

Volunteer Voice

Newsletter for the Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) @ Triton College
Serving West Suburban Cook and Southern DuPage Counties

Fall 2025: Sept-Dec



YOU'RE INVITED! 2025 VOLUNTEER FAIR

Presented by the Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) at Triton College
Join us at the Volunteer Fair! Meet with a variety of non-profit organizations and discover meaningful volunteering opportunities in your community.



Thursday
30 October, 2025



10:00 AM
12:30 PM



Triton College,
(R- Building),
Room R-221
2000 5th Ave,
River Grove IL

- ✓ Looking for ways to give back to the community?
- ✓ Interested in sharing your time and skills with local organizations?

QUESTIONS?

(708) 456- 0300, Ext. 3603

karenmorales@triton.edu



The event is free and open to the public to anyone over the age of 18.



AmeriCorps

DÍA DE LOS MUERTOS: A CELEBRATION OF LIFE

Celebrated on November 1st and 2nd, Día de los Muertos (Day of the Dead) is a joyful tradition honoring loved ones who have passed. Families build colorful ofrendas (an altar to honor the deceased) with photos, candles, marigolds, and favorite foods [of

the deceased] to welcome spirits back for a brief visit. With music, stories, and sweet treats like sugar skulls and pan de muerto, the holiday reminds us that those we love live on in memory and tradition.

- From the Director's desk... Pg 2
- Station Spotlight... Pg 3
- Birthdays . . . Pg 4

- Volunteer Spotlight. . . Pg 5
- Service Projects. . . Pg 6
- Volunteer Opportunities . . . Pg 7

- Clubs. . . Pgs 8 & 9
- Halloween Maze... Pg 10

In This Issue . .

From the Director's Desk

Happy autumn!

I love this time of year because of the cooler temperatures and the beautiful colors that Mother Nature provides. Also, this time of year begins the start of the holiday season—so many things to celebrate and be thankful for, especially during these unsettling times.

Below are some updates I want to share with you. ~Mario



VOLUNTEERS WANTED AT TRITON COLLEGE

We are still seeking volunteers for our Conversational English Tutoring Program (CETP). This program pairs volunteers with students from the ESL program at Triton College, enabling them to practice English through regular conversations. We especially need volunteers available in the late afternoon and/or early evening. Please contact Beth for more details.



Reminder:

**FILL OUT YOUR
TIMESHEET**

TIMESHEETS

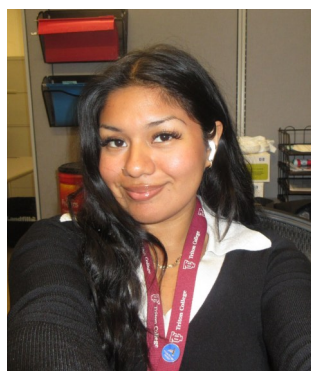
PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE, don't forget to submit your monthly timesheets to us. Many of you serve in your community but forget to report it to us. These hours are critical, especially in today's political climate where the President is trying to eliminate AmeriCorps. Your time, no matter how many or few hours you contribute, shows the impact our program has in the community. We need to show elected officials all the good work that you do. Timesheets are due by the 5th of each month.

Keep in mind—We can accept late timesheets up to three months after the deadline. **HOWEVER**, for those requesting mileage reimbursement, we can only process mileage payments for two months past. *For example, if you submit your January timesheet by March 5th, you'll be eligible to receive January's mileage reimbursement. However, if we don't get your January timesheet until after March 5th, you're unable to get reimbursed for that month.*



ANNUAL VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION LUNCHEON

Over the past few years, the RSVP has held its annual volunteer recognition luncheon in November. However, I decided to switch things up, and we will move this event to the end of April to align with National Volunteer Appreciation Month. We will announce details of the luncheon at the beginning of the new year.



NEW VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR

I am excited to announce that we have a new full-time Volunteer Coordinator. Please help me welcome Karen Morales to the team! Karen joined RSVP in January as one of our part-time Program Assistants, and was promoted to Coordinator effective September 15. Karen is primarily responsible for recruiting and placing volunteers in the community. She also coordinates all RSVP activities/programs.

Station Spotlight: Gottlieb Memorial Hospital



LOYOLA
MEDICINE

A Member of Trinity Health

Gottlieb Memorial Hospital has been a valued RSVP partner since 1984, and we're proud to shine a spotlight on the incredible impact volunteers make there. Since opening its doors in 1961, Gottlieb has been a trusted presence in Melrose Park, offering quality care close to home and showing compassion to the community it serves. As part of Loyola Medicine, that mission continues with the support of dedicated RSVP volunteers who generously give their time and heart.

RSVP volunteers play an essential role in creating a warm, welcoming environment for patients and families. Whether greeting visitors, assisting in the emergency department, supporting the gift store, or offering comfort through spiritual care, volunteers make the hospital feel more personal. Their presence brings reassurance, lifts spirits, and strengthens the bond between Gottlieb and the community.

New volunteers are welcomed with training and mentorship so they feel supported from the very start. Along with the joy of helping others, volunteers enjoy opportunities to learn new skills, make lasting friendships, and be part of a caring team. Each year, Gottlieb honors its volunteers with a recognition celebration as an expression of gratitude for the big difference they make every day.

At Gottlieb, compassion is at the heart of everything, and RSVP volunteers help that compassion shine even brighter for patients, families, and the entire community.



HAPPY SEPTEMBER, OCTOBER, NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

SEPT.

ARIAZ, RAYMOND J.
BROWN, DAHLA
BROWN, LAURA
CHOISUNIRACHON,
YUPADEE
CIMAGLIO, BARBARA
EDWARDS, PATRICIA
ELLIS, SYLVIA
GEORGE, NAOMI C.
GROVES, LISA
JORDAN, VICTORIA
KLUBA, JANINA
KLUSS, FRED
LAZCANO, ALMA
LITT, JUDITH
MCLAREN, DANIEL
MURRAY, MARK
NELSON, MARLENE
NOWICKI, KEITH
PARKER, LEATRICE
RADOVCIC, RANAYE
RUIZ, DAVID
SAMPSON, SHARON
SANTIAGO, IDA
SCHWARTZ, LISSA
STEPHENS, LEE Y.
THOMAS, VANESSA
URQUIETA, DEBORA

OCT.

CHODNICKA, WIOLETTA
DADIAN, MARY
DERESINSKI, MONICA
DIDOMENICO, GUIDO
EWING, DAWN
FOSTER, CAROLYN J
KAMKE, SHERRY
LYNCH, DIANE
ORLANDO, ANGELA M.
SCHMITT, NICK
SHAUNNESSY, JEAN
WALCZAK, ESPERANZA
WERDRICK, CHRISTINE
WILLIAMS, CHERYL

NOV.

BROWN, MARGOANN
FANTOZZI, ANNE
FERNANDEZ, BAHATI
GOOD, AYANI
HORN, HOWARD
JARZABEK, URSZULA
MINAS, DONALD
NODULMAN,
NORMAN
SAMPSON, ROBERT
SHAUNNESSY,
PATRICK
WILLIAMS, JOANN

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO THE
FOLLOWING RSVP
VOLUNTEERS WHO ARE
CELEBRATING ANOTHER YEAR
AROUND THE SUN!



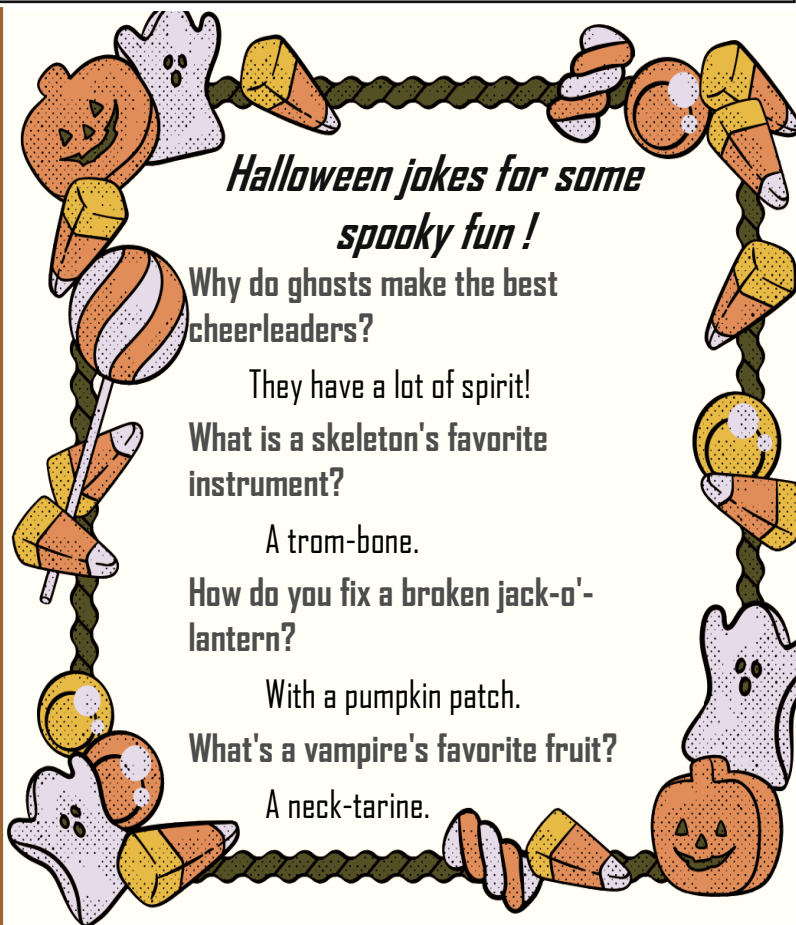
CALLING ALL VOLUNTEERS . . .

RSVP is seeking artifacts from you to include in our upcoming newsletters. Drawings, pictures, articles (about sharing news or information; NOT opinion based articles), spotlighting a fellow volunteer or volunteer station is what we are looking for. Please keep articles under 200 words.

If you are sharing a picture/drawing, make sure to send details describing the picture or drawing including who took/drew it. When submitting articles, think of a reporters main questions to be answered like who, what, where, when, why, and how.

Note, sending items to RSVP does not guarantee it will be printed. We reserve the right to refuse items that we deem controversial or inappropriate for our audience. Submissions will be mailed back to you once we are through. See the back page of the newsletter for the physical or e-mail address to send items.

For questions, contact Karen at ext. 3603



Volunteer Spotlight: Pamela Marzec

Pamela Marzec, a River Grove resident, has dedicated her time and heart to Gottlieb Memorial Hospital since 2019. After her husband's passing, volunteering along with caring for her grandchildren became a meaningful way to stay active and connected.

So far, this year, Pamela has logged an impressive 521 volunteer hours. Most of her time is spent in Gottlieb's gift shop, where she helps customers, offers directions, and provides a warm conversation to brighten someone's day. Her background in customer service as a former bowling alley manager makes her a natural at ensuring visitors feel welcome and cared for.

Pamela sees volunteering as both rewarding and essential. By supporting the gift shop manager, she helps keep the shop running smoothly while ensuring every guest receives attention and care. Beyond that, she's inspired by the larger community of volunteers at Gottlieb and is proud to be part of something bigger.

Her advice to others? *"Do it! There's something for everybody and it's highly rewarding."*



Pop Tabs for Ronald McDonald House Charities

RSVP is partnering with Ronald McDonald House Charities of Chicagoland to collect pop tabs!

How it works: United Scrap Metal purchases the tabs at market rates and adds an extra donation to support families staying close to their hospitalized child. On average, 40–55 cents per pound goes directly to helping families.

Our Goal: We're aiming to collect 10 lbs. (about 12,670 pop tabs!) by December to donate to the Ronald McDonald House in Hines, IL.

How You Can Help: Save your pop tabs and bring them to our offices in R-221. Every tab adds up to make a big difference for families in need.

For questions, contact RSVP at (708) 456-0300 ext. 3603.

Thank you for your support!



HELP US MAKE A DIFFERENCE

RSVP SERVICE PROJECT: MATS FOR THE HOMELESS

This fall, RSVP is turning plastic grocery bags into handmade mats that provide comfort and protection for people experiencing homelessness.



**WE NEED
YOUR HELP**

DONTE CLEAN PLASTIC BAGS

Collection of bags:
October-December
2025.



*Drop off your bags in one
of our collection boxes
on campus.*

- ♦ A-Building (Library)
- ♦ B-Building (Welcome Desk)
- ♦ R-Building (Lobby area, by the copy machine)

Questions? Email: karenmoraless@triton.edu, Phone: (708) 456-0300, Ext 3603



Volunteer Jobs

Contact Karen to learn more about these and other volunteer opportunities.

(708) 456-0300, ext. 3603

CHICAGO

NON-PROFIT SETTING

- Apartment Set-Assistant
- Citizenship Assistant
- Citizenship Tutor
- Early Childhood Classroom Aide
- English Language Tutors
- Friendship Partners
- Health Advocate
- Office Assistant
- Youth Tutor
- Transportation Assistant
- Volunteer Teams
- Legal Ombudsman

FRANKLIN PARK

Non-Profit Setting

- Food Pantry
- Office Assistant
- Benefit Specialist
- Community Support

FOREST PARK

Non-Profit Setting

- Volunteer Companion

HINES

Hospital Setting

- Clerical
- Escort
- Food Pantry Shopper
- Friendly Visitor
- Laboratory-Clerical
- Library
- Pharmacy-Office
- Red Coat Ambassadors
- Voluntary Service Office

LaGrange

Mental Health Setting

- Floor Staff
- Front Door Greeter
- Group Leader

MAYWOOD

Housing Shelter Setting

- Receptionist
- Thrift Store Assistant

Hospital Setting

- Clerical
- Pet Therapy

MELROSE PARK

Hospital Setting

- Clerical
- Gift Shop Helper
- Information Desk
- Pharmacy
- Pet Therapy
- Spiritual Care
- Friendly Visitor
- Transporter

Non-Profit Setting

- Greeting Card Artist
- Meal Delivery Driver
- Cafe Assistant

NORRIDGE

Resource Center

- Meal Delivery Driver
- Friendly Visitor
- Telephone Reassurance

NORTH RIVERSIDE

Resource Center

- Admin/ Clerical
- Outreach Associate
- Caregiver Resource Center
- Meal Delivery Driver
- Senior Health Assistant

OAKBROOK

Hospital Setting

- Administrative Service
- Bereavement Service
- Creative Service
- Direct Patient Care Service
- Knitting & Sewing Service
- Music Enrichment Services

OAK PARK

Animal Shelter Setting

- Clinic Support
- Office Assistant
- General Event Volunteer
- Fundraising & Donor Engagement
- Second Retail Shop
- Dog/Cat Enrichment
- Dog Walker
- Clinic Setting
- Library Aide
- Pet Therapy
- Floor Staff
- Front Door Greeter

Medical Setting

- Clerical

- Information Desk
- Records Dept.
- Same day / Outpatient
- Visit Patients

Museum Setting

- Clerical
- Special Events

Non-Profit Setting

- Community Advocate SMP
- Community Educator
- Benefits Specialist
- Community Outreach
- S.H.I.P Assistant
- FIT & STRONG Facilitator
- Meal on Wheels Driver
- Food Service
- Phone Wellbeing Check-ins
- Special Events
- Pet Therapy

Shelter Housing

- Case Aide
- Economy Shop
- Meal Provider
- Meal Scheduler
- On Site Assistant
- Evening Shelter Host

RIVER GROVE

Non-Profit Setting

- Clip Coupons for Military Families
- ESL-Tutor
- Special Events Helper

RIVER FOREST

Non-Profit Setting

- Graphic Design Service
- Program Aid

SCHILLER PARK

Non-Profit Setting

- Blood Drive

WINFIELD

Hospital Setting

- Admin Support
- Escort/ Transporter
- Friendly Visitor

General Support

- Gift Shop Helper
- Information Desk
- Organizing Donations for Pediatric Dept.

TRITON COMMUNITY HORTICULTURE CLUB

The Triton Community Horticulture Club (TCHC) was established in 1969 to stimulate interest and advance learning in horticulture, while aiding in the preservation of natural resources. The club works to promote an understanding and love of plants through informative programs, field trips, and classes. Membership is open to anyone, regardless of age, who aligns with the club's purpose.



Meetings are held the second Tuesday of each month (excluding January and February) at Triton College, in the R-building, room R-221, from 12:30pm to 2:30pm.

TCHC partners with the Triton College Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP), which recruits and matches volunteers in the community. This partnership allows the club to utilize services through the college and helps document volunteer hours for club members.

For more information about the TCHC, contact anyone on the club's leadership team.

Fall 2025 Meeting Schedule & Topics

Anyone may attend one TCHC meeting before being asked to pay annual membership dues (\$20 per year) which help cover costs for materials and speakers.

♦ October 14—"Putting Your Garden to Bed"

Presented by William Karges

Learn how to prepare your garden for winter with a focus on perennial flowers.

♦ November 11 - "Reducing Climate Change Through Backyard Composting"

Presented by Rolfe Jaremus

Rolf will discuss how backyard composting and recycling of organic waste can not only create some great gardening material but also can reduce CO2 and methane emissions. He will discuss how to build a compost bin and teach how to care for it.

♦ December 9 - TCHC Holiday Luncheon

Celebrate the holidays with the TCHC. Dues-paying club members will receive a discounted rate.

President: Douglas Peck

E-mail: poopzee1@gmail.com

Vice-President: Jean Wypychowski

E-mail: jkwypy@gmail.com

Membership Chair: Linda Byer

E-mail: linda@buyer.us.com

Triton College Liaison/ Advisor: Mario Porras

Phone: (708) 456- 0300, Ext. 3603

E-mail: marioporras@triton.edu



Join the Triton Community Horticulture Club on Facebook!

Connect with fellow gardeners, share ideas, and post photos of your garden. Stay inspired and engaged with our horticulture community!

Active Retired Citizens Club

The **Active Retired Citizens Club (ARCC)** is an educational, social club for retirees that provides members with activities and networking opportunities to help them expand their social and intellectual lives

The club meets the first Friday of each month (*excluding January, June, July*) at Triton College, in the "R" building, room R-221, from 12pm to 2pm. Coffee and snacks are provided.

Types of Activities:

- Workshops on topics facing the senior population
- Luncheons
- Craft projects
- Movies
- Educational/informative presentations
- And more!

To Join ARCC:

Call us to have an application sent to you, or come to our next meeting. Membership dues are approximately \$15.

**Questions about ARCC, contact the RSVP office at
(708) 456-0300, ext. 3603**



Upcoming Meeting Dates & Topics:

October 3 - Pumpkin Decorating & Presentation: "Safe Landing—A family's journey following the crash of American Airlines flight 191"

Presentation by Kim Jockl and Melody Smith
"Safe Landing" is a book that tells the incredible journey of three siblings over the last 40+ years grieving their parents sudden loss, coming together as a family, and working hard to honor the lives of all 273 lost on flight 191. Two of the three authors/siblings will talk about this tragedy and share their experiences. Books will be available to purchase following the presentation.

Stay after the presentation and join us in decorating mini-pumpkins to celebrate Halloween!

November 14 - Staying Healthy.

Presentation from Ascension Living Casa Scalabrini

Learn about local resources to help you stay healthy. **LUNCH** will be provided, so call to register in advance. (708) 456-0300, ext. 3603

December 5 - Holiday Luncheon

Celebrate the holidays with us and enjoy good food and company. Cost of lunch is \$10 for members and \$15 for non-members. Call by November 21 to register.





Contact Us

**Retired & Senior Volunteer
Program (RSVP) at Triton
College**

*Serving West Suburban Cook and
Southern DuPage Counties*

**2000 Fifth Ave., Building R,
Room 221; River Grove, IL 60171**

**Phone: (708) 456-0300
Ext. 3603**

E-mail: rsvp@triton.edu

On the web:
www.triton.edu/rsvp

Staff

Director:

Mario Porras

Volunteer Coordinator:

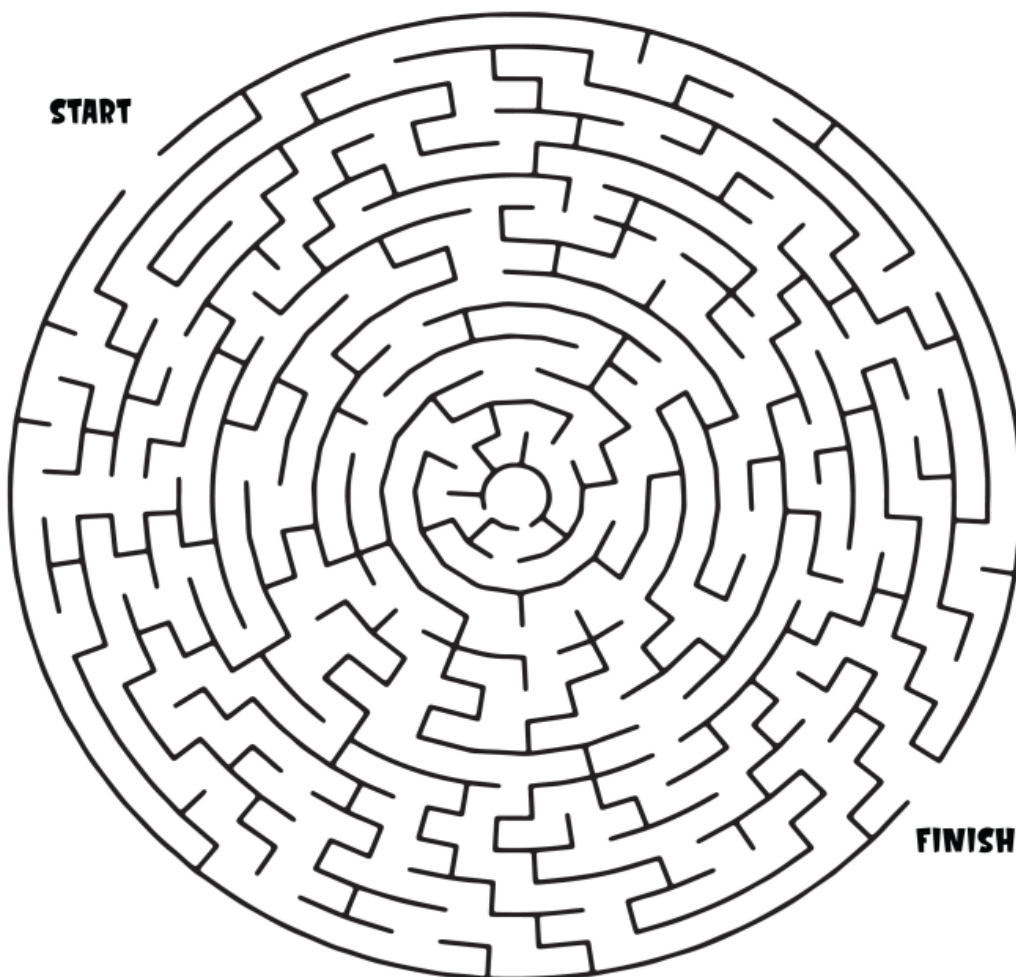
Karen Morales

Program Assistant:

Beth Sanfilippo



HALLOWEEN MAZE



Retired Senior
Volunteer Program

CONNECT WITH US!

We invite volunteers to post pictures when
working with our volunteer stations!



Tag us on Facebook
[@Triton College RSVP](https://www.facebook.com/TritonCollegeRSVP)



or email us your pictures and
we'll share them for you.
karenmoraless@triton.edu

