

R E P O R T

Your United Way of Broome County investment at work

January, 2002

RSVP: Seniors Helping Throughout Broome County

RSVP (the Retired and Senior Volunteer Program) is celebrating its 30th anniversary this year.

What exactly do RSVP members do?

To give you an idea, on a recent weekday:

- At 8 a.m., 14 RSVP members assembled in the community room of their high-rise apartment building in Endwell to prepare an education mailing to 4,000 people in our community.
- At 9 a.m., a husband dropped off his wife at the County Sheriff's Department on Upper Front Street to help in the office and then proceeded to the Health Department where he greeted clients as they came in to the clinic.
- In Johnson City, a volunteer helped a kindergartner as he cut out a snowflake from construction paper.
- Meanwhile, the RSVP van driver drove a woman to Lourdes Hospital so that she could assist anxious visitors and patients.
- At 10 a.m., a group of six trained volunteers met seniors at Oakdale Mall to help with tax returns.
- In Endicott a volunteer updated the computerized database of an area non-profit organization.
- At 11 a.m., groups of seniors assembled in several Broome County locations to drink coffee and Postum and receive their assignments to deliver hot meals to homebound individuals.
- Two volunteer clowns made balloon bumblebees for children at a Headstart center in Whitney Point while a group of musicians played

"Tumbling Tumbleweeds" at a senior center in Endicott.

- At noon more than 200 seniors donned aprons, hats, and gloves and served more than 1,000 friends and acquaintances hot, nutritious meals at several area locations. A volunteer spoke with a handicapped man to give



RSVP volunteer Rose Muss reads a book to a child at the Parent Resource Center in Hillcrest, N.Y.

his guidance on how to reach a dentist's appointment using the Broome County bus system.

- At 1 p.m., a retired couple began assisting food pantry clients in making their selections among the canned goods, fresh vegetables, and bakery

items available.

- At 2 p.m., 18 women took a break from knitting hats, mittens, and lap robes for the needy to enjoy a piece of cake and a story or two.
 - At 3 p.m., two volunteers wrapped up a defensive driving class for social service workers who would be transporting children and vulnerable clients.
 - At the same time, two other volunteers served juice and cookies to blood donors in Vestal.
 - The van driver picked up four frail, elderly people at an adult day center in Binghamton and returned them safely to their caregivers.
 - At 5 p.m., a volunteer exercise leader arrived in Binghamton to greet her class as they prepared to work on strengthening their bones using weights.
 - At 6:30 p.m, several volunteers when to a health facility in Chenango Forks to help residents play Bingo.
- On any given weekday last year, RSVP members gave over 500 hours of service at locations throughout Broome County. Better yet, if you asked the RSVP members, they would tell you that they received more out of their volunteer assignments than they gave.
- United Way supports RSVP through your donations. Since United Way keeps its costs low, more than 85 cents of every dollar goes to programs that serve Broome County residents.
- For more information about RSVP, call 798-9396, or visit its website at www.tier.net/rsvp