



“Volunteerism is the background of Americanism.”

city of Miles City RSVP Volunteer

Quick Facts for 2013

240 Active Volunteers
50 Community Partners
25,270 hours served
\$559,467 worth of
volunteer hours to
area non-profits

RSVP volunteers choose how, where, and how often they want to serve, with commitments ranging from a few hours to 40 hours per week.

The program is open to all U.S. citizens, nationals, or lawful permanent resident aliens, 55 years of age and over. Volunteers receive pre-service orientation, training from the organization where they will serve, and supplemental insurance while on duty. RSVP volunteers do not receive monetary incentives.

“Volunteering is about helping other people and that is what I really enjoy.” Delores Lathrop

“Each day you are lucky enough to volunteer is an exciting day.” Pat Conley

RSVP IN ACTION

RSVP's 9/11 Day Project was Harvest for Seniors. The goal of this project was to collect fresh produce and distribute it to seniors in our community. Thanks to the generosity of local gardeners RSVP collected and distributed 425 pounds of produce to over 75 seniors. The project was such a success we plan to continue it for our 2014 project for 9/11 Day of Service.



Volunteers crocheted and knitted over 75 hats, scarves, and mittens which were distributed to Head Start Students. One volunteer said, “Doing that made my whole month. It was so much fun to see the children.”

Stories in Stone, a horse drawn wagon tour of Custer County Cemetery, was held in September 2013. It was an excellent fundraiser and volunteers are planning for another tour in the fall of 2014.



RSVP is sponsored by the City of Miles City and serves Custer & Rosebud Counties, including the Northern Cheyenne Reservation

Mission Statement: To provide meaningful volunteer opportunities for individuals 55 and older to meet community needs.



Quotes from our Partners

"Our volunteers are very helpful and creative and are very valuable to our Center—we are lucky to have our volunteers!"

Lynn Waller, Forsyth Senior

"Volunteers are the backbone of the Soup Kitchen." P.K.

Alexander, Soup Kitchen cook and volunteer supervisor

"Volunteers are instrumental in the daily functions at Holy Rosary Healthcare. We have a small but dedicated group, committed to providing consistent and high quality service. Our volunteers are helpful, caring and kind—true assets to associates, patients, and visitors."

Abbie Coakley, Volunteer Coordinator, Holy Rosary Health Care.

"In our busy days it is always refreshing to have a volunteer lift your spirits by their smile & great attitude. They never complain about what job you have them do!"

Cindy Berg, Custer County Extension

RSVP concentrates volunteer placement on focus areas required by the Corporation for National and Community Service. A few examples of RSVP volunteer impacts (January 1, 2013 to December 31, 2013) were :

Healthy Futures: Three days a week volunteers serving at the Custer County Food Bank distributed food to a total of 6,763 individuals in 2013. Of those 6,763 individuals 1,418 were in the 56+ age bracket, 2,091 were under 18, and 3,275 were age 18-55. 224 veterans were served. The recent economic recession has had a severe impact on those who were already struggling to make a living, as well as many who have never needed help before. 452 new clients were served at the Food Bank in 2013. Food Bank Director, Robert Parker says, "First and foremost, I need to say the Food Bank would not be possible without RSVP volunteers who do the hard work of stocking and distributing this food to the needy folks and shut-ins in Miles City. They are here every week, good weather or bad to do this work."

Veterans & Military Families: 329 veterans were transported 50,415 miles (twice around the earth at the equator is 59,804 miles) to medical appointments in Montana in 2013 by 5 RSVP volunteers. Average miles driver per RSVP Volunteer was 10,083 miles. Veterans were transported from Miles City to Billings (300 miles/RT), Bozeman (580 miles/RT), Sturgis, SD (400 miles/RT), and Sheridan, WY (410 miles/RT).

The cost savings to veterans was \$28,485 using the federal mileage reimbursement rate. Value of volunteer time for the 1,282 hours served was \$28,284. The City of Miles City RSVP federal grant for FY13/14 was \$59,728 proving that this one project alone is providing financial assistance and positively impacting the lives of veterans, RSVP Volunteers, and involved communities. 100% of the RSVP volunteers involved in this project are veterans. In addition, a RSVP Volunteer coordinates the van drivers for the trips.

Volunteer Hours by Focus Area 2013

