

RSVP

NOTES & NEWS

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IN THIS EDITION

Volunteer
Spotlight

Humanitarian
Award

Volunteering in
a Pandemic

Prescription
Discounts

Backpacks
United



VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

*Shirley Stallworth Moorehead,
SoJourney Truth House in Gary, IN*

Meet Shirley Moorehead, who is a rising star in Northwest Indiana! After retiring from Gary Community School Corporation as an educator, Shirley decided that she wanted to give back to her community. One day while reading the newspaper, Shirley saw an article about all the services that SoJourney Truth House (STH) provided for the homeless, at-risk women and their children. She was so impressed that she made the decision to devote her time and energy to others who were less fortunate.

At the time, Shirley had no idea how long this new journey would last. Fifteen years later, she is one of the longest active volunteers who continues to serve at SoJourney Truth House! When she first began volunteering at STH, Shirley was so eager that she literally did any and everything to help the clients and staff. Some of her duties involved distributing laundry supplies, compiling handouts, updating files and more. Shirley is currently an Intake Interviewer, assessing the needs of those who come to SoJourney Truth House for assistance. While serving at STH, Shirley joined RSVP in 2012.

She says, "I joined the RSVP program because it provides older citizens an opportunity to apply their life experiences and skills to help others in the community. In the process I've met other retirees from various walks of life, who I have bonded with over time, and I look forward to sharing ideas and supporting one another in the future. My experience with RSVP has been wonderful! I enjoy the annual appreciation events that bring all volunteers together, and I've been blessed to continue those new relationships. It also gives me a sense of purpose and a feeling that I am still a viable contributor to society."

Shirley's journey has not been without its challenges. Sister Peg Spindler, CSA Executive Director at SoJourney Truth House, remembers how Shirley got started years ago by helping out with the annual walkathon, and bringing her son Jonathan (now deceased) along with her to be their first disc jockey. Through the death of her son and her husband, Shirley still maintains her commitment. "She's quite a lady," says Sister Peg.

Shirley is an avid volunteer who continues to serve at many other organizations such as her church home, St. Timothy Community Church in Gary, coordinating the after school tutoring and enrichment program; Zeta Phi Beta, helping to distribute food baskets to families in need; Urban League of Northwest Indiana, working to improve the social, educational and economical conditions of individuals in Lake, LaPorte and Porter County; and the Gary-Tuskegee Alumni Association. She is also a recipient of the 2020 Golden Hoosier Award for her volunteer work over the years. Congratulations to you, Shirley on your many accomplishments. RSVP is honored to have you and we look forward to serving many more years together!

If you or someone you know is looking for an outlet to use their gifts and talents, the Retired and Senior Volunteer Program has many different opportunities. Sign up to learn more!



DIRECTOR'S CORNER

"It's that time of year again, where pumpkin spice and hot chocolate are in high demand! We wrapped up our summer by hand-delivering 241 \$25 restaurant gift cards to volunteers to say 'thank you.' This project took me across four counties and I was blessed to connect with many wonderful people I hadn't met before. It was a wonderful experience—almost like meeting long lost family members! Thank you for your hospitality, for offering me a drink to quench my thirst during the hot summer days and for handing me a treat along the way. I enjoyed every bit of it! Hats off to Ginger Brockwehl who assisted in the project and distributed gift cards to Porter County RSVP volunteers. I am so appreciative of your continued service during these challenging times, and I truly believe that we will definitely get through this together. On behalf of United Way and RSVP, we acknowledge those who have been affected by COVID-19, and we stand with you. You are definitely in our thoughts and prayers. Happy Holidays to you all, and I'll see you in the new year!"

Evelyn Harris,
AmeriCorps Seniors/RSVP Regional Director

SOCIAL DISTANCING VOLUNTEER ASSIGNMENTS

Grocery Shopping Volunteer

Shop and deliver groceries to the door of a neighbor, senior, etc. As a safety precaution, the volunteer isn't required to enter any homes. Instead, volunteers will leave the delivery on the porch and notify residents.

RSVP Volunteer Survey Taker

Volunteer surveys are normally completed every year during the Volunteer Appreciation Banquet to measure the performance of the RSVP program. Due to COVID-19, we were unable to meet this year. We are looking for volunteers who are willing to call members that don't have email to take their survey responses over the phone.

Inspirational Note Writing Volunteer

Write encouraging notes for food pantry clients to give them hope and let them know that they are not alone. Due to COVID-19, many of them are using food pantry services for the first time.

RSVP Resource Volunteer

Call members without email to notify them of program updates, news, referrals and more.

Crafting for Love Volunteers

Sew COVID-19 face masks, hospital gowns and seasonal items such as gloves, hats and scarves. Or recruit volunteers and sewing clubs to help make face masks and hospital gowns to be used by medical professionals, first responders, senior centers and other volunteers as they serve.

Social Distance Transporter Volunteer

Volunteers who are willing to provide transportation for others to critical medical appointments, pharmacies and grocery stores. Volunteers and clients are provided gloves and masks. To social distance, clients will ride in the passenger-side back seat.

Meals on Wheels Phone Pal Volunteer

Provide wellness checks and social support to Meals on Wheels clients via phone.

Companionship Volunteer

Assist individuals in need with grocery deliveries, medication deliveries, rescheduling doctor's appointments, enrolling for mobile meals, connecting to mental health support services or just being a listening ear.

RSVP Volunteer to Volunteer Calls

Since many members live alone, we're looking for volunteers to place wellness calls to ensure RSVP members are doing well.

Stress Reduction Support Volunteers

Provides information about ways to help reduce stress and anxiety. Will conduct wellness checks, provide information about depression and stress reduction and refer individuals in need of further assistance to professionals with the help of RSVP staff.

Computer Buddies

Assist RSVP members with social media (setting up emails, Facebook, shopping online, etc.).

Volunteer opportunities are subject to change based on availability.

2020 Duneland Chamber COMMUNITY AWARDS LUNCHEON

HUMANITARIAN OF THE YEAR

HUMANITARIAN OF THE YEAR AWARD

The Duneland Chamber of Commerce recognized our COVID relief efforts by honoring us with their 2020 Humanitarian of the Year Award.

"What a great honor to recognize the togetherness of our community. Thank you to all who support United Way of Porter County and understand that we are here for the long-term to help our neighbors recover. Live United!"

— Kim Olesker, President & CEO, United Way of Porter County

RXGO.COM PRESCRIPTION DISCOUNT PROGRAM

RXGo offers up to 85% discount on everyday prescriptions and is available to anyone, regardless of health insurance status. Coupons can be found online at [RXgo.com/unitedwaypc](https://www.rxgo.com/unitedwaypc). Utilize their comparison tool to get discount coupons on a variety of prescriptions at a variety of pharmacy locations. Pick the one best for you, print and go!

When you redeem your RXgo.com coupon, the company donates 15% of each coupon to United Way of Porter County.

BACKPACKS UNITED

During the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, ever-increasing numbers of children and families in our community are suffering from hunger. In the Valparaiso school district alone, nearly 2x as many children are hungry and need your help. Will you help hungry children in our community eat today for a brighter future tomorrow? Donate up to \$300 to count toward the new CARES Act Charitable Deduction. Donate online at unitedwaypc.org/backpacks-united or mail a check made out to United Way of Porter County to 951 Eastport Centre, Valparaiso, IN 46383.

UNITED WAY OF PORTER COUNTY

951 Eastport Centre Drive
Valparaiso, IN 46383



Unites
Northwest Indiana



**“Appreciation is a wonderful thing:
It makes what is excellent in
others belong to us as well.”**

— Voltaire



**AmeriCorps
Seniors**



Are you 55+ years and interested in volunteering? To learn more, contact Evelyn Harris at evelyn@unitedwaypc.org or 219.464.3583 x127.

The United Way of Porter County fights for the health, education and financial stability of every resident in Porter County. Together with more than 400 community partners, 2,300 donors and 4,000 volunteers, we are uplifting lives across Porter County and Northwest Indiana.

219.464.3583 | unitedwaypc.org | [f/unitedwaypc](https://www.facebook.com/unitedwaypc)