

Special Recognition

Margie Zutter

RSVP of Dane County

Governor's
Service Awards



Margie Zutter's unwavering commitment to RSVP of Dane County spans an impressive 46 years. Her journey began as a dedicated college student intern in 1976, and upon graduating, she transitioned into the Community Services Project Director role. In 1979, Margie's exceptional leadership abilities led her to be appointed as Assistant Director. Throughout the years, she steadily progressed within the organization, assuming greater responsibilities. She was named executive director in 2011.

Under Margie's steadfast guidance, RSVP of Dane County has flourished, boasting an astounding achievement of over 8 million hours contributed by AmeriCorps Seniors volunteers. It has grown into one of the nation's most prominent RSVP programs, with a robust roster of 1,200 volunteers serving at more than 80 nonprofits and public agencies. These dedicated individuals selflessly offer their assistance in diverse areas such as driver services, veterans programming, public safety education, intergenerational and school-based initiatives, and volunteer service with numerous organizations that cater to the needs of the people of Dane County.



From her early days as an intern, Margie collaborated with senior volunteers countywide, crafting handmade items for agencies to distribute among individuals of all ages facing hardships. This initiative, which Margie championed, continues to thrive after four decades, with AmeriCorps Seniors volunteers crafting an impressive 16,000 handmade quilts, knit sweaters, and other clothing items in 2022 alone. Since 1976, Margie has worked tirelessly alongside other community agencies to develop programs that harness the skills and experience of senior volunteers, such as Vets Helping Vets and First Book of Dane County.

Margie's exemplary leadership extends beyond the confines of Dane County, as she has actively supported national service and programming for seniors. Her involvement as a board member of the National Senior Corps Association (NSCA) and her past presidency of the Wisconsin Senior Corps Association (WISCA) demonstrates her commitment to advancing these vital causes. Currently, Margie serves on the Board of the Wisconsin Aging Advocacy Network (WAAN), further solidifying her dedication to promoting the well-being and rights of aging individuals.

Margie's unwavering belief in the mission of the AmeriCorps Seniors Programs shines through her remarkable 46-year tenure with RSVP. Throughout her career, from student intern to her current role as Executive Director, she has consistently demonstrated a genuine passion for helping older adults foster meaningful connections within their community through volunteer service.

Despite her upcoming retirement this July, Margie's connection with RSVP of Dane County and her commitment to national service will endure, as she plans to continue her involvement as an RSVP volunteer herself.

