

March 2008



Hello RSVP Volunteers!

Please read the following press release regarding Senior Programs and RSVP—let me know if you have any questions!

Garfield County Senior Programs Receive Approvals for Restructuring

(Glenwood Springs, Colo.) - The Garfield Board of County Commissioners and the Colorado Mountain College Board of Trustees have approved the reorganizing of several programs for older adults. CMC's trustees on March 3, and the BOCC on March 10, each voted unanimously to accept changes recommended by the Garfield County Senior Programs Work Group.

Composed of representatives from Garfield County, the City of Glenwood Springs, CMC, the City of Rifle, the Garfield County Council on Aging, the Roaring Fork Transportation Authority and others, the work group has been meeting for approximately one year. Discussions centered on how to reorganize the congregate meals, Traveler and RSVP volunteer programs in the county.

In November of 2007, CMC, Garfield County, RFTA and the cities and towns within the county contributed funding to hire a consultant. Between November and March, the consultant assisted the work group with reaching agreement on a new model for serving seniors in Garfield County. Lin Stickler, CMC executive vice president and work group member, said, "We are very appreciative of how well the work group members have collaborated and cooperated on the development of this restructuring proposal."

The new model recommended by the work group has the Garfield County Department of Human Services managing the Traveler senior transportation program and congregate meals, beginning July 1, 2008. The Garfield BOCC voted on March 10 to accept the administration of these two programs and also approved creating a new position, program manager - senior programs. The position description will be posted soon for an anticipated start date of May 1, if possible.

Senior nutrition, the Traveler and the RSVP volunteer program had been managed by CMC for the past 30 years. Last year the community college's board of trustees asked that college staff look into finding new umbrella organizations to sponsor the programs, as they fell outside the realm of the college's mission to meet the educational and training needs of its communities. The board continued to fund the programs until new sponsorship could be located, and the Garfield County Senior Programs Work Group was formed with key stakeholders. "The work group was able to come together with a win-win solution for all, a solution that will allow the programs to grow and expand to meet seniors' needs far into the future," said Stickler.

After many months of research and meetings, the work group also recommended that CMC continue to sponsor the RSVP program with "enhanced educational opportunities" for a minimum of three years. At that time, an assessment of the program will be made to determine whether it should remain with the college into the future. Because RSVP has now been asked to help advise the college's campuses in Garfield County on meeting the educational needs of seniors, the CMC trustees accepted this recommendation at their March 3 meeting.

Considerable collaboration will continue among CMC, the county and other stakeholders regarding senior programs. RSVP will continue to provide volunteers for the meals and transportation programs. A county-wide advisory group will be formed that includes representatives from the various stakeholders to ensure communications continue. In addition, an intergovernmental agreement will be signed by the stakeholders signifying a commitment to continue funding for these senior programs into the future.

"Garfield County, the cities and towns, RFTA and CMC strongly agree on the value of these services for our community's seniors and have committed to continue supporting them in a significant way," stated Ed Green, Garfield County manager and work group member.

Clients of the affected programs will soon receive letters explaining the upcoming changes. There should be minimal noticeable change in the programs.

RSVP anticipates exciting developments and changes as we work to strengthen our relationship with CMC and the community. Thanks to all who worked so hard to make this possible!



If you have an e-mail address and did not put it on your application, please let us know. We are not going to disclose your address, but do hope to ultimately be able to send our newsletter via e-mail to many of you—plus we want to let you know about new volunteer opportunities that are available.

You can just send me a test e-mail at rsvp@coloradomtn.edu and I will put your e-mail address into your record!

You think that your timesheet is just extra paperwork, BUT because you turned in your timesheet:

- 127 seniors & disabled have gotten their income taxes done already.
- We have volunteers helping with the stimulus package refunds that must be done this year—all NEED the \$300 rebates coming in the spring.
- 241 seniors got help with Medicare Part D.
- And there is more—so

THANK YOU!

(AND KEEP TURNING THEM IN!)

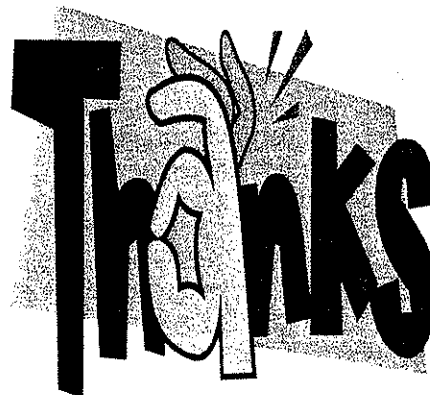
Volunteer Timesheet Help:

- Cheryl Cain—947-8462
- rsvp@coloradomtn.edu



We are always looking for new opportunities to make a difference for seniors. We are in the brainstorming phase of building a chores/handyman project for seniors. If you, or someone you know might have a passion for creating this type of program, please e-mail or call me. I have one volunteer really helping with this—need a few more with vision, passion, interest, and energy.

If you have ideas about educational needs that seniors have—let us know. In our partnership with CMC, we will be having conversations about this and we need, want, and would love your input.



All Taskforce members & our consultant

All Commissioners & all CMC Board of Trustee Members

All members of the Senior community in Garfield County

Check us out on the web!
www.highcountryrsvp.org