RSVP MISSION STATEMENT and CORE SERVICES

RSVP (Retired & Senior Volunteer Program) strives to enrich the lives of men and women age 55 and over through meaningful volunteer opportunities that use their time and abilities to address critical community needs in Rockingham, Merrimack, Belknap and Strafford Counties. RSVP offers a personalized, one-to-one placement service by matching their talents and interests with the volunteer needs of local nonprofit organizations. RSVP is a Corporation for National and Community Service Senior Corps Program sponsored locally by The Friends Program, located in Concord, New Hampshire. The Friends RSVP offers membership in National Service Senior Corps and assists individuals by providing volunteer opportunities that match your interest, skills, and availability with a local community need or service.

RSVP volunteers provide service in a wide variety of roles.

Established direct services include:
- The Friends Caregiver Program - Supporting Independent Living of Seniors
- The RSVP Bone Builders Program - Osteoporosis Prevention

Established community volunteer program services:
- Food distribution and nutrition - food pantries, soup kitchens, senior meal sites
- Basic Human Needs – shelters,
- Education - children and adult, mentoring
- Delivery of Health Services - at local hospitals, senior wellness clinics
- Organizational capacity building: fundraising, volunteer management roles, office assistants, bulk mailing preparation, ushers and greeters,

Friends RSVP Volunteer of the Year 2016

It is my pleasure to recommend a couple, “Cy” & Gordon Sherman, as the Friends RSVP Program Volunteer of the Year.

Cy & Gordon have been dedicated Retired and Senior Volunteer Program volunteers for over 12 years and have contributed a combined lifetime total of almost 12,000 service hours. At Havenwood Retirement home, both Cy and Gordon are very active in all aspects of community life, ensuring everyone feels welcome and included. For years they have been involved with volunteering at support and chat groups, exercise classes, pastoral care, and providing resident companionship and visitation or rides to anyone in need.

Cy alone contributed 550 hours in 2015. She served for 9 years in the “America Reads” program at the Dame School, Pen Pal program at the Mill Brook School, and Senior Activities and Companionship at Havenwood Retirement community in Concord. While at the Dame School from 2003-2012, Cy actively engaged with students in grades K-3 for paired and individual reading twice per week. Since the Dame school closed, she continues to share her time reading with students at the Mill Brook School. I spoke with Havenwood Program Coordinator Kathy Litchfield who had this to say about Cy:
“Cy is wonderful and does lots of good work. She is one of the most giving, loving people I’ve ever met and can’t think of anyone else more deserving of recognition. She is someone that will always give, always has a smile, and always gives of herself. Cy is a very strong woman and never has a negative comment for others. She is openly accepting of everyone and makes a point to include them in the Havenwood community. Cy is a very Godly person and passionate about family and children. She helps ensure that people’s necessities are met and is willing to take on anything that needs to be done. There is a depth about her that’s uncommon—she’s like our little Mother Theresa.”

In addition to the work that they have done for Havenwood, Gordon and Cy have been active with the PFLAG support group in Concord, the Homeless Resource Center, and the Friendly Kitchen. Gordon donated between 15 and 65 hours per month to the Homeless Resource Center for many years, and also supported the Havenwood Men’s Group.

I think this snapshot gives you an idea of the impact Gordon and Cy have had on folks in the Havenwood and greater Concord communities in the last decade. All of this occurred here in Concord with RSVP but both Gordon and Cy gave years of service in their former hometown of Deering as well. It’s evident that their tireless and unselfish dedication to serving others embodies the true spirit of the Friends Program mission and make them an excellent choice for this recognition.