

RSVP NOTES & NEWS

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IN THIS EDITION

2022 RSVP Luncheon | Classic Sounds of Motown

WHAT AN AFTERNOON TO REMEMBER!



The 2022 RSVP Luncheon was full of entertainment, great food and lots of fun. The theme was Classic Sounds of Motown with a royal blue and silver scheme to incorporate the Motown label. This year's celebration was no different than the others; it was all about the volunteers. We celebrated 295 volunteers who served a total of 35,931 hours in 2021. **Based on the 2021 national volunteer hourly rate of \$29.95, RSVP volunteer generosity equals \$1,076,133.45!**

Jay Harris entertained the crowd singing Motown favorite hits from Smokey Robinson and The Miracles, The Temptations and much more. Volunteers received new AmeriCorps Senior-RSVP T-shirts and we had a blast giving away awards for Motown's Finest/Best-Dressed contest (classic look, most creative and most fun) and games like Name that Tune and Finish the Lyrics using Motown's most memorable tunes. Chuck Polusky, AKA Charlotte for the afternoon, was awarded first place for Motown's Finest because he dressed as Diana Ross from head to toe, including polishing his toenails! Thank you to everyone who participated in the contests with a special thanks and congratulations to contest winners: Airlie Crenshaw, Wanda Riley, Kathy Schutz, Pat DeNeal, Sandra Johnson, Eileen Nelson and Ray Price.

Volunteers and Station Managers attended from all four RSVP counties: Lake, LaPorte, Porter and Starke counties. Thank you so much for your hard work to help your community and our partners thrive.

RSVP volunteers work hard and are committed to serving their community, therefore, we play hard, too, to show our appreciation for all they do. If you are interested in paying it forward, giving back, finding purpose, meeting new people or just impacting the lives of everyday people in your community, join RSVP so we can appreciate you as well!





Evelyn Harris,
Regional Director,
NWI AmeriCorps Seniors/
Retired & Senior Volunteer Program

HELLO, MY FELLOW RSVP-ERS!

Many thanks to everyone who attended and those who worked behind the scenes to pull off this year's RSVP Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon! We had a great time and received awesome feedback from volunteers and station managers alike.

My heart is full because there is no way I could pull off our events without my wonderful RSVP Advisory Group. They give their all under every circumstance and learn to adapt and adjust with ease. I cannot ask for a better team of individuals: Jan Bays, Ginger Brockwehl, Cheryl Daurer, Emma Greenwood, Bev Hmurovic, Lisa Leach, Carol McCreery, Erin Moore, Ed Seykowski, Beth Szamatowicz, Events Committee Volunteer Jennifer Jones and RSVP Coordinator Charlene Joyce.

Thank you to United Way of Northwest Indiana Volunteer and Event Manager Anne-Marie Williams for being our photographer, my daughter Jasmin DuBose for being our runner and, finally, my husband Jay Harris for always being supportive and volunteering as our resident entertainer!

If you are interested in joining our Events Committee to assist with annual events, contact me at 219.464.3583 ext. 127 or evelyn@unitedwaynwi.org. We would love to have you!

Here are just some of the great quotes received about this year's luncheon:

"Expressing my appreciation! RSVP Staff needs to be cloned, what a blessing everyone is!! Everyone is exceptionally friendly. Evelyn, what a super special time we had. We're so grateful for RSVP, but mostly for all the people we meet. Everyone has a reason for continuing to be part of something so special, which is United Way RSVP Program. Today was no exception, Wonderful loving board, your smiles mean a lot! Well organized. Awesome entertainment. Great servers. Delicious food. Thanks to United Way and RSVP Board – you are All Amazing People!!!" – **Nancy Bedolla, RSVP Volunteer and Helping Hands Food Pantry Station Manager**

"Good afternoon. I wanted to give you time to recover. The luncheon was absolutely enjoyable. I wouldn't be anything else at this point in my life than an RSVP volunteer. I've been so blessed. This is my way of giving back. And thank you for the gifts, as well. You are a wonderful person and so is your family. God bless."
– **Pat DeNeal, RSVP Volunteer at Sojourner Truth House**

"It was an awesome event; and the food was good." – **Cindy Benke, Executive Director at Community Services of Starke County**

"Amazing! These events keep getting better and better! The Sojourner Truth House volunteers really enjoyed themselves. Thank you for all the love you share." – **Kristy Olsen, Sojourner Truth House Community Resource Supervisor**

"What an awesome event! I am truly thankful for the invite. I know I am an RSVP volunteer but have never considered myself part of the senior "group". Again, many thanks!" – **Linda Alessi, RSVP Volunteer**

"Thank you so much sis for an awesome event. It was my first but definitely not my last. You looked beautiful...Much love!"
– **Sandra Johnson, Food Bank Northwest Indiana Station Manager and Volunteer**

"Great Event!" – **Mark Zimmerman, RSVP Volunteer**

"Dave and I want to say "Thank You" for the wonderful time we had at the luncheon today - great food, entertainment, prizes and conversation! We were happy to connect with other volunteers and share our stories and ideas with each other. You and your husband perform so well together, and I marvel at your musical talents!! The costume contest was so much fun as well as the name that tune and finish the lyric games. I never thought I would win anything, and I am excited about the gift card - I love Olive Garden! Thanks for the Station Manager appreciation gift as well. It truly means a lot to me! We are already looking forward to next year's gathering and hope to have a group of our volunteers attend." – **Eileen Nelson, Sacred Heart Food Pantry Station Manager**

"Loved the event! Everyone was really into the Motown theme and had a lot of fun, too." – **Adam O'Doherty, United Way of Northwest Indiana President and CEO**



**NOW, ON TO THE NEXT EVENT!
SAVE THE DATE**

**Station Managers, get ready for our annual
Station Manager Lunch and Learn on December 8.**

This year's event will be in-person, where we get to appreciate you with a lunch and a gift as our way of saying thank you for extending beyond your volunteer duties, by collecting timesheets on behalf of RSVP. Come, connect with your peers, and hear what's happening at other sites regarding RSVP's Best Practices. Jot your questions down now and be prepared to share your ideas with others. See you soon!
More information to come.

UNITED WAY OF NORTHWEST INDIANA

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Unites Northwest Indiana



Are you 55+ years and interested in volunteering? Contact Evelyn Harris at evelyn@unitedwaynw.org or 219.464.3583 x127.

United Way of Northwest Indiana helps struggling families by ensuring access to community health, education and financial stability services. In a single year, more than 22% of Northwest Indiana households are helped by United Way programs.

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