

## **RSVP of Perry County is funded by:**

- **the Corporation for National and Community Service**
- **Perry County Commissioners**
- **Area Agency on Aging**

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## **HISTORY of RSVP:**

RSVP is a federal government program supported by the Corporation for National and Community Service, which recruits volunteers 55 and older to serve in a diverse range of volunteer services. The goal is to find meaningful volunteer opportunities that use volunteer's talents, expertise and life-long experiences to address critical community needs.

RSVP was launched in the spring of 1971 with an appropriation of \$500,000 under the auspices of the administration on Aging (AoA). In July of the same year, RSVP was transferred from AoA to the federal agency, ACTION, which had oversight of federal domestic volunteer program. Eleven projects were started in the summer of 1971. In 1993, the Corporation for National and Community Service came into being. You can learn more about the Corporation for National and Community Service by visiting: [www.nationalservice.org](http://www.nationalservice.org).

Today, there are over 650 RSVP chapters nationwide and over 290,000 RSVP volunteers. The concept of seniors using their talents and experience in the community resulted from the 1961 White House Conference on Aging. The United States Congress recognized the value of seniors as a community resource, and in 1965 passed the Older Americans Act, which provided new channels for mature Americans to help make their communities better places. This action resulted in the formation of the first RSVP program.