



United Way of Johnson &
Washington Counties
1150 5th St, Suite 290
Coralville, IA 52241

319-338-7823*303
55plusRSVP@unitedwayjwc.org
unitedwayjwc.org/55-rsvp-initiative



AmeriCorps
Seniors

55+ RSVP Newsletter

Engaging Volunteers 55+ in Johnson County, IA

June 2021

ENGAGE: Iowa Valley Habitat for Humanity

New 55+ RSVP station, Iowa Valley Habitat for Humanity (IVHFH), has a vision of a world where everyone has a decent place to live. Habitat for Humanity brings people together to build homes, communities, and hope.

Volunteers help with construction projects by completing a plethora of construction tasks alongside the IVHFH staff. You can choose to help one day only or multiple days. Best of all, no experience is required! Staff will help you learn the skills you need to build.

Another volunteer opportunity is helping out at ReStore by accepting donations, organizing the store, and lending a hand in a variety of other ways.

If you are looking for a way to volunteer while enjoying the outdoors, think about volunteering with Iowa Valley Habitat for Humanity.



Iowa Valley Habitat for Humanity Volunteer Coordinator, Leda Rouse, stands in front of the Dave Schuldt Memorial Build, a Habitat Home currently under construction.

55+ RSVP Stations: 25

55+ RSVP Volunteers: 172

Total Hours: 2242

*July 1, 2020 - May 31, 2021

ENGAGE: Volunteering and the Arts

The ArtiFactory

This new 55+ RSVP station is dedicated to creating a place in Iowa City for education, practice, exhibition and collaboration in fine arts and crafts.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, ArtiFactory took to the virtual stage to host their Art In the Afternoon Series. With a new space at 120 N. Dubuque and improved community health conditions, ArtiFactory is starting to return to in person events, like the one pictured.



If you are interested in volunteering with ArtiFactory, they are looking for volunteers to lend a hand in administrative work and tech savvy individuals to help with expanding their virtual programming.



This dragon mask was colored by a 55+ RSVP volunteer and will be included in a child's activity kit. Original dragon artwork courtesy of 55+ RSVP Volunteer Deann

Take Home Activity Kits

Volunteers are still needed to take home activity kits to cut, color and assemble dragon masks and paper dinosaurs. These are just a couple of the activities in the kits that will be provided to families with elementary age children at Coralville and North Liberty Food Pantries. Keeping kids active and engaged is important for their physical, social, and emotional well-being. Materials and directions provided with kits.

Interested in volunteering to help complete Activity Kits?

Schedule a pick-up or drop-off of kits from 55+ RSVP Director Erin Balvanz

email: erin.balvanz@unitedwayjwc.org
phone: 319-338-7823*303

Engage: RSVP Volunteer Stations

Do you know someone 55+ in Johnson County that might wish to volunteer with 55+ RSVP?

Refer them to The Center's Virtual Program: **Volunteer with 55+ RSVP Initiative**

Monday, June 14, 11:00 a.m.—Call to Register: 319-356-5220

- **Table to Table**—Route Volunteer
- **TRAIL of Johnson County**—Volunteer Opportunities in Transportation, Home Services, Medical Advocacy, Wellness Callers, Programming, and as a Board or Committee Member
- **Shelter House**— Shelter Support Volunteer
- **Ronald McDonald House Charities EIWI**— Volunteers for front desk and [Bubble Walk](#)
- **Miracles in Motion**—Help with horse related chores as a volunteer barn assistant.
- **Jo Co Historical Society**—The Secret 1883 Octagonal Barn is rich in history and has volunteer opportunities in a wide variety of restoration tasks.
- **Iowa Valley Habitat for Humanity**— Construction Volunteer or ReStore Volunteer
- **Iowa City Free Medical Clinic** - Volunteer Spanish Interpreters are needed as well as volunteers trained in phlebotomy for the lab and PharmD or Pharm Tech volunteers for the dispensary.
- **Heritage Area Agency on Aging**—Volunteer with one or both groups: [Task Force on Aging](#)—participate in discussions with local residents and community providers to create awareness of older adult issues. [Community Focus Groups](#)—give input on gaps and strategies to improve services to older adults. Issues include: elder rights, caregiver support, transportation, and more.
- **HACAP**— Mercer Park Mobile Food Pantry –hand out food on location to families and children in need and assist with unloading the pantry truck as needed.
- **Horizons Meals on Wheels**—Volunteer Driver
- **Crowded Closet**—Support local and global relief, development & peace projects by assisting with thrift shop operations as a Retail or Warehouse Volunteer
- **Coralville Community Food Pantry**—Food Pantry or Delivery Volunteer
- **CommUnity Crisis Services and Food Bank**— Food Pantry Volunteer
- **Aging Services/Pathways**— Adult Day Health Volunteer or Chore Volunteer
- **ArtiFactory**—volunteers needed for administrative work, programming and special events

To learn more or sign-up for any volunteer opportunity,
contact: 55+ RSVP Director Erin Balvanz
erin.balvanz@unitedwayjwc.org or 319-337-7823*303.



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55+ RSVP is sponsored by



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55+ RSVP Newsletter

CELEBRATE – Diversity and Inclusion



The annual **Pride celebration** began as a collective protest advocating for the rights of LGBTQ+ individuals and communities, and freedom in expressing gender identity. Iowa City Pride festival and parade has moved to October, but other events will be happening in June. For more information: <https://www.icgov.org/ic-pride-2021#Events>



JUNETEENTH CELEBRATION

ALL EVENTS ARE FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

www.johnsoncountyiowa.gov/juneteenth

14
JUN

COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS "REAL TALK" 6 - 8 PM
PANELIST DISCUSSION

15
JUN

ON JUNETEENTH BY ANNETTE GORDON-REED 7 PM
BOOK DISCUSSION

16
JUN

EDUCATION AND RESOURCE FAIR 4 - 6:30 PM
VIRTUAL

17
JUN

BLOCK PARTY 5 - 8 PM
CHAUNCEY SWAN PARK

17
JUN

MISS JUNETEENTH FILM SCREENING 8:30 PM
CHAUNCEY SWAN PARK

19
JUN

BLOOD DRIVE 11 A.M. - 1:30 PM
JOHNSON COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING
PARKING LOT

19
JUN

JUNETEENTH MEAL DRIVE-THRU 11 AM
RIVERFRONT CROSSINGS PARK

JUNETEENTH HISTORY WALK-IN • ALL WEEK • ENDS SATURDAY, JUNE 19

Johnson County strives to host inclusive, accessible meetings and events that enable all individuals, including individuals with disabilities, to engage fully. To request a modification or for inquiries about accessibility, please contact Keshia Fields at 319-356-6000 or kfields@johnsoncountyiowa.gov.

Juneteenth is a historical event that commemorates June 19, 1865, the date in history when, two and a half years after the Emancipation Proclamation, Union soldiers sailed into Galveston, Texas, and read aloud the order freeing the quarter of a million slaves residing in the state. For more information: www.johnsoncountyiowa.gov/juneteenth