

Ripple

Your Invitation to Serve!

Fall 2006 Volume 34 • Issue 3



**Retired & Senior
Volunteer Program**
of Montgomery County

published by **RSVP – Retired & Senior Volunteer Program of Montgomery County, Inc.**

Are You Prepared for an Emergency?

With the threat of natural and man-made disaster looming, it's no wonder emergency preparedness is on the minds of our officials and more recently on the minds of the public.

Kathy Forrest, an active volunteer since 2002, knows a thing or two about disasters. She has survived a flood, a tornado, an earthquake, a commercial plane crash and was struck by lightening as she slept at home one evening. Some might call that a run of bad luck, but Kathy saw it as her wake up call. You might even say that Kathy is on a mission to inform as many people as possible about how easy it is to take steps to have a few things put aside, just in case.

When RSVP created a new program called RESPONSE, Kathy knew this was just right for her. It is this kind of logical fit — matching the skills and experiences of volunteers with just the right opportunity — that makes RSVP so successful.

Kathy, along with a team of volunteers, received disaster training through the Red Cross VOAD Program (Volunteer Organizations Active in Disaster). They were trained in disaster preparedness, CPR, first aid and AED (automated external defibrillator) operation. Now, this team of volunteers carries out the mission of RESPONSE by delivering preparedness presentations, assisting at shelters, answering calls at phone banks, participating in mock drills and educating citizens to be prepared for emergencies.

Addressing the public through her presentations, Kathy, reminds us that “it’s essential to be prepared. It doesn’t take much time to make up a portable disaster kit. Make sure you include enough water; protein rich canned foods like tuna and peanut butter; baby and/or pet food if needed; medications; copies of important papers and credit cards; batteries; radio, flashlights and cell phones. You should have enough provisions set aside for two weeks on your own, whether you’re in your home or on an evacuation route. The most important thing is to listen to radio broadcasts (on battery-operated radios) when needed to be alerted to the most current information and updates.”

RSVP RESPONSE volunteers also collect deactivated cell phones and equip them with 911-dialing capability so that low-income seniors who live alone can stay in touch during an emergency. To date, more than 200 phones have been distributed. We are always accepting cell phone donations. For more details about RESPONSE and how you might become a volunteer, please call RSVP program coordinator Ruth Saks at (610) 834-1040 ext. 28.



Volunteers receive
fire extinguisher training

Here are some online resources where you can collect additional information and request brochures on preparedness:

- ▶ www.pema.state.pa.us — (Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency) “Pennsylvania Emergency Preparedness Guide”. Includes tips on how to respond to an emergency
- ▶ www.cdc.gov
- ▶ www.pandemicflu.gov
- ▶ www.pandemicflu.state.pa.us/pandemicflu/site

Select RSVP of Montgomery County as your favorite charity
on www.goodsearch.com and we’ll be pennies richer...

Every time you use www.goodsearch.com, a donation is made to RSVP.
Simply type RSVP of Montgomery County as your designated charity!

Thank you!

Your Invitation to Serve



Welcome

Tina Weaver



Tina Weaver joins RSVP as Public Relations/Communications Coordinator. With over 20 years of marketing experience in the not-for-profit and for-profit sectors, Tina is familiar with the unique challenges faced by nonprofits in today's competitive environment. Tina reports "I look forward to re-introducing the diverse programs RSVP offers to volunteers who can and do make a remarkable

difference throughout the region. We are always looking to expand our pool of nearly 1,300 current volunteers, the largest RSVP roster in Pennsylvania. RSVP shows us that each one of us has something unique to offer to someone else in need of that gift. What a remarkable thing!"

Sandra Moskowitz



Sandra Moskowitz joined the staff as Special Events and Fundraising Coordinator in early May. Sandy brings a rich and diverse background in designing community outreach programs for nonprofits and creating promotions for national publications as well as several Fortune 500 companies. As RSVP enters its 33rd year of serving the Montgomery County community, Sandy states, "We will

develop special events reaching out to a younger population who might not be aware of the rewarding volunteer opportunities offered through RSVP inviting them to share their energy and experience. I also look forward to developing mutually beneficial relationships with corporate and non-corporate partners to support the many great RSVP programs."

To contact a staff member, call 610/834-1040 and dial the correct extension or send us an email.

- Karen Blaine** Apprise Asst & N.Penn Medicare ext. 25
- Lilibet Coe** Executive Director ext. 14
- Arlene DeWalt** Database Coordinator ext. 22
- Barbara Finkelstein** America Reads ext. 27
- Barbara Fitzgerald** Development ext. 13
- Janis Glusman** Literacy ext. 16
- Jessica Jester** Office Administrator ext. 17
- Sandy Moskowitz** Special Events/Fundraising ext. 10
- Ruth Saks** Bridge & Response ext. 28
- Lynne Shepsman** Protégé ext. 21
- Donna Uhler** Apprise & Eldercare ext. 20
- Tina Weaver** PR/Recruitment ext. 23
- Lorrie Zabudoff** Speakers Bureau, Sage & Homefriends ext. 15

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- lorriez@rsvpmc.org

RSVP Field Offices

- Harriet Klein** Central/Plymouth Meeting 610/834-1365 rsvpcentral@rsvpmc.org
- Gail Vinikoor** Eastern/Willow Grove 267/518-0028 rsvpeastern@rsvpmc.org
- Sheryl Eisenhard** Main Line/Bryn Mawr 610/527-8806 rsvpmainline@rsvpmc.org
- Esna Carver** North Penn/Lansdale 215/855-9578 rsvpnorthpenn@rsvpmc.org
- Dollie Walsh** Western/Pottstown, Collegeville 610/326-9109 rsvpwestern@rsvpmc.org
- Upper Perkiomen area** 610/489-1555 or 215/679-4112

Retired & Senior Volunteer Program of Montgomery County, Inc. promotes volunteer service among area residents age 55 and older and provides opportunities for these volunteers to fully employ their talents and experience to meet critical community needs.

RETIRED AND SENIOR VOLUNTEER PROGRAM OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY, INC.

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RSVP Staff Directory

More Time – More Choices – More Friends
LIFE AT FOULKEWAYS

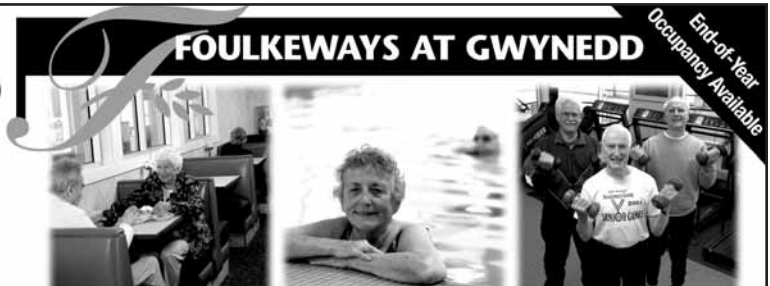
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RSVP's Western Area Field Office

Serving Pottstown, Collegeville and the Perkiomen Valley



1973 was a great year! It was the year that RSVP of Montgomery County was created with support from ACTION and a grant from Family Services of Montgomery County. Six years later, RSVP became one of only 30 (of 750) national RSVP's to become self-sponsored and incorporated. This meant that we became responsible for our own fundraising but it also meant that we had the freedom to create unique programs tailored to the specific needs of the Montgomery County community.

The first RSVP office was located on the Main Line. Next came Pottstown, then Norristown, Lansdale and Abington and finally Perkiomen Valley. The location of field offices strategically placed throughout the county underscores the importance of the geographic connection to our volunteers and points to much of the success of our mission: ***to promote volunteerism, particularly among persons 55 years of age and older, and provide opportunities for them to pursue their interests and use their abilities to help meet the critical needs of Montgomery County.***

Dollie Walsh is RSVP's Western Field Office Coordinator. This location encompasses the areas in and around Pottstown, Collegeville through Schwenksville and includes the Upper Perkiomen Valley area.

Each coordinator is intimately familiar with their community, with the local organizations and agencies (stations) and their unique needs. As a result, they can create the perfect match for volunteers, pairing their interests and skills with the needs of the station or organization. The Western Field Office currently has volunteer opportunities within local hospitals, day care sites, schools, Head Start, nursing homes, libraries and museums, thrift shops, nature centers, meals-on-wheels delivery and horse riding academies for the disabled.

RSVP volunteers have nearly unlimited possibilities to apply their experiences and interests to make a positive and lasting impact, right in their own backyards!

Please contact Dollie at one of the three locations throughout the Western Field Area: Pottstown (610)326-9109; Collegeville (610)489-1555 or Pennsburg (215)679-4112. Other Field Office locations include: Central Montgomery County — Plymouth Meeting (610)834-1365; Eastern Area — Willow Grove (267)518-0028; Main Line — Bryn Mawr (610)527-8806; or North Penn — Lansdale (215)855-9578.

In Memory & Honor of...

Do you want to honor or commemorate a special friend or family member in a unique way? Consider making a contribution in their memory or honor. Please send your contribution to RSVP, 531 Plymouth Rd., Suite 517, Plymouth Meeting, PA 19462 and indicate the name of the individual being honored.

The following individuals have been honored in this way:

In Memory of

Ellen & Gordon Lawrence in memory of Grace Edmundson

Ellen & Gordon Lawrence in memory of Elaine Labe

Classified Ads

So Many Ways to Volunteer...

detail-oriented

start today...

Person needed to

Experience a plus!

wanted:

PT pos. available

immediate opening!

Flex Hrs. - call...

fast growing company...

great opportunity

There are more than 300 local nonprofit organizations and agencies that call RSVP regularly, requesting support from volunteers. We'll help match your interests and experiences with one of these assignments in your community.

Does anything pique *your* interest?

administrative assistance/clerical

bingo caller

bookkeeping skills

bloodmobile assistants

bridge players

clowning

computer skills

data entry

docent/tour guides at historical societies

drivers

friendly visitors and phone reassurance

gardening and nature centers

gift/thrift shop helpers

help with bill paying

help with mass mailings

meal delivery

mentoring

nonprofit business consulting

playing games or teaching crafts

reading and recording for

visually impaired

receptionists

shopping

speaker's bureau presentations

special events assistance

tutoring children and/or adults

If you didn't find your particular niche above and you have a unique interest, we'll create just the right fit for you! Please call your local RSVP Field Office Coordinator to learn what's going on in your neighborhood. Remember that positions are open for weekdays and weekends.

Central Area

Eastern Area

Main Line / Bryn Mawr

North Penn

Pottstown/Collegeville

Harriet Klein

Gail Vinikoor

Sheryl Eisenhard

Esna Carver

Dollie Walsh

610/834-1365

267/518-0028

610/527-8806

215/855-9578

610/326-9109 or 610/489-1555

Protégé Pairs Enjoy 2006 Auto Show



The 2006 Philadelphia International Auto Show was a great opportunity to shop for cars, brush up on the latest technology and meet some cool celebrities. For the mentors and children of RSVP's Protégé Mentoring Program, however, the Auto Show held just a bit more meaning. For them, the Auto Show was a chance to bond and strengthen their relationships. This opportunity was presented to the mentors and their children by the Automobile Dealers CARing for Kids Foundation, who donated tickets to the Show. A 7th grader summed up the experience best, "the Auto Show was very entertaining and informative. It is an experience I will never forget. I am very appreciative."

Protégé creates and supports mentoring relationships between selected students and adult volunteers. In mentoring, the relationship is the intervention!

Interested in becoming an RSVP mentor? RSVP is looking for both men and women to meet with a great child in school for one hour per week. This is a relationship-based match, and does not include tutoring. Training and support provided. Contact Lynne Shepsman, 610-834-1040, Ext. 21 or lynnes@rsvpmc.org



Ways of Contributing to RSVP

RSVP of Montgomery County depends on generous donations from foundations, corporations, sponsorships and individuals to supplement the funding we receive from the Corporation for National and Community Service and Montgomery County Aging and Adult Services. Our need to raise additional funds to support our programs and services is always a top priority. We've listed below some ways that you might want to consider giving to RSVP.

We recognize that many of you already donate countless hours of your time toward the mission of RSVP and **we thank you again and again!** If you are able to help us out in another capacity, please consider any of the following:

Donating Stock — Another Way to Support RSVP of Montgomery County!

Donating stock or mutual funds is a tax-wise method of making a lasting contribution to RSVP of Montgomery County, a 501(c)3 organization. These gifts can help ensure that RSVP volunteers continue to provide vital support to nonprofits in Montgomery County, while also providing you with considerable tax benefits.

Income Tax Savings:

By giving appreciated securities, you can take an income tax charitable deduction equal to the full fair market value of the security on the date it was given. Your deduction is available for the year you made the gift. As an added benefit, if you cannot take the entire deduction in the first year, there is a five-year carry-over for any excess.

Capital Gain Tax Savings:

By donating appreciated securities, held for at least one year, you can avoid capital gain taxes, which you would have incurred if you had sold the security. As a result, the full value of your shares will be used to support RSVP's mission.

How It Works:

If you purchased \$5,000 worth of "ABC" Stock, and it is now worth \$10,000, you can make a \$10,000 gift to RSVP and realize the tax savings. You may take a \$10,000 charitable donation deduction on your federal income taxes, saving \$2,800 in federal income tax, and avoiding a capital gain tax of \$1,000.

You may e-mail any questions about donating stock to jessicaj@rsvpmc.org, or for additional information, see Internal Revenue Publication No. 526, Charitable Contributions.

Gifts Online — Credit card donations can be made through the **Network for Good** icon on the RSVP web site (www.rsvpmc.org)

Internet Donation — Search the web using www.goodsearch.com as your search engine, and money from Goodsearch advertisers will be donated directly to RSVP of Montgomery County. Simply click on to www.goodsearch.com and select RSVP of Montgomery County from the drop down menu of designated charities! It's that simple!

Donor Advised Fund — If you have a donor advised fund, you may be able to recommend a charity to receive all or part of the assets remaining in the fund after your lifetime.

We have also created two plans specific to RSVP to make giving easier. **The Silver Fund** allows you to select the amount of your donation for either \$500 or \$1,000 which can then be paid over five years. Another option, **The Century Fund** is a deferred giving program. This program allows you several options of donating to us which result in immediate tax benefits.

To learn more about any of these Planned Giving options, please contact Jessica Jester, RSVP Office Administrator, jessicaj@rsvpmc.org or call 610-834-1040, ext 17.

RSVP Office Wish List

RSVP's large meeting room takes on many uses in the course of business: board and committee meetings, training sessions, book wraps and group projects. We're looking at ways to maximize the space by having smaller tables and chairs that can be folded and stored when not in use. Perhaps you would be interested in donating a table or a padded folding chair or even a whole new set of furniture for meetings and conferences. **We are looking to fund 28 chairs (\$25 each) and 8 tables (\$85 each).** If you are interested in donating funds for tables and/or chairs, please contact Jessica Jester, Office Administrator, jessicaj@rsvpmc.org or call 610-834-1040, ext. 17.

RSVP marketing and program brochures need to be updated and reprinted. If your business would be interested in sponsoring the design, printing, and/or distribution of a particular brochure, contact Jessica Jester (contact info above).



Volunteer Recognition Luncheons — Celebrating Your Ongoing Gift to Us!

We find that we can never thank you enough for your time, dedication and excellence! So once a year, we host luncheons so we can all come together and get to know each other. But also to pay tribute to *you!* Each Field Office honored their volunteers this spring and here are the highlights:



The Main Line/Bryn Mawr Field Office hosted its luncheon on April 5. More than 120 active volunteers attended the luncheon, celebrating the contributions of all RSVP volunteers. Pictured is Selma Savitz, the Main Line Volunteer-of-the Year and Executive Director of the New Horizons Glee Club, (shown in background.)



The Central Area/Plymouth Meeting Field Office recognized their volunteers with a luncheon on May 3 at the Plymouth Meeting Country Club. Volunteer-of-the-Year Claire Renner holding her award above with Harriet Klein, Field Office Coordinator.



The Eastern Area/Willow Grove Field Office held their luncheon on April 26 at the Sorella Rose Restaurant in Willow Grove. Above, Volunteer-of-the-Year Neil Gendelman is presented with his certificate. Also shown, left to right, Kerry Seiden, Eastern Area Action Committee Member; Barbara A. Nye, Financial Advisor for J. Alden Group and Gail Vinikoor, Western Area Field Coordinator.



The North Penn Area/Lansdale Field Office hosted its luncheon on May 11 at Marjeans Caterers. More than 170 active volunteers attended. Shown above, from left to right are Ruth Hardin, Abington Bank; Beverly Case, RSVP Volunteer; Richard Nordberg, 20-Year Volunteer; Esna Carver, Field Office Coordinator and Brian McGarvey, Volunteer-of-the-Year.

The Western Area/Pottstown, Colledgeville and the Perkiomen Valley Field Office held their luncheon on May 18 at the Frederick Mennonite Community. Five, Ten and Fifteen Year Pins and a Certificate of Recognition were awarded to acknowledge the contributions of volunteers. Luncheon attendees were entertained by square-dancing 4th graders from the Marlborough and Hereford Elementary Schools in the Upper Perkiomen School District, shown.



We wish to thank the contributors who made these luncheons possible...

- | | | |
|-----------------------------------|--|--|
| ■ Independence Blue Cross | ■ Citizens Bank | ■ State Senator John Rafferty |
| ■ Church of the Messiah | ■ Jay Glickman | ■ United States Congressman Chaka Fattah |
| ■ Harleysville Savings Bank | ■ Greene, Tweed & Co. | ■ United States Congressman Jim Gerlach |
| ■ Merck | ■ Harleysville National | ■ Univest |
| ■ Indian Valley Kiwanis | ■ Lifeline Family Chiropractic | ■ Louise and David Altman |
| ■ State Senator LeAnna Washington | ■ Mercy Suburban Hospital | ■ Irene Bernard Katz |
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| ■ ACTS Retirement Communities | ■ State Representative Robert Godshall | ■ State Representative Kathy Manderino |

*We Wouldn't Be Here Without Your Support...
Thank you!*



RSVP of Montgomery County is successful in its mission because of the financial support we receive from multiple sources. Our primary funding from the Corporation for National and Community Services and Montgomery County Aging and Adult Services addresses about half of our operational burden with the remainder being received through corporate, foundation, state government and individual contributions. RSVP would not be in existence today without the generous support of our funders listed below. We thank you!

Annual Funding of \$100,000+

Corporation for National and Community Service
Montgomery County Office on Aging and Adult Services

\$30,000

Pennsylvania Department of Education*

\$10,000-\$20,000

Arcadia Foundation
Annenberg Foundation*
IGN Foundation
Janus Foundation
Lenfest Foundation
McLean Contributionship
North Penn Community Health Foundation
Patricia Kind Family Foundation*
Pew Charitable Trusts*
Philadelphia Foundation

\$5,000-\$9,999

Anonymous
Auto Dealers CARing for Kids Foundation
BJ's Charitable Foundation
Bard Foundation
Child Development Foundation
Claneil Foundation*
Comcast Foundation
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Fourjay Foundation

\$5,000-\$9,999 (continued)

John and Chara Haas
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State Senator Stewart J. Greenleaf
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State Senator LeAnna Washington
State Senator Connie Williams
State Senator Robert Wonderling

\$1,000-\$4,999

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McNeil Consumer Products
Merck
Plymouth Township
Prudential Financial
Quaker Chemical Foundation
Skillington Foundation

\$1,000-\$4,999 (continued)

Strawbridge Charitable Trust
United Way of Western Montgomery Co.
Verizon Foundation
Wachovia Foundation
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Wyeth

\$500-\$999

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Waverly Heights

**RSVP of Montgomery County is grateful to these funders for pledging multi-year grants at this level.*

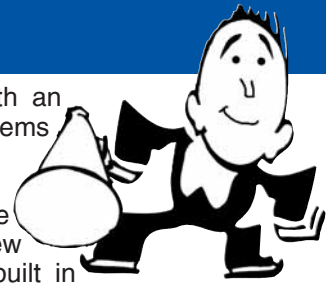
Our Apprise Medicare Insurance Counselors work tirelessly with citizens 65 and older to inform them of their options for health coverage through eight Montgomery County locations. Thanks to you, we assisted nearly 6,000 community residents assuaging concerns and answering questions. We gratefully acknowledge the contributions made by the following RSVP Apprise counselors:

Ilene Brouda
Cindy Collins-Sonnefeld
Ralph Cohen
Annlouise Devenny
Mary Drozd
Charles Dutill
Neil Gendelman

Joseph Gray
Marilyn Greenwald
Barry Haring
Harry Kahn
Marian Lewis
Betty Morrell
Elaine Nace

Rhoda Pekovsky
Ed Savitsky
Peg Sloan
Kelly Spayd
Bob Sykes
Al Toizer

Upcoming Events... Spread the Word!



The Special Events Committee, under the chairmanship of Joe Alberstadt, invests much time creating opportunities for RSVP supporters and volunteers to come together for fun while raising funds for RSVP programs. *The Step Into Spring* fashion show in May was a great success. Thank you to all who worked so hard to create a delightful Coldwater Creek/RSVP day.

browsing in the U.N. gift shop with an opportunity to purchase unusual items from around the world.

The afternoon will be spent in the historic Gracie Mansion, home to New York City mayors. The mansion, built in 1799, is furnished in federal style. Eight rooms, including the downstairs residence and reception wing are included in the tour.

Photo I.D. is required for the U.N. tour and the Delegates Dining room requires that gentlemen wear jackets (no jeans or sneakers, please). \$100 (5% discount for RSVP volunteers) includes transportation, admission, lunch, snack and gratuities. The bus will leave from Plymouth Meeting Mall, on the Germantown Ave. side of Macy's at 6:15 am and return around 7 pm.



Sunday, September 17th — For the Health of It 5K Run/1 Mile Walk & Roll and Healthy Living Expo at the Blue Bell headquarters of AETNA. Registration will begin at 8:30 AM and the run will start at 9. For those not interested in testing their endurance on the street, there's a 1 mile course mapped out around the Aetna corporate campus. As an added attraction, vendors will set up shop to give quickie massages, tasty healthy tidbits, and information about living to the fullest in good health.

Sign up before September 1st and receive a free tee-shirt. **Registration for anyone over 65 is free courtesy of AETNA.** Register online at www.rsvpmc.org/5k.php or call Sandy at (610) 834-1040 ext 10.

Shop with Friends for a Great Cause

Start your holiday shopping early, take advantage of healthy discounts, and support RSVP! Enjoy two special days of exclusive savings. Plus, enter for the chance to win great prizes.

Saturday, September 16th — Macy's (and Strawbridge's too)

Tuesday, October 17th — Boscov's Friends Helping Friends

Tickets are \$5 each. 100% of the ticket cost will go to RSVP of Montgomery County and you save 10% to 20% on most of your purchases all day! (Some restrictions apply.) Call (610) 834-1040 ext.10 to order tickets for you and your friends.

Leave the Driving and Planning to us for Two Fun-Filled Days United Nations

Thursday October 12th — Spend the morning at the United Nations building taking a one hour tour including a viewing of the General Assembly. Lunch buffet follows in the elegant United Nations Delegates Dining Room. Time will be allowed for

Longwood Gardens

Tuesday, December 5th — Bundle up and be prepared to surrender to the enchantment of the season! Longwood Gardens, one of this country's most magnificent horticultural sites, goes all out to usher in the holidays. Spectacular displays are set off with lighting effects creating magic. We will arrive in time to enjoy a delicious holiday buffet dinner in the Terrace Restaurant and have plenty of time to wander through a land of rare beauty and delight.

Comfortable shoes are recommended.

\$75 (5% discount for RSVP volunteers) includes transportation, admission, dinner and gratuities. Transportation will be arranged from both Coventry Mall in Pottstown and Plymouth Meeting Mall in Plymouth Meeting. Although the times are not yet confirmed for departure and return, plan on leaving around 1 pm and returning around 10 pm.

Make your reservation by calling (610) 834-1040 ext. 10

The Special Events Committee is beginning to plan for 2007. Please join our efforts on the committee or by volunteering for a specific event. Let us know where your interests lie and we'll take all suggestions into consideration.

RSVP Retired & Senior
Volunteer Program
of Montgomery County

531 Plymouth Road, Suite 517
Plymouth Meeting, PA 19462

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