
SENIOR CORPS AND HOMELAND SECURITY (Updated 12/9/03)

This report contains examples of Senior Corps grantees engaged in Homeland Security activities related to the terrorist attacks on the United States on September 11, 2001, as well as statistical data from two reports on related activities of RSVP volunteers.

The report is presented in four sections:

1. *September 11th: In the Aftermath*—providing assistance in direct response to the terrorist attacks.
2. *Homeland Security and Disaster Preparedness/Response*—Senior Corps volunteers helping to keep America safe.
3. *Public Safety*—Senior Corps volunteers and selected public safety examples.
4. *Environmental Security and Defense*—includes the Senior Ranger Corps, an initiative placing senior volunteers in national parks, and the Senior Environmental Corps Program for Homeland Security.

1. September 11th—In the Aftermath

Indiana

Lutheran Foundation, Allen County Indiana RSVP, Fort Wayne

As a Red Cross Disaster Team Nurse, RSVP volunteer Delores (Gus) Eash has been called to many national disasters. She used her professional skills in the aftermath of September 11th by serving onsite at “Ground Zero” in New York. When she returned from the site of the World Trade Center, Ms. Eash provided the following report to RSVP:

“On September 11, 2001, I received a call from the National Headquarters of the American Red Cross in Washington D.C. to go to New York City to help with the World Trade Center disaster. On September 19, 2001, I left Ft. Wayne by plane and arrived at American Red Cross Headquarters in New York City. I was stationed in a service center two blocks from ground zero. I felt that it was sacred ground. I stayed 10 days helping victims regain lost medicines/new medicines and any other medical supplies. Most of these people were out of jobs and had no resources, except the help from the American Red Cross.

“The next 11 days were spent on Pier 94 where the death certificates were distributed to families. Our group of Red Cross nurses helped many more victims. My “co-workers” were from all over the United States, all volunteers and most were gray or white-haired.”

Iowa

The Finley Hospital, Dubuque RSVP, Dubuque

Three RSVP of Dubuque volunteers assisted the Red Cross with a blood drive on September 13, 14, and 20. The volunteers greeted donors, and helped them to complete forms and register. The volunteers also replenished refreshments in the canteen. Because of their help, the Red Cross was able to collect 175 pints of blood more efficiently.

Massachusetts

Community Teamwork, Inc., RSVP of Lowell, Lowell

At the RSVP “Salute to Seniors” Luncheon, RSVP of Lowell collected \$500.00 to kick-off the relief effort in New York. Lynn Brown-Zounes, RSVP Project Director, said, “Maybe we could continue the trend around the country. God Bless. Thank you seniors, staff, and guests.”

Missouri

Central Missouri Human Development Corp, Columbia-Central Missouri FGP, Columbia

Northeast R-W Elementary School, a Foster Grandparent volunteer station and placement site, is located in the small town of Cairo, Missouri. The school raised \$700 for the Twin Towers Fund by selling cards and donating the proceeds. Every child in the school sent a “thank you” card to the heroes of September 11th—the firefighters, police, and emergency workers. The card drive was coordinated through the Missouri Commission on National & Community Service.

Foster Grandparent Project Director Ann Gilchrist observed the following: “One of the most interesting changes in our program since September 11th is the change in the emotions of the Foster Grandparents. It's like they went into survival mode. After all, they survived the Great Depression, World War II, the Korean War, and some even remember World War I. They are very conscious of children's fears and even site supervisors' nervousness and they provide reassurance. It is extraordinary.”

New York

Community Service Society of New York, New York City RSVP, New York

RSVP formed a linkage with Safe Horizon soon after its Family Assistance Center was established at Pier 94, where FEMA is on site to assist the victims of September 11th. Services provided include advocacy, counseling and entitlement services, and the volunteers are called “ACES” volunteers.

A total of four RSVP/ACES volunteers linked up with Safe Horizon—two at the Family Assistance Center and two at the Safe Horizon borough office in Queens. The volunteers completed an extensive training program to become ACES volunteers. The volunteers serve displaced workers seeking financial assistance, logging 8-hour shifts twice a week. There is no shortage of clients to assist—volunteers tell of long lines of clients waiting for assistance. Volunteers first assess the needs of the client, such as replacement of salary or need for food stamps. They also assist with client registration to FEMA.

In addition, 11 ACES volunteers have been assisting September 11th clients at Community Service Society of New York's Public Benefits Resource Center.

Cornell Cooperative Extension of Schuyler County, Schuyler/Yates Counties RSVP, Montour Falls

Schuyler/Yates County RSVP has a Memorandum of Understanding with Chemung/Schuyler Red Cross. One RSVP volunteer, Alden Starkweather, was at ground zero with Red Cross for 2 weeks immediately following September 11th. He will return to duty during the holidays to give others a chance to be with their families. Mr. Starkweather is a Korean veteran and he commented that his military service prepared him for the sights he saw in New York City and a ground zero. One of his key tasks onsite was to help feed, support and comfort the rescue workers.

Rockland Community College, RSVP in Rockland County, Spring Valley

RSVP volunteers are manning telephones at the United Way, which is coordinating a fundraising project for emergency relief.

Henry Street Settlement, Senior Companion Program of New York City

Located in Manhattan's Lower East Side, Henry Street Settlement took an active role in aiding the victims in the immediate wake of the World Trade Center attack. The Senior Services building, which houses the Senior Companion Program, was opened as a safe haven for the hundreds of people who ran from the collapsing buildings.

New York City Department for the Aging, New York City FGP

The New York City Department for the Aging, located only six blocks from the World Trade Center, has yet to regain complete telephone service. But sporadic communications have not deterred the Department's Foster Grandparent Program from its mission of providing love, support and comfort to children with special needs. In the days immediately following the September 11th terrorist attack, the Foster Grandparent field coordinators visited the 52 volunteer stations across the city, including a day care site only four blocks from the old Twin Towers. They reassured the Foster Grandparents and reminded them that now, more than ever, children in hospitals, schools, institutions and group homes needed attention, support, extra hugs and a sympathetic ear.

Steuben County Office for Aging, Steuben County RSVP, Bath

Steuben County RSVP has volunteers placed with the Red Cross. In the aftermath of September 11th, the RSVP project director contacted the Red Cross and the Disaster Services volunteers who went to New York worked side by side with FEMA. Two RSVP volunteers, a couple named Lucy and Luther Perkins, went to New York City as part of the Red Cross team. Luther was at ground zero, where he distributed food and water to rescue workers. Lucy was at Pier 93. They both served 8-10 hours a day for two weeks.

Rockland Community College, RSVP in Rockland County, Spring Valley

On November 17 and 18, 2001, five members of the Rockland Community College RSVP "Clowns R Us" troupe went to the World Trade Center Ground Zero site and entertained emergency workers during lunch and other breaks. They were a welcome sight to both workers and police, and provided much needed emotional release. A local bus company donated a bus and driver to take the entertainers to the site. The President of the bus company is a member of the RSVP Advisory Council. The clowns are now working out details to go into Manhattan during December to perform at a party the mayor's office is planning for the children of victims of the September 11th attack.

North Dakota

Stark County Council on Aging, Dakota West Region RSVP, Dickinson

RSVP volunteers helped to raise donations for the Firefighters Fund through the sale of flag pins. The first \$300 was sent to New York to help with the September 11th tragedy. The sale is still underway, but the next wave of funds was designated for the Dickinson Volunteer Fire Department. Funds will help support upgrades and special “hazmat” gear for the firefighters. The local Fire Chief expressed appreciation for the RSVP volunteer efforts.

Minot Commission on Aging, Minot RSVP, Minot

RSVP volunteers assisted Red Cross by creating donations cans, placing them out in the community and then picking them up again. A lead volunteer organized this endeavor and the volunteers worked into evening hours to get the job done. The project had a small intergenerational element, as the RSVP volunteers invited a young mother and her small child to help. The volunteers collected over \$1,200 in donations for the Red Cross and its assistance to victims of September 11th.

Ohio

Volunteer Services Agency, Inc., RSVP of Mahoning County, Youngstown.

Maureen Drummond, RSVP Project Director, shared these inspirational words and experiences with the Senior Corps list serv on September 12, 2001:

“The flag is such significant symbol strength for the United States! My Veteran volunteers gathered in my office yesterday to prepare themselves for assignments in schools. As they began their meeting, announcement came of the Pentagon bombing. They immediately redirected their conversation to consider helping the children and adults they speak to, understand what it means to be involved in an attack. Their reason: Many of the students and especially the parents they speak to, have never known war on US soil. If you haven't gotten involved with Veterans from your local VFW's and their councils, you're missing out on one of the best experiences! Let's all take some time today to remember the families, rescue workers and our nation during this tragedy. ”

Marion and Crawford Counties RSVP and AmeriCorps*VISTA

Marion and Crawford Counties RSVP and AmeriCorps*VISTA are working with emergency response authorities to ensure seniors and persons with disabilities are not overlooked in an emergency. A Homeland Security Individual Locator System database is being created to help public safety first responders to identify and locate potential victims in the event of a disaster. The database includes information on special needs, such as whether a person requires oxygen or medications, has a disability, how to get into the house, and whether there are dogs or other animals. RSVP volunteers are now distributing surveys, while two AmeriCorps*VISTA members are collecting the information and promoting the concept in neighboring counties.

Oregon

Clackamas County RSVP and SCP

Clackamas County Community Connections, sponsors of both RSVP and SCP in the county have distributed disaster preparation materials to 1,600 new patients via 40 trained volunteers. One RSVP volunteer alone has trained over 150 social service employees in disaster preparedness.

Pennsylvania

Area Agency on Aging of Somerset County, Somerset County RSVP, Somerset

On September 11th, one of the hijacked airliners crashed into the countryside in rural Somerset County. Somerset County RSVP immediately offered the assistance of their volunteers along with other community members. The Area Agency on Aging of Somerset County that sponsors the RSVP program has been providing breakfast every day to the scores of firefighters and other rescue team members who have been working on the crash site. Local restaurants and businesses are providing lunches and other food. RSVP volunteers have helped with serving meals to the rescue team members who are working around the clock. RSVP volunteers have also helped with the food preparations and bagging of the many food donations that are pouring in from the community. They are helping in many small but vitally important ways. The local MH/MR unit conducted two community mental health sessions over the weekend where RSVP volunteers assisted however needed.

Families of those killed in the crash began arriving in Somerset on Friday and RSVP has communicated through the prescribed local channels that they are willing to provide support for the families in any way possible. Local fire fighting units put forth herculean efforts in the unspeakably tragic work involved at the crash site. RSVP is there to show support and caring.

South Dakota

St. Mary's Foundation, Central South Dakota RSVP, Pierre

RSVP and Red Cross volunteer Nancy McKenney spent three weeks assisting at the Pentagon disaster site. After a brief respite in Onida, she was called to New York to assist families at the World Trade Center site.

City of Rapid City, Rapid City Area RSVP, Rapid City

In the aftermath of September 11th, RSVP volunteer Beatrice Floyd, serving through the Red Cross, first with fundraising efforts for the Red Cross disaster relief fund. For three weeks in October, she went with the Red Cross to New York. Her volunteer duties included comforting survivors and helping to provide family service information. Beatrice served at Red Cross client support centers in Newark, Edison, and Fairfield (New Jersey).

Mt. Rushmore Area

Over 100 RSVP volunteers and 200 area responders from more than thirty five federal, state, and local emergency response and support agencies participated in a disaster exercise at Mt. Rushmore. The Mt. Rushmore Memorial remained open during the exercise and visitors were encouraged to observe in the amphitheater and from the Grand View Terrace.

Texas

South East Texas RSVP

South East Texas RSVP is collaborating with the Mental Health Association of Jefferson County in the formation of a “Counseling Coalition”, a combination of faith-based, secular, educational and mental health personnel. The Coalition is assembling and training a large and diverse group of counselors (secular and non-secular) to respond to both natural and man-made disasters. RSVP volunteers organize logistics and other details for the coalition’s training projects.

Utah

Salt Lake County RSVP

Salt Lake County RSVP volunteers participated in the annual Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) mock disaster drills. The drills are an important part of training for CERT members, providing an opportunity to practice the skills they have learned. CERT members deal with disaster in their neighborhoods until the professionals get there. RSVP volunteers assisted with the drills in areas such as registration of participants, safety monitors and mock victims.

Virginia

Campagna Center, RSVP of the Campagna Center, Alexandria

RSVP volunteers are helping with the Red Cross and local hospital Blood banks. RSVP volunteers will also be working in the airports with Traveler's Aid.

League of Older Americans RSVP, RSVP of Roanoke/Vall/Alleghany/Highland Counties, Roanoke

Virginia Red Cross volunteers worked overtime at the blood donor center. One of their volunteers is an RSVP Red Cross disaster volunteer and is involved in training as well as direct service. She has been helping with emergency blood services. This same volunteer teaches English as a second language to a group of 6 Afghan women through Immigration and Refugee Services. She spent last week with them discussing problems they may encounter.

The American Red Cross Portsmouth Chapter, Portsmouth RSVP, Portsmouth

RSVP volunteers are in the community helping with the blood drives as well as answering telephones and giving out information at the Chapter office. They have been inundated with telephone calls from concerned citizens asking how to help.

West Virginia

Brooke County Committee on Aging, Brooke and Hancock Counties RSVP, Follansbee

RSVP Project Director Donna Weaver reports, “RSVP volunteers are serving as registers, walkers and manning the canteen at three local blood drives during this first week after the WTC disaster. I'm certain there will be many more blood drives that they will assist with in the coming days, weeks and months. They are also helping with food drives for disaster victims.”

2. Homeland Security and Disaster Preparedness/Response

California

Lifespan Services Network, Inc., RSVP San Luis Obispo/Santa Maria Valley

After the September 11th attack, the Lifespan RSVP of California's Central Coast surveyed all volunteers to establish a database of RSVP volunteers with critical skills in an emergency situation, including doctors, nurses, engineers, and counselors. The survey concentrated on four areas of skills that would be beneficial in an emergency or disaster situation: mass care, case work, and damage assessment and donations management in a crisis situation. The volunteer skills database is a tool to organize the information, and the data retrieved can help to mobilize volunteers to assist in the community, should such a need arise.

Wise Senior Services, Santa Monica RSVP

RSVP volunteers are available to support special homeland security events, as needed. Fifteen RSVP volunteers provided assistance to the Los Angeles FBI on staff registration and information booths for a national conference on Financial Institution Fraud, January 14-15, 2002. The volunteers were invited to stay and participate in the two-day conference. Keynote speakers addressed the topic of Homeland Security.

Southern California Senior Corps Projects

From helping evacuate families and preparing meals for firefighters, to collecting donations and caring for children who can't return to their homes, hundreds of Senior Corps volunteers responded to the devastating fires that swept across Southern California in late October. Many Senior Corps projects dropped everything to mobilize staff and volunteers to support first responders and attend to the needs of evacuated families. Some examples include:

- **RSVP of Greater Whittier:** About 50 volunteers trained in disaster preparedness through LA County Sheriff's Dept. were called into action in the Grand Prix fires.
- **San Diego FGP:** Over 70 Foster Grandparents served in local churches and shelters to provide comfort and reassurance to needy parents, and to read and play with the children who were not able to return to their homes. Foster Grandparents also helped to take care of children while their parents sought FEMA and Red Cross assistance. Catholic Charities coordinated this effort with the San Diego Red Cross.

- **San Diego Aging and Independence Services RSVP:** All volunteers with the Chula Vista/National City, Escondido, Highway Patrol and Sheriff's departments reported to their stations to assist with local efforts to reduce looting and to guard structures in affected areas. At least 250–300 volunteers assisted the many community policing stations.
- **RSVP of San Bernardino** volunteers worked twelve hour shifts assisting the Phelan sheriff in evacuation efforts. Many of these volunteers are members of the station's search and rescue team and have worked in forest fire emergencies in the past.

Delaware

Sussex County RSVP

Sussex County RSVP volunteers distributed Family Emergency Preparedness pamphlets and educated their coastal community on planning for Hurricane Isabel. They had been previously trained and certified by the Delaware Emergency Management Agency and served as the Neighborhood Watch Coordinators in their area.

Florida

Seminole Community Volunteer Programs, Inc., Seminole County RSVP, Lake Mary

Seminole County RSVP was the recipient of a \$22,500 grant from *Volunteer Florida!* under the "Operation Step Up Homeland Security" initiative. Seminole Community Volunteer Program, Inc., (SCVP) the recipient of record, is one of 12 volunteer centers in Florida to be awarded funds under the CNCS grant to *Volunteer Florida!* As a sub-grantee SCVP will use these funds to address Disaster Volunteer Management, Volunteer Management Mentoring and "Front Porch" Preparedness. "Our goal is to increase the numbers of volunteers (particularly senior citizens) involved with disaster planning, preparedness and response and to make Seminole County more disaster ready," said Pat Shields, RSVP project director.

Neighborly Senior Services, Manatee County RSVP, Sarasota

RSVP sponsor *Meals on Wheels plus of Manatee County* has partnered with the *American Red Cross* to recruit and train disaster volunteers to enhance Homeland Security in their service area. Facilitating this effort is a \$17,760 *Programs of National Significance (PNS)* grant from the Corporation. Rusceen Norman, RSVP Homeland Security Volunteer Recruiter, will recruit volunteers for American Red Cross Disaster Action Teams. These teams will be trained to respond to single-family disasters, to staff hurricane shelters and to assist in the delivery of community education for emergencies training course, including the newest Red Cross course, "Preparing For the Unexpected." "This course teaches citizens to be prepared for acts of terrorism, chemical and biological emergencies," said Natalie Schiff, RSVP project director.

Georgia

Senior Citizen Council of Greater Augusta

Several RSVP volunteers were recently trained by the Red Cross to serve on Disaster Action Teams. Volunteers will be "on call" weekends, day and night, to go to disaster areas (including

home fires), assess the needs of the victims, and distribute Red Cross vouchers for food, emergency shelter, and clothing.

Overview, Inc., Overview FGP and SCP, Milledgeville

Foster Grandparents and Senior Companions in Milledgeville participated in a mock bio-terrorism attack at the Mental Health/Mental Retardation residential facility. During this mock emergency, the Foster Grandparents and Senior Companions assisted local officials in the implementation of safety procedures established to respond to such an attack. Law enforcement and health officials were on hand to educate all involved with the evacuation and medical procedures needed. Local officials called the response to the mock attack a great success and feel that the Senior Companions and Grandparents involved served an important role in the safety of staff and facility residents.

Hawaii

Hawaii County RSVP

200 RSVP of Hawaii County volunteers in partnership with the Home Safety Monitoring Program, provided over \$12,000 worth of home safety security improvements. Smoke alarms, fire extinguishers, nightlights, cordless telephones, emergency flashing beacon lights, first aid kits, emergency telephone listings, and house numbers were provided and/or installed by RSVP volunteers.

Illinois

John Wood Community College, Adams County RSVP, Quincy

Adams County RSVP is a partner in the Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster Alliance. Other member/partner organizations include the Red Cross, Adams County 911, Ambulance Service, Area Agency on Aging, Blessing Hospital, Emergency Services and Disaster Agency, Quincy Fire Department, Regional Superintendent of Schools, and United Way. The partners meet on a regular basis to plan and organize the role of each the event of a major disaster. RSVP's role in the comprehensive plan is to coordinate recruitment and referral of volunteers to the disaster sight. RSVP would also recruit volunteers to for phone lines and to help persons needing services one-on-one.

Illinois/Iowa

Great River Bend Area Agency on Aging, Quad Cities RSVP (RSVP of Eastern Iowa and Western Illinois), Davenport, IA

Serving Davenport, Iowa and Rock Island, Illinois

RSVP of Eastern Iowa and Western Illinois assisted FEMA with flood recovery during the spring of 2001. As part of the Voluntary Organizations Active in Disasters Alliance, RSVP volunteers assisted by making deliveries, flood victim intake, and small job fix-ups.

Indiana

Allen County RSVP

1,066 RSVP of Allen County volunteers are taking a lead role in organizing the Citizens Corps of Allen County. 500 names have been collected for a volunteer data base. When completed, it will identify people with special skills, such as ham radio operators, those with first aid training, and people with language skills. It will also list people with special needs, including those who have disabilities or are homebound. RSVP volunteers work on data entry and are often included as special skills volunteers.

The project has also joined a group of community organizations, agencies and faith-based groups to assist Allen County residents who are in need of long term assistance due to flooding last summer. It now hosts the local offices of FEMA and Small Business Administration, where county residents can file for federal flood relief. An AmeriCorps*VISTA member assisting the project is working with city and county Homeland Security Directors to develop a plan of action for the next community emergency.

Kansas

McPherson/Sedgwick/Buttler RSVP

RSVP of McPherson/Sedgwick/Butler assisted the Metropolitan Medical Response System (MMRS), a U.S. Department of Homeland Security contract with the local metropolitan government, by assisting with an 8,000-piece mailing to the public. The focus of the MMRS is to provide a strong local medical response if a terrorist attack or public health emergency occurs.

Butler/McPherson/Sedgwick SCP

Butler/McPherson/Sedgwick SCP volunteers disseminated to updated information from the Red Cross Disaster Services, Salvation Army Disaster Services, and KAKE TV Weather Services on what to do in case of a disaster. The Senior Companions also participated in an in-service training on “shelter in place” in case of a disaster.

Maryland

St. Mary’s County Board of Commissioners, St. Mary’s County RSVP, Leonardtown

St. Mary’s County RSVP has two volunteers serving through the Red Cross who are engaged in emergency planning. Several other RSVP volunteers serve through the St. Mary’s County Sheriff’s Office. These volunteers help the Deputies in any emergency situation.

Baltimore City SCP

Baltimore City SCP has developed a partnership with the Mid-Atlantic Regional Community Policing Institute to provide Senior Companions with homeland security education and training classes over a five month period.

Massachusetts

City of Boston—Department of Elderly Affairs, RSVP of Boston

RSVP of Boston has the following volunteers performing services to help ensure security and safety:

- One volunteer at Red Cross,
- Four volunteers at Edwards Brooks Courthouse helping with security for the Family Court, and
- Six “Seniors Count” volunteers (includes senior RSVP volunteers and AC*VISTA). Seniors Count volunteers provide public safety information to seniors through a door-to-door initiative founded by Mayor Merino.

Citizens for Citizens, Inc., Fall River-Taunton RSVP, Fall River

Eight RSVP volunteers in Taunton are trained on a yearly basis by FEMA in emergency evacuation procedures and management for the greater Taunton area. The volunteers then serve as part of the evacuation support team. They are trained at the Pilgrim Nuclear Power Plant in Plymouth.

City of Worcester, Worcester Area RSVP, Worcester

An in-service training for RSVP literacy tutors and designed by Worcester Area RSVP’s VISTA member will focus on “What Does Homeland Security Have To Do With Me?” Topics include: taking care of myself—why? how to talk with kids; symptoms of trauma-related stress; what do I do if I suspect a critical problem; play therapy, and disaster preparedness and procedures.

Michigan

Gaylord Community College, RSVP of Otsego County, Gaylord

RSVP of Otsego County project director Tami Phillips serves on the board of the local FEMA as recording secretary, as well as the Salvation Army Board. Salvation Army distributes FEMA dollars for Otsego County. Two RSVP volunteers also serve on the Salvation Army Board, including RSVP volunteer Mary Sanders, who also serves on the “911 Advisory Committee.” Their group is part of a first response emergency team if a disaster occurs and comfort items are needed. Three other RSVP volunteers serve through the “First Call for Help,” which is the vehicle to distribute FEMA funds to those in need, with other volunteers reporting to duty as needed. This partnership is well established, and RSVP is considered a major player in the disaster preparedness of Otsego County.

Senior Neighbors Inc, RSVP of Kent County, Grand Rapids

Grand Rapids has over 130 RSVP volunteers serving in 5 local law enforcement agencies. From January through the end of October, 2001, these volunteers served more than 22,000 hours in their communities. At \$14.26 per hour (the Private Sector value of community service time) these volunteers saved their local communities \$313,720. These volunteers perform a myriad of duties which include: identifying and ticketing abandoned vehicles, assisting with

crowd control at public events; completing vacation home checks; stolen vehicle checks, issuing illegal handicapped parking warnings and tickets for those violating handicapped parking ordinances; assisting the Victim Witness Unit with tasks from delivering subpoenas to offering sympathy to victims.

Additionally, through a program names YANA (You are Not Alone), volunteers conduct one-on-one visits to the homebound and infirmed to check on the safety of the home (repairing and securing locks and windows) and safety of the occupants (making refrigerator checks to ensure food is not spoiled.)

Catholic Social Services/St. Vincent, Lansing RSVP

Teams of RSVP “Yellow Jacket” volunteers are being organized to work with City of Lansing Police Department during public events and special occasions, such as parades, festivals, and athletic events. Team members will dress in highly visible yellow jackets and be outfitted with radios, remaining on alert for any safety or security needs among the people attending.

Minnesota

City of St. Cloud, St. Cloud RSVP, St. Cloud

As part of the Stearns-Benton Counties Emergency Management Plan, St. Cloud RSVP is prepared to coordinate the volunteers, donated goods and financial resources needed to respond to a local disaster. In partnership with officials from law enforcement, emergency management and public health, St. Cloud RSVP helped to create the Disaster Resource Management Plan. Pre-planning allowed the community to respond more quickly to an April flood this year. RSVP volunteers staffed a disaster hotline and checked in volunteers at the local command center. Earlier this year, the RSVP participated in a simulated tabletop disaster exercise to prepare for an incident of bio-terrorism. Other partners in the Emergency Management Plan are Stearns County, Benton County and State of Minnesota Public Health Departments, the American Red Cross, St. Cloud Hospital, the Regional Department of Emergency Management, Benton and Stearns Counties Emergency Management Directors, the Benton County Sheriff's Department.

Montana

Missoula Aging Services, RSVP of Missoula, Missoula

RSVP volunteers serve with the Missoula County Search and Rescue (SAR), the primary organization in the county that searches for, rescues, or recovers people of all ages who are lost, injured, or deceased in the backcountry, rivers, or lakes. Services provided include helping authorities with urban searches and auxiliary services like roadblocks during critical incidents. Volunteers also help to prepare winter survival kits for sale to the public.

Area Agency on Aging, Musselshell County RSVP, Roundup

RSVP is a community partner with the American Red Cross. The Melstone Senior Center is a designated community congregation site in the event of a disaster. RSVP volunteers serving at the site are available to provide assistance as needed. RSVP is also working with the

Ministerial Association to establish disaster-assistance plans for homebound elderly that include check-ins and Meals on Wheels.

Cascade County Commissioners, Cascade County RSVP, Great Falls

A number of Cascade County RSVP volunteers are trained to assist organizations in disaster services. Two RSVP volunteers traveled to sites of the terrorist attacks, one to New York and the other to Washington, DC, where they provided assistance and support to the relief and recovery efforts. In addition:

- 8 volunteers serve with the Crisis Line;
- 12 volunteers serve on various volunteer fire departments and helped in fighting the fires of 2000; and
- More than 75 volunteers who check on homebound seniors through friendly visits and phone calls.

Nebraska

Red Cross—Chadron Chapter, Chadron RSVP, Chadron

Two RSVP volunteers are active and vital members of the Chadron Red Cross volunteer team. Both have National Red Cross training and experience, and volunteer an average of 100 hours per month. They provide disaster relief education, site training, and office management and fundraising services. Two other RSVP volunteers assist with administration functions, with 10 more RSVP volunteers “on call” for special projects or community outreach and education activities.

In addition, two Chadron RSVP volunteers provide services through the Community Outreach Office and its food distribution program. The Community Outreach Office is a FEMA community partner.

The Richardson Foundation, RSVP of Richardson County, Falls City

RSVP of Richardson County has 27 volunteers placed through the American Red Cross. These volunteers are regularly assigned to the bloodmobile, where they assist with blood donor activities. The volunteers also assist with donor solicitation by telephone, administrative support, and assistance with the canteen.

New Jersey

American Red Cross of Metropolitan New Jersey, RSVP of Essex and Hudson Counties, Fairfield

RSVP works closely with the Blood Services Program of the American Red Cross to recruit volunteers to help with blood drives. Currently, 12 RSVP volunteers are trained and available to lend assistance in ways that free up paid staff to concentrate on their duties. RSVP volunteers greet and orient donors, serve in the canteen, and take care of administrative filing and organization.

In addition, many community members expressed a need to be better informed about disaster preparedness planning and follow up. RSVP volunteers help with outreach and information dissemination through community events and fairs. During October, RSVP volunteers attended 6 fairs and distributed 3000 safety and disaster preparedness brochures.

Five RSVP volunteers are actively serving victims and survivors of the World Trade Center disaster. Four were trained in family service, and they meet with each individual and open a case file for that person or family. They help to make sure all administrative barriers are satisfied, thus allowing the families access to critical donations and funds. The RSVP volunteers not only service the clients; they also maintain accurate records to ensure that donated funds are going to the families that they were intended for.

One RSVP volunteer, a retired licensed psychologist, is helping other volunteers provide critical support and mental health services to those in need. Within hours of the September 11th attack, she was on site in the Red Cross building, where she helped to provide support and counseling to victims, survivors, other volunteers, and staff.

New York

Catholic Charities of Herkimer County, Herkimer County RSVP, Ilion

The American Red Cross is an RSVP volunteer station, and the project director works closely with the Disaster Preparedness Project Director through his affiliation with the Herkimer County Hunger Coalition. FEMA distributes monies to Catholic Charities for distribution to area pantries. All six area pantries are also RSVP volunteer stations, working in close coordination with the RSVP office. More than 115 RSVP volunteers are affiliated with Herkimer County's six area food pantries, which are a critical service delivery system in the community.

Livingston County FGP

Livingston County FGP Foster Grandparents are now included in the county's disaster response plan and will be activated in an emergency to help provide child care in emergency shelters. They will assist with meals, naptime and bedtime routines, and child hygiene; provide comfort and reassurance; and refer children to medical personnel if necessary. This will allow parents who may also be first responders in emergencies to know their children are safe and well cared for, and provide support for children whose parents may not be available. Arrangements are in place to provide transportation to the shelters and for the Foster Grandparents' security clearances. Senior Companions serving a local center for the developmentally disabled are also included in the plan.

Rockland County FGP

During the massive power failures in August 2003, Foster Grandparents with Rockland County FGP made use of emergency kits they received at the project's annual recognition event, along with a list of other things they may need to have in an emergency. The Grandparents have been trained to use the Safe Haven Program, developed by Mr. Rogers, to assist children during an emergency as well as with children who have been exposed to violence. The project created its own emergency kits with purchased and donated items from local hospitals, emergency services, and others.

North Carolina

New Hanover County Department of Aging - New Hanover County RSVP, Wilmington

New Hanover County RSVP has a long history of working with FEMA and the North Carolina Office of Emergency Management. RSVP is part of Hanover County's Emergency Management Planning & Response Team. RSVP participated in the development of the plan, along with the director of the North Carolina EM Office.

The Emergency Management Plan assigns the following roles to RSVP:

- Participate in early warning system teams, including mobilizing RSVP volunteers who regularly deliver Meals on Wheels.
- Cover evacuation routes or transportation systems specified in the EM Plan, and help to provide transportation and assistance.
- Report to the Salvation Army Disaster Hotline to cover shifts in a 3-county area.
- Participate in community mapping and development/update of a county-wide blueprint. This type of plan is essential, because, in the event of disasters, landmarks and critical signs or locations can be destroyed. The plan catalogs and maps such locations, including a comprehensive map of all utility sub-stations. RSVP volunteers used hand-held electronic "Magellans" to plot longitude/latitude, descriptions, and other key data.

Northwest Piedmont Council of Government, RSVP of Forsyth County, Winston-Salem

Five RSVP volunteers serve with the disaster relief program through the American Red Cross. In the past, the volunteers assisted with flood and recovery efforts, as well as during Hurricane Hugo. One of the volunteer assignments is to help with food and shelters in the aftermath of an emergency or disaster.

Puerto Rico

In March 2002, the Corporation for National Service Puerto Rico Office signed an agreement with the Red Cross which will train approximately 180 AmeriCorps*VISTA members and 100 Senior Corps volunteers in Disaster First Aid courses. The members and volunteers will become formal volunteers of the Puerto Rico chapter of the Red Cross, with certification and identification permitting them to work in major disasters both locally and nationally. This initiative was designed and implemented by AmeriCorps*VISTA members assigned to the PR American Red Cross sponsorship.

Tennessee

Community Action Agency, Clarksville/Montgomery County RSVP, Clarksville

RSVP volunteers serving through the American Red Cross assist victims of disasters in numerous ways, including:

- Helping with the filing of insurance forms that expedite payments;
- Assisting agencies that provide follow-up services, such as securing temporary housing,
- Assist with disaster preparedness classes;
- Help with blood drives by staying with the donors until they are released by medical personnel; and
- Participating in community outreach and education about Red Cross services and its role in disaster preparedness and recovery.

RSVP Volunteer of the Year for 2000 was Roger Winchester, who volunteers with the American Red Cross, and volunteered 136.5 hours in one month. Mr. Winchester is so good his volunteer services that he is frequently sent to other states to assist victims.

RSVP volunteers serving with the Clarksville Police Department can be counted on to offer vital ongoing, behind-the-scenes assistance that help ensure efficient operations. Volunteers file non-classified paperwork, assist Crime Prevention in distribution of literature, and provide assistance with special projects. One RSVP volunteer reports to the firing range, where he helps to maintain the range and property. This gentleman requested the assignment because he knew that the city police, county sheriff's department and Austin Peay State University campus police use the city-owned firing range for training, and are also responsible for the critical but time-intensive maintenance. Last year two RSVP volunteers spent a week checking in old uniforms and distributing new ones to all 276 Clarksville Police Officers during a required uniform upgrade.

Meigs County Legislative Body, Meigs County RSVP, Decatur

On November 5, 2003, Meigs County RSVP participated in a response exercise for a mock disaster at the Tennessee Watts Bar Nuclear Plant along with other volunteers, local law enforcement, fire departments, rescue squads, County and City Mayors, Department of Education, Department of Human Services, Red Cross, Health Department, state EMA, and contracted evaluators. The RSVP volunteers served as Message Controllers, Weather Board Recorders, Radiological Detection Officers (trained by the state), and at the Sign-In and Refreshment/Break Stations. Local EMS Director Tony Finnell personally thanked RSVP for their help. Evaluators and state EMA personnel asked for more information about the RSVP program.

Texas

Senior Citizens of Greater Dallas, Dallas RSVP, Dallas

After hearing the President's address to the nation on November 8, 2001, Paul Brown, age 59, sent an e-mail message to the RSVP program in Dallas. Paul was formerly Chief, Community

Planning, Department of Public Health for the State of Tennessee. As such, he helped to create that state's Emergency Medical Services Program. He also has military (Air Force) experience.

In January of 2002, as an RSVP volunteer, Paul will work with Disaster Emergency Services and other local organizations to create and coordinate an Emergency Disaster Response team for Dallas County.

Brazos Valley Council of Governments, Bryan RSVP, Bryan/College Station

The RSVP sponsored by the Brazos Valley Council of Governments in Bryan/College Station, TX is working with the City of College Station to develop an enhanced disaster preparedness plan. RSVP volunteers will serve as the core group to facilitate all volunteer efforts for city/county services in case of natural disaster or emergency. They will be trained and educated on all of the core services that would be in place. They will coordinate with city/county officials when an emergency arises and screen and place all community volunteers that come to help. This will be an ongoing effort. They will meet monthly for training and will invite representatives from various governmental departments to speak on what jobs volunteers can do and what skills they will need. It is important that this Senior Corps program is taking the lead and organizing the efforts in those areas.

Utah

Grand Count Council, Grand County RSVP, Moab

RSVP participates in developing strong Community Emergency Response Teams (CERTS). RSVP volunteers attended a week-long Train the Trainer course held at Camp Williams. They then returned to the community and trained three additional trainers, 12 at the last count, and have continued to conduct these training events for groups throughout the community. CERTS Teams also created a data base of homebound and at-risk persons who might be in need of special assistance during an emergency. Civil Air Patrol Cadets and other youth have been included in the CERTS training, making the effort intergenerational. A flyer was developed for distribution in the community to publicize this effort.

Weber Human Services RSVP, Weber and Morgan County RSVP, Ogden

RSVP worked with the local community leaders and identified a need for homebound seniors in to be better prepared for emergencies of all types. RSVP volunteers coordinated an outreach and intervention campaign with local merchants to help garner donations and to develop emergency information kits and supplies. RSVP volunteers assembled donated items into emergency kits, including waterproof blankets, matches, flashlights, water, candles, batteries, small radios, nonperishable food items, small first aid kits, and emergency contact information and procedures. The volunteers then delivered the kits to homebound seniors, and spent time helping them to understand how the items are used, and how to appropriately and safely respond to emergencies.

Five County Association of Governments, Five County RSVP, St. George

RSVP volunteers in St. George serve in State Parks as 'Ranger Helpers'. They help to observe and assess campers, conduct fire watches, and assist with security.

Carbon County Government, Carbon County RSVP, Price

In rural Price and Carbon County, RSVP volunteers set up Neighborhood Watch sites. Patrol routes include not only private homes, but also schools, the coal mine routes and a toxic waste site in East Carbon City.

Washington

City of Vancouver Community Services, Clark County RSVP, Vancouver

Clark County RSVP is a member of COAD –“Community Organizations Active in Disaster”. This is a cooperative effort with the local Clark County Emergency Services Agency and other community organizations. RSVP will play the lead role in volunteer coordination. RSVP could/would be called either during a disaster or during the recovery phase depending on the need. RSVP’s primary function would be in the area of communications and volunteer coordination: to set up a phone bank for the public and then to assist with coordinating emergent volunteers and groups of pre-screened volunteers. Training and technical assistance will be provided by FEMA.

Clark County COAD is still in the process of developing the plan. Recruitment and pre-screening of volunteers will begin shortly. Other community organizations that are participating in this disaster effort include:

- | | |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• American Red Cross• Salvation Army• SNAP/Meals on Wheels• St. Vincent DePaul• SW Washington Humane Society• Clark County Food Bank Coalition• North Council Community Food Bank• Oregon Food Bank | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Southwest Washington Agency on Aging• ARES/RACES (a ham-radio operating organization)• Church of Latter Day Saints• AARP• C-Tran• Interstate Baptist Association |
|--|---|

Volunteer Center of Lewis, Mason & Thurston Counties, RSVP of Lewis, Mason and Thurston Counties, Olympia

For three years, the Volunteer Center/RSVP of Lewis, Mason, and Thurston Counties has built capacity in Thurston County for community disaster assistance and response. The Volunteer Center/RSVP is an active participant in the Thurston County Disaster Assistance Council and coordinates disaster assistance activities through Thurston County Emergency Management. Examples of RSVP volunteer activities include:

- Helping to save 42 homes from flood damage during the floods of 1999 and 2000 by mobilizing volunteers to sandbag homes of the elderly, disabled, and others.
- Helping homeowners move belongings out of homes evacuated due to landslides.
- Assisting developmentally disabled citizens in finding resources to fix broken water heaters and other damage caused by the earthquake of February 28, 2001.

- Sandbagging in November 2001 as a new rainy season begins.

Volunteer Center of Benton-Franklin, Benton-Franklin Volunteer Center, Kennewick

Benton/Franklin Counties RSVP volunteers assist the Franklin County Emergency Management Agency during its annual disaster drills at the Pasco Regional Airport. The volunteers are cast in the roles of victims or injured as part of a day-long exercise. On October 18, 2001, these volunteers formed the nucleus of a larger group of citizen volunteers called on to help the U.S. Marines stage a biological attack drill at the Volpentest Hazardous Materials Management and Emergency Response (HAMMER) training center. The exercise involved the Marine Corps Chemical Biological Incident Response Force; Washington National Guard; Hanford Nuclear Reservation Fire Department; U.S. Department of Energy; and the City of Richland Fire Department's Bomb Squad. This exercise was the first of a series planned during the next several months in response to the recent terrorist attacks.

Wyoming

NOWCAP FGP

All NOWCAP FGP Foster Grandparents participated in Homeland Security in-service training events in three counties, including a visit at each site from the county heads of Homeland Security. In each of the three counties, Foster Grandparents who joined the local Emergency Response teams were given a four-hour orientation, along with four additional hours of training on specific issues facing their communities. All Foster Grandparents were given training on Shelter-In-Place for natural disasters, along with training on earthquakes in Wyoming. The FGP members of the Emergency Response Teams were also trained on Local Emergency Planning Committees and how they work.

3. Public Safety—Highlights

California

Aging and Independence Services, Inc., San Diego County RSVP, San Diego

RSVP volunteers are part of the “Senior Volunteer Patrol Corps”, which number more than 2,000 in San Diego County. Law enforcement partners include all sheriff divisions, California Highway Patrol, and all City police departments. One volunteer unit has specific traffic control training and is deployed as needed through coordination with law enforcement. The senior volunteers are also utilized for communications duty at large conventions and other public events.

Volunteer Center of Greater Orange County, Orange County RSVP, Santa Anna

This RSVP project works with 18 law enforcement agencies throughout Orange County. Currently 397 RSVP volunteers assist law enforcement offices to make their communities safer. They receive specialized training in safety rules, crime prevention, record keeping, avoiding dangerous situations, and city and county regulations. RSVP volunteers’ service

includes vacation, neighborhood, and business watches; licensing bicycles; fingerprinting; fleet maintenance; mentoring; victim assistance; child seat belt instruction; code enforcement; administrative and clerical tasks; and handling public inquiries. As a result, more police officers are able to spend more time in the field providing public assistance and handling emergency situations. Last year, RSVP volunteers contributed over 100,000 hours of service to the 18 Orange County law enforcement agencies. In addition to their standard tasks, RSVP volunteers also serve as ambassadors on public safety through talks and presentations throughout the county.

Florida

Council of Aging of Volusia County, Volusia County RSVP, Daytona Beach

Volusia County RSVP implemented “Citizens on Patrol” (COPS) in partnership with local law enforcement agencies in 1998. Since that time, more than 150 RSVP volunteers have served in a variety of roles to deter criminal activity. In pairs, RSVP volunteers patrol neighborhoods, watch vacant homes, and report suspicious activities to law enforcement dispatchers. The volunteers have also fingerprinted more than 15,000 children for safety and identification. In 2000, the Daytona Beach Sheriff’s Department acknowledged the role of the COPS program in reducing crime, and expanding police resources.

Florida Senior Programs, Inc. Central Florida Foster Grandparent Program, Orlando

In collaboration, Central Florida FGP, Florida State Department of Children and Families, Deveruex (non-profit child welfare organization) and the Junior League have instituted Family Visitation Centers. Their activities are geared toward helping children to feel safe.

Family Visitation Centers were created as a place where abused and/or neglected children who have been removed from their parents can come for parental visits. Parents work with Deveruex and come to these centers for visits with their children. The visits are monitored by Foster Grandparents to ensure that parents don’t do or say anything harmful to the kids. These parental visits are videotaped on closed circuit television and last for one hour, after which the Foster Grandparents have one-half hour to write up reports about how well the visits went. These reports become part of the court records when parents are trying to get their children back out of the Foster Care system. The visits take place everyday (except Monday) from about 10 a.m. until mid-afternoon as well as some evenings and some Saturday mornings.

The project has a diverse group of senior volunteers—men, women, bilingual, reflecting the composition of the community.

In addition, Central Florida has a large Muslim community so the Central Florida FGP is planning a series of diversity training for the Foster Grandparents to teach children about different cultures and ethnic heritages.

Mississippi

City of Waveland, Hancock County RSVP, Bay St. Louis

Since March 2000, the Hancock County Sheriff's Department has received an annual grant from the state to work directly with RSVP and the Police and Fire Departments to assess and address the safety needs of its senior citizens. Approximately one dozen RSVP volunteers are assigned to public safety stations.

Montana

Missoula Aging Services, RSVP of Missoula, Missoula

RSVP of Missoula volunteers provide the following services through a partnership with the City of Missoula Police Department:

- Vehicle Inventory and Maintenance: Volunteers assist officers by performing weekly inventory checks of the equipment and supplies in patrol and detective vehicles.
- Documentation and Inventory:
 1. Maintain inventory of evidence, forms, and general;
 2. Maintain a checklist of equipment and supplies inside the vehicles;
 3. Maintain inventory in the biohazard and general kits;
 4. Keep weekly inventory logs on each of the 16 patrol cars and 16 detective cars; and
 5. Maintain a running inventory of supplies
- Fingerprint Technician:
 1. Confirmation of customer identification;
 2. Completion of customer's fingerprint card information; and
 3. Performance of fingerprinting process in accordance with department standards.
- Victim Assistance Program:
 1. Assist with the "Pawn Program" by visiting local pawn shops, enter information on pawn sheets, looking for matches between pawn listings and department hot sheets, printing and mailing reports, and recording the identification of stolen property and the outcome of investigations;
 2. Assist with the "Found Property Department" by helping to identify owners, arranging for return of property, notifying court officials about the legal release of property, and documenting the search process.
- Citizen Patrol: Under general supervision, an RSVP volunteer patrols various open space trailheads and access points, including Mt. Jumbo, Mt. Sentinel and the North Hills. RSVP volunteers may also station trailheads and access roads in case of fire closures.

New Jersey

American Red Cross of Metropolitan New Jersey, RSVP of Essex and Hudson Counties, Fairfield

RSVP volunteers are key components of an active fire safety program, developed in partnerships with local schools. Six trained RSVP volunteers go into the schools along with the paid Red Cross staff to help children learn and practice fire safety, including dialing 911, stop

drop and roll and how to escape a home fire. They stress to the children the need to have a family evacuation plan and they also teach the children the importance of staying calm in an emergency. Local firefighters also participate, which enhances the children's' learning experiences.

RSVP is now serving in new fire safety partnerships. A retired teacher, now an RSVP volunteer, helped adapt the fires safety curriculum for day care and pre-school environments. Additionally, a new disaster preparedness/fire safety program is rolling out for seniors.

Washington

Benton-Franklin Volunteer Center RSVP, Kennewick

RSVP volunteers annually serve with the Franklin County Emergency Management Agency's annual disaster drills, acting as victims with various injuries. In 2002 they formed the nucleus of a large group of citizen volunteers called on to help the U.S. Marines stage a biological attack drill. The exercise involved the Marine Corps Chemical Biological Incident Response Force, the Washington National Guard, the Hanford Nuclear Reservation Fire Department (the County is site of the Hanford Nuclear facilities), the Department of Energy and the Richland Police Department Bomb Squad.

5. Environmental Security

The EASI Senior Environmental Corps Program for Homeland Security

The Environmental Alliance for Senior Involvement (EASI) recently announced the launching of its new EASI Senior Environmental Corps (SEC) Program for Homeland Security, being implemented in cooperation with RSVP projects. Across the nation, EASI SEC's, with the participation of RSVP volunteers have been working for the past decade to protect and maintain a clean and healthy environment for current and future generations. EASI SECs monitor drinking water sources to help protect them from contamination. Toxic chemical storage areas are monitored and made safer through the work of SECs. Potential contaminants to ground and surface water systems are being mapped using hand-held Global Positioning System (GPS) devices, and the data is entered into state planning databases. These are only a few of the many examples.