



RSVP SUFFOLK



Caring for Our Community
Summer 2026

RSVP of Suffolk, Inc. | 811 West Jericho Turnpike, Suite 103W, Smithtown, NY 11787
(631)-979-9490 | www.rsvpsuffolk.org



“The way you get meaning into your life is to devote yourself to loving others, devote yourself to your community around you, and devote yourself to creating something that gives you purpose and meaning.” — from *Tuesdays With Morrie* by Mitch Albom

Dear **RSVP** Volunteers,

One of the greatest gifts in my life is spending my days surrounded by people who genuinely care about the world, their communities, their neighbors, friends, and families. So often, in passing conversations, I am encouraged to enjoy life now, to travel, and to make the most of every moment because time goes by so quickly. I have come to realize just how true that is—it goes by faster than I ever imagined.

The truth is, I already feel incredibly fortunate because I enjoy life every day at RSVP Suffolk. From the moment I see Betty’s smiling face in the morning until I make my way home at the end of the day, I have the privilege of witnessing extraordinary kindness, compassion, and generosity throughout our community.

In this newsletter, you will read about some very special honors that our volunteers so richly deserve. You will learn more about the impact we make together and the many people whose lives are touched by your service each day. I hope you come away feeling proud of all that you accomplish and happy to be part of the RSVP family.

I am also excited to introduce RSVP’s truly amazing new staff members. They are talented, dedicated, and deeply committed to our mission and to the volunteers we serve. They each bring so much to RSVP Suffolk, and I know you will enjoy getting to know them.

Thank you for being a dedicated volunteer and for all that you do. I have included a list of our incredible partner organizations. Please take a look. You never know when you might discover a new opportunity that inspires you to try something different.

Please continue to share your experiences with family and friends and help spread the word about the value of volunteering and the impact of RSVP.

Thank you for your service and your support. Thank you for being a truly wonderful volunteer.

Sincerely,

Maryflore Brennan
Executive Director

WELCOME NEW VOLUNTEERS

Patricia Aichroth
Mary Bost
Genevieve Capak
William Colwin
Michael Davidson
Mark Dellecave
Grace Drago
Barbara Ferguson
Carol Forgash
Denise Gannon
Robin Giangarra
Henry Glaser

Bruce Kaplan
Susan Lombardo
Felicia Longo
David McClay
Donna McPartlan
Therese Merlino
Marie Nieves
Robert Nyman
John Peter O'Conner
Stacy Paliouras
Colleen Pohmer

Benjamin Robertson
Thomas Rosen
Vicki Rosen
David Salomone
Donato Scoppino
Roberta Sickles
Stephen Teller
Tina Marie Trojahn
Nicholas Valentino
Frank Vega
Stewart Zaid

At the end of the day, it's not about what you have or even what you've accomplished... it's about who you've lifted up, who you've made better. It's about what you've given back."

—Denzel Washington

Welcome to our "New" Partnering Site: FRIENDS OF LI DOG PARKS

LI-DOG, a nonprofit organization, works to create dog-friendly public parks, beaches organize dog-friendly events. Dozens of on-leash dog walking trails have been established in town and county parks that previously banned dogs as a result of LI-DOG's advocacy. They need your help to plan and promote these great social outings for you and your dogs.

Consider working with other volunteers to ...

- Brainstorm for ideas
- Visit venues and engage with local businesses
- Coordinate artistic elements for events and on Event Day, help set up / take down the LI-DOG booth, meet and greet



participants (including the 4-legged ones!)

- Distribute flyers and petitions, talk about LI-DOG, run games and contests.

If this volunteer opportunity is of interest to you, please call

Terri Catania at 631-979-9490, x 115.

CONGRATULATIONS!

2026 Senior of the Year Jeanne Kull Minarik

The Board of Directors and Staff of RSVP Suffolk is honored to announce that RSVP Suffolk Volunteer, **Jeanne Kull-Minarik**, has been named “**2026 Senior of the Year**” by Suffolk County Office for the Aging. This prestigious award was presented to Jeanne by Suffolk County Executive, Edward P. Romaine on May 19th at the Senior Celebration which took place at the H. Lee Dennison Building in Hauppauge. In every sense of the word, her story is one of kindness and “giving back”. While raising her family, Jeanne pursued a career in education, starting as a teaching assistant and retiring as an elementary school principal. Since retiring, she joined RSVP as a volunteer in many capacities. She became a **Telephone Reassurance** volunteer, calling homebound seniors, providing a kind and supportive voice to so many in Suffolk. Jeanne also provided office support to RSVP’s **Community Computer Connections Program**, helping this program’s mission of supplying free computers to financially-challenged individuals, families and veterans. Currently, Jeanne is a volunteer in our **Living Healthy with Better Choices Program** where she instructs seniors in four different classes: Chronic Disease Self-Management, Diabetes Self-Management, A Matter of Balance and Tai Chi. Congratulations Jeanne! You are a true example of the definition of volunteerism. We are so proud of you! ♥



Shout Out!

The Senior Celebration also recognized RSVP volunteer **Joseph Ladolcetta** as a “**Senior of the Year Nominee**” by District 10 Legislator Trish Bergin. A resident of Islip Terrace, Joe has spent countless hours volunteering with **Bethany Hospitality Kitchen** serving hundreds of meals to local community members. He is also active in his church as well as Keep Islip Clean (KIC), Bayard Cutting Arboretum and East Islip Soccer Club. Our congratulations to Joe for his dedicated service.

OLDER NEW YORKERS' DAY 2026

Older New Yorkers' Day 2026, which was celebrated on May 26th, recognized 103 older adults from 59 counties throughout New York state for their volunteerism, service, and significant contributions to their communities. We are pleased to announce that two RSVP volunteers were chosen as Suffolk County Older Adult Honorees—Mary Skinas and Jeanne Kull-Minarik. These remarkable volunteers were recognized by New York State Office for the Aging at an event held at the Desmond Hotel in Albany. Mary was named HIICAP Counselor of the Year. In her role at HIICAP (Health Insurance Information, Counseling and Assistance Program), Mary counsels older adults at three libraries and helps in the HIICAP office during the Medicare open enrollment period. A retired nurse, Mary also volunteers at the Visiting Nurse Services. Jeanne, a retired elementary school principal believes deeply in volunteerism and caring for her community. She has volunteered in several different RSVP programs including Telephone Reassurance, Computer Connections and Living Healthy with Better Choices where she leads classes in A Matter of Balance and Tai Chi. Our deepest thanks to Mary and Jeanne and to **"ALL our RSVP Suffolk volunteers."** We honor your dedication to giving back and helping those in need in your communities. ♥



Pictured L-R: RSVP Executive Director Maryflorene Brennan, RSVP HIICAP Coordinator Denise Passarelli, Mary Skinas, Jeanne Kull-Minarik, and New York State Office for the Aging Director Greg Olsen

CONGRATULATIONS RAFFLE WINNERS!



RSVP is happy to announce the two winners of our **Volunteer Raffle** which took place on January 15th. Our first lucky winner is **Maureen Darress** who has been a volunteer in our Reassurance Program for 15 years! Maureen, who makes a daily phone call to our homebound seniors, is pictured here with T.R. Program Coordinator, Natalie Barnofsky. Our second lucky winner is **Charles "Chuck" Reilly**. For the past 8 years, Charles has been a volunteer at Bethany Hospitality Kitchen in Central Islip where he helps to prepare and serve meals to those in need. Congratulations Maureen and Charles, and our sincere thanks to all our wonderful volunteers who participated in RSVP's Volunteer Raffle. ♥

Welcome NATALIE AND DEBORAH



All of us at RSVP are delighted to welcome Natalie Barnofsky to our staff. Natalie is our new Telephone Reassurance Coordinator. Since assuming the position, she has truly shown what a perfect fit she is! The following are a few thoughts from Natalie:

Hi, I'm **Natalie Barnofsky**, Program Coordinator for the Telephone Reassurance Program at RSVP Suffolk. I joined the team in October 2025, but my connection to RSVP goes back many years.

I spent 35 years with the New York Blood Center (NYBC) in a variety of roles, and before retiring I managed the Volunteer Program. During that time, Terri Catania regularly sent us wonderful RSVP volunteers who supported blood drives throughout Suffolk County. I also had the pleasure of working closely with Maryflorene Brennan through the Association of Professional Volunteer Administrators.

I truly enjoy being part of the RSVP team. Throughout my career, giving back to the community has always been important to me, and in this next chapter, I feel fortunate to work for an organization that provides such meaningful services for seniors.

The beach is my happy place! On my days off in the summer, you'll usually find me at Robert Moses State Park.

I look forward to working with you and getting to know you. Wishing you all the best. ♥



We are also excited to introduce you to Deborah Giampolo who joins the RSVP Staff as our East End Telephone Reassurance Coordinator. In her position, Deborah oversees RSVP's telephone program on the east end of Suffolk County as well as promoting the many programs and services we provide to seniors. Here are a few thoughts from Deborah:

What's in a "thank you" and the optimism found in gratitude...

I joined RSVP as a volunteer several years ago when reaching out for assistance with questions. At the end of the call, I asked, "who exactly is this organization and how do I get involved?"

Today, I am spreading the RSVP message of available programs and the spirit of Volunteerism throughout the East End, and I look forward to substantial growth in awareness and activity. The comradery found within the RSVP organization is truly inspirational and, it is with optimistic gratitude, I continue to support the mission of helping our communities.



Watching my children build their lives and experience all life has to offer is my greatest pleasure and happiness. In my spare time, I enjoy genealogy research, reading, and mah-jong (I'm a student/player)!

My Philosophy is: The message is simple—Many times when calling Telephone Reassurance Clients, they say "thank you for the calls." The simple truth is: this is a "thank you" that goes both ways—there is so much we get back, as well. It is with gratitude, we build the program together.... ♥

PLEASE SUPPORT **RSVP** SUFFOLK



We are updating the RSVP Suffolk website to make it a more useful source of important information. In addition to sharing our mission of connecting people age 55 and older with volunteer opportunities, the site highlights the many programs and services we offer at no cost to individuals, families, and veterans throughout Suffolk County.

To continue our mission, RSVP Suffolk relies on the generosity of supporters like you. For your convenience, we accept donations by check and have improved the "Donate" button on our website to make online giving easier. We hope you will visit our updated website, and we thank you, as always, for your consideration and continued support of RSVP Suffolk. ♡

YOUR DONATION IS GREATLY APPRECIATED

Please support RSVP Suffolk and the vital services we provide for our community. You can donate in three easy ways:

Mail to:
RSVP Suffolk
Suite 103W
811 W. Jericho Tpke
Smithtown, NY 11787

Go to Our Website:
www.rsvpsuffolk.org

Scan Our QR Code:



RSVP wanted to recognize your hard work with a gift that gives back! The socks from John's Crazy Socks support employment for people with differing abilities. As some of you may know, John's Crazy Socks is a father/son venture inspired by

John Lee Cronin, a young man with Down syndrome. John's motto is "we want to spread happiness through socks." Our thanks to those of you who ordered socks for your family and friends to help spread John Lee's mission. Thank you, too, for your commitment and for "stepping up" every single day to be the amazing volunteer you are!!!! For more information about John's Crazy Socks, go to johnscrazysocks.com. ♡



RSVP'S IMPACT IN 2025



450 RSVP Volunteers in Suffolk County are serving 50 not-for-profit organizations. **65,000+** volunteer hours equate to over 2 million dollars in savings to our community.

RSVP volunteers in our Telephone Reassurance Program

made over **4,000** phone calls a month to seniors, providing a friendly voice and an important well check.



RSVP's Community Computer Connections Program (CCCP) has refurbished **140** computers that were then donated to individuals and families who cannot afford this technology.



RSVP's Health Insurance Information Counselling & Assistance Program (HIICAP)

volunteers provided Medicare and Medicaid counseling to over **8,000** Medicare-eligible people

and their families at libraries and senior centers in Suffolk County.

RSVP's Living Healthy with Better Choices Program

has delivered **20+ free workshops** for it's A Matter

of Balance, Chronic Disease Self-Management and Diabetes Self-Management programs to hundreds of seniors in Suffolk County. ♥



IMPORTANT INFORMATION

From HIICAP/Living Healthy Coordinator Denise Passarelli

The 2026 numbers for **Extra Help with your Part D Drug Plan** as well as the **Medicare Savings Program** are out. To see if you qualify for any of these programs, contact the **HIICAP Help Line** at **631-979-9490** – Option 2 for more details.

Living Healthy With Better Choices: RSVP is pleased to announce that we will be providing more classes for the Tai Chi Workshops. Tai Chi classes take place either twice a week for 8 weeks

or once a week for 16 weeks. This evidence-based program is designed to help with Arthritis and Fall Prevention. For more information, please call Fran Tumsuden at 631-979-9490 x116. ♥



HIICAP
Health Insurance Information,
Counseling and Assistance
Program

WHEN ACTION MEETS COMPASSION, LIVES CHANGE!

Are you thinking of contributing your time to a new or additional volunteer opportunity? RSVP offers so many ways to give back to your community. Below is a list of our partnering sites, all of which rely on the support of people like you. For more information, please reach out to our Volunteer Coordinator, Terri Catania at 631-979-9490 ext. 115.

Alzheimer's Association—Melville
 Alzheimer's Disease Resource Ct-East Islip
 Babylon Breast Cancer Coalition, Inc.
 Bethany Hospitality Soup Kitchen – Cen. Islip
 Children's Center at Cohalan Court – Cen. Islip
 Cold Spring Harbor Whaling Museum
 Community Program Center /Day Haven
 Port Jefferson, Ronkonkoma
 Community Program Center/Head Start
 Port Jefferson, Ronkonkoma
 Dominican Village – Amityville
 Family Service League – Ombuds Program
 Senior Net Volunteer Ops
 Fire Island Lighthouse – Captree
 Fire Island National Seashore-Patchogue
 Friends of LI Dog Parks (LI-Dog)
 Friendship Kitchen – Middle Island
 Gerald J Ryan Outreach Center – Wyandanch
 Good Samaritan Hospital
 Good Shepherd Hospice – Farmingdale/Pt. Jeff
 Guide Dog Foundation – Smithtown/ All of Suffolk Cty
 Habitat for Humanity of Suffolk
 House of Thrift – East Northport
 Island Harvest
 Literacy Suffolk
 Long Island Coalition for the Homeless – Amityville
 Long Island Maritime Museum – W. Sayville
 Long Island Museum of American Art – Stony Brook
 Long Island Seaport and Ecology Center – Port Jeff.
 Long Island State Veterans Home – Stony Brook
 Martin Luther Terrace Apts – Kings Park
 Mather Hospital – Port Jefferson
 Mentoring – Project Excel, Huntington Youth Bureau
 Middle Island ADHS – Middle Island & Central Islip
 New York Blood Center– All of Suffolk County
 Northport Historical Society – Northport
 Northwell Huntington Hospital

Options Thrift Shop– Ronkonkoma
 Parkinson Therapy Center – Smithtown
 Pronto of Long Island – Bay Shore
 Rainbow Sr. Center – Lindenhurst
 Response of Suffolk County
 RSVP Community Computer Connections Program
 RSVP Health Insurance Information Counseling and
 Assistance Program (HIICAP)
 RSVP Home Service Project
 RSVP Living Healthy Program
 RSVP Speakers' Bureau
 RSVP Telephone Reassurance Program
 Sachem Community Youth Center
 Sagtikos Manor – Bay Shore
 Shinnecock Indian Nation – Southampton
 Siena Village – Smithtown
 Spangle Sr. Center– N. Babylon
 St. Catherine of Siena Medical Center – Smithtown
 St. Catherine of Siena NH – Smithtown
 St. Charles Hospital – Port Jefferson
 St. Johnland Nursing Center – Kings Park
 Suffolk County Farm & Education Ctr. – Yaphank
 Tanner Park Sr. Center – Copiague
 Tender Years of Club Moriches
 Three Village Meals on Wheels
 Town of Huntington Senior Center
 Town of Riverhead Senior Center
 Town of Southampton Senior Center- Bridgehampton/
 Hampton Bays & Flanders
 United Cerebral Palsy of LI
 VA Hospital – Northport
 VIBES Family Crisis Center Food Pantry-Islandia
 VNS Hospice of Suffolk – Northport
 VNS Community Thrift Store – Huntington
 Walt Whitman Birthplace – Huntington
 Wertheim National Wildlife Refuge Ctr. – Shirley
 Wyandanch Senior Nutrition ♥

Thank You!

To RSVP's Volunteer Knitters and Crocheters!

Thank you to our dedicated volunteer knitters and crocheters. Your countless hours, creativity, and generous donations of handmade items bring immense comfort and warmth to those who need it most. We are deeply grateful for the love and talent you stitch into every single piece! ♥



Thank You CCCP VOLUNTEERS

The following is a letter we received from a lovely nursing home resident who recently received a laptop computer that was refurbished by our wonderful and dedicated Community Computer Connections Program volunteers.

Hi, my name is Karen M. I am so grateful to the volunteers at RSVP for connecting me to the wonderful Community Computer Connections Program. I love my new laptop and use it to play word searches and memory games. I look forward to learning new games and playing them with friends and family that come to visit me. Thank you so much again for this great program.
Your friend, Karen



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Bethpage 516-396-1017 - Garden City 516-248-0068
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NEW YORK STATE SENATOR
MONICA R. MARTINEZ
FOURTH SENATORIAL DISTRICT

Much gratitude to the dedicated volunteers of RSVP, who provide countless programs and services to our Senior residents. Your services are invaluable and our community is fortunate to have these programs.

RSVP
CARING FOR OUR COMMUNITY
FRIENDS OF THE RETIRED & SENIOR VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

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RSVP MISSION STATEMENT

RSVP's mission is to provide wide-ranging volunteer opportunities for people 55 and older. RSVP supports Older Americans who wish to remain active and make a difference in their communities.

Maryflorene Brennan, Executive Director

Natalie Barnofsky, T.R. Coordinator

Monica Hall, Finance Manager

Terri Catania, Volunteer Coordinator

Denise Passarelli, HIICAP, Living Healthy Coordinator

Betty DeSimone, Executive Assistant

Rich Romaneck, IT Tech Support

Deborah Giampolo, East End T.R. Coordinator

Fran Tumsuden, Program Assistant

Smithtown Office
(631) 979-9490

East Hampton Office
Interim Phone Number
(631) 979-9490

Visit our Website at:
www.rsvpsuffolk.org

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