying for your prescription drugs or your monthly Part B premium, you may qualify for Extra Help. If you are single and your income is less than \$1,354/month or married with an income less than \$1,821/month, you should contact the Extra Help Government Application Center at 800-866-1807. Be sure to tell them your PSA # is 28 for Montgomery County.



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## WE WANT YOUR FEEDBACK!

**Have you ever seen the TV show Antiques Roadshow?** We're thinking it would be a blast to host our own version. Everyone could bring along one of those treasured items we all have tucked away at home. You know, the bizarre bronze statue from your great-aunt Edna. Or the curious painting you picked up at a yard sale. Or the stunning pendant from your grandmother. Bring it along and we'll have it appraised for you. While you wait for your appraisal, enjoy a glass of wine from a local vineyard and some tasty appetizers. Who knows, you could have a real treasure!

Sound like fun? Before we finalize this event, we need to hear from you. We're still planning and would probably hold the event in May or June. But we need to know if you would attend this event before we make it final? Would you most likely attend an evening or afternoon event? Would you bring someone along? How many items do you think you'd bring along?

*Please contact Marguerite Cunning at (610) 834-1040 ext. 10 or email [margic@rsvpmc.org](mailto:margic@rsvpmc.org) and let us know what you think!*

## DID YOU MISS US ON TV?

CBS3-TV featured 3 stories highlighting our volunteers in action. You can watch our Homefriends, Family Literacy and Protégé mentoring volunteers in action by clicking on the link on our website. Visit [www.rsvpmc.org](http://www.rsvpmc.org) and follow the link on the right.