

SENIORS SERVE DURHAM

The Official Newsletter of Durham RSVP



Mike Sweeney, one of our amazing RSVP volunteers, earned the President's Lifetime Achievement Award for 4000+ hours of service. Mike is deeply involved with The Triangle Nonprofit & Volunteer Leadership Center, Wheels for Hope, Dorcas Ministries, The Caring Place and others.



Barbara Thomas, pictured left with AmeriCorps Portfolio Manager Sylvia Pace, Barbara Thomas received the Silver Level Presidential Service Award. Additionally, RSVP volunteer, Ann Lassiter, also received the Silver Level Award! Way to go, RSVP!

*More news
inside:*

- Upcoming Community Engagement Events
- Volunteer Position Spotlight
- Wellness Tips

Hello from Sarah Cline, new Program Manager

Hello, amazing RSVP Volunteers! I am so excited to come to you this month with some new opportunities, fun happenings, and ways to get even more involved with the Durham community.

It is my top priority to get to know volunteers and to find placements that are fulfilling. I am always open to suggestions for programming, community engagement, and organizations that are of interest-- so if you have great ideas, I am all ears!

THANK YOU for being an RSVP member-- the Durham community would not be the same without you.

Community Engagement Events

Durham Community Volunteer Network: Speaker Series

- **What:** A monthly gathering to spotlight local nonprofits and give volunteers a chance to network and socialize over a love for the community
- **Who:** RSVP Volunteers, Durham Center for Senior Life Volunteers, and Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI)
- **Where:** Durham Center for Senior Life in the Café
- **When:** October 27, 3-4 pm

Our first meeting will feature leadership from Meals on Wheels Durham and focus on food insecurity issues. Volunteers will enjoy some refreshments and conversation post-presentation!

Let us know if you can make it [here!](#)

Weekly Coffee Shop Meet-up

In an effort to meet our RSVP community, I will be at the below locations to check-in and have some good conversation! You can count on some RSVP swag, a smile, and some great conversation starters:

- Wednesday, 10/26 @ Gugglehupf, 10-11 am
- Thurs. 11/3 @ Joe Van Gogh (Hope Valley), 11-12 pm
- Tuesday, 11/8 @ Foster Street Coffee, 1-2 pm
- Monday, 11/14 @ Mad Hatter, 9-10am

Favorite coffee shop not on the list? Let me know so we can schedule future meetings there!

Book Club Interest Form

We're starting a book club-- you're invited!

We plan to hold bi-weekly book club meetings-- more details to come.

Please fill out [this interest form](#) and look out for more info to come!

Learn more about the Osher Institute for Lifelong Learning [here!](#)

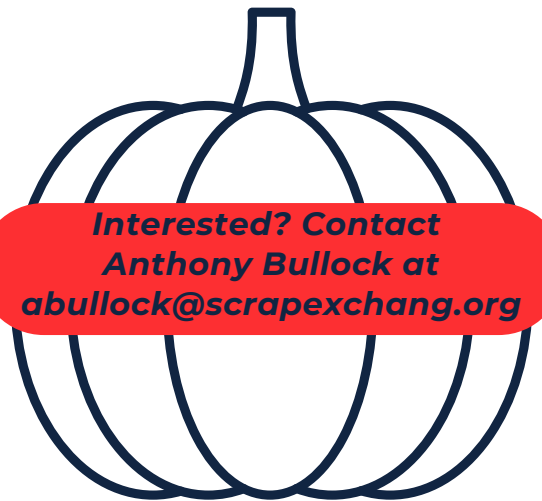
Volunteer Needs

The Scrap Exchange Needs Your Help!

Calling all artist volunteers:

The Scrap Exchange needs help leading up to their Scrap-o-Ween event on October 29th. They are looking for volunteers to help paint, put together decorations, and generate ideas for the event.

They also need support for Scrap-o-Ween, taking place from 11am-6pm. The event will include craft workshops, games, food, and more!



**Interested? Contact
Anthony Bullock at
abullock@scrapexchang.org**

New Volunteer Station Spotlight: Durham VA Medical Center

We are so excited to work with the Durham VA Medical Center to support their efforts of serving veterans in our community. Their current volunteer needs will directly support medical staff, patients and their families!

They are looking to fill four exciting positions:

[Nurse Ambassador](#), [Canteen Assistant](#), and [Logistics Assistant](#).

Check them out on HandsOn Triangle or give me a call!

TNVLC Immediate Needs

TNVLC needs a feature writer to carry on the tradition of Volunteer of the Week. Our Volunteer of the Week profile honors a vital member of the community and is a paragraph posted to our channels/newsletters. Learn more about the need [here](#), and please email kim@thevolunteercenter.org

Additionally, we are **urgently** looking for support with data entry for our Thanksgiving and Christmas programs. Please email adrienne@thevolunteercenter.org for more details.

RSVP Testimonial: Ellen Stutts

Ellen Stutts has been working with the DPS Foundation in their literacy tutoring program since April. She works with her 5th grade student on reading and spelling-- mainly, they go over words together, look at books, and have a bunch of fun.

One of the things Ellen enjoys about this volunteer position is the opportunity to connect with not only the student, but the student's family, as well. Ellen tutored throughout the summer and has continued with her student into the new school year!

We are so appreciative of Ellen for her dedication to tutoring!

Find out more about this position [here](#).

Wellness Opportunities

Senior PharmAssist Open Enrollment

Since 1994, Senior PharmAssist has been helping older adults in Durham remain as healthy and active as possible for as long as possible. This trusted nonprofit:

- Helps Durham residents 60 and older with limited incomes pay for and manage their medications to maximize benefits and limit risks.
- Connects participants with other valuable programs and services, including food, transportation, Medicare subsidies, etc.
- Offers Medicare counseling to any Medicare beneficiary – regardless of age or income – at no charge to ensure individuals can access the care they need at a price they can afford. This includes both drug plans and health plans. Senior PharmAssist is the Seniors' Health Insurance Information Program (SHIIP) coordinating site for Durham, which is part of the NC Dept. of Insurance. Each year, roughly two-thirds of individuals counseled with Part D drug plans switch coverage; they had a mean savings of \$673 last year. Senior PharmAssist's staff and volunteers are well-trained and unbiased; they are not selling anything.

Medicare's Open Enrollment Period, runs from Oct. 15—Dec. 7.

Call 919-688-4772 for an appointment. Transportation and interpretation can be arranged as well as video or telephone conferences, if necessary.

In talking with our volunteers, I always enjoy learning something new I did not previously know about them. If you have a new development in your life, whether it be a surgery or a new grandchild, I'd love to hear about it! You can always reach me at 919-321-6932 or sarah@tnvlc.onmicrosoft.com.

Free AARP Virtual Workshop on Vehicle Technology

Technology is changing the driving experience. The new Smart DriverTEKSM interactive virtual workshop, developed jointly by AARP Driver Safety and The Hartford, will keep you in the know about the latest high-tech safety features in your current or future car. Learn all about forward collision warnings, lane departure warnings, future safety technology and more. This free, 90-minute virtual workshop takes place on Zoom. Space is Limited, so register for a workshop now:
<https://aarp.cvent.com/sdtekvirtual>

Durham County Public Health Immediate Need

Do you speak Spanish? Are you passionate about community health issues?

If so, we have a terrific volunteer opportunity for you! Volunteers are needed both for the county-wide and Comunidad Latina surveys to go door-to-door in teams of two to ask Durham residents their opinions about community and health issues. Data will be used to inform future public health decisions.

Surveys will be conducted in either full or half day shifts from 10am to 6pm, Wednesdays-Saturdays.

Click [HERE](#) to read more and register to volunteer!

Questions? Contact Bria Miller at briamiller@dconc.gov

**Want to participate but don't have a partner? Email me at sarah@tnvlc.onmicrosoft.com to be paired with another RSVP volunteer!