



MAN OF THE HOUR

BY ROB PAINE
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SPRINGFIELD RESIDENT KEN KOZLOFF NAMED FAIRFAX COUNTY RSVP VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

Springfield resident Ken Kozloff has been named Fairfax County RSVP-Northern Virginia Volunteer of the Year during Volunteer Fairfax's annual countywide volunteer recognition and awards breakfast at The Waterford in Springfield.

Established in 1993, the Fairfax County Volunteer Service Awards serve as a community-wide celebration of volunteerism. The awards honor individuals, groups and organizations that have given outstanding volunteer service through a broad range of activities and programs.

RSVP Northern Virginia, a program of Volunteer Fairfax, is the region's largest volunteer network for people 55 and older and provides individualized support to seniors seeking service opportunities in and around Fairfax County, Arlington County and the City of Alexandria.

RSVP (Retired and Senior Volunteer Program) locally offers more than 200 meaningful volunteer opportunities to seniors and supports 30 of the top nonprofits and government agencies in the region that help residents age in place, support local veterans in need, keep our parks green, help move people towards financial independence and that help prepare communities for disasters.

RSVP will be holding two free volunteer orientations next month including one Wednesday, May 2, at 2:30 p.m. at the Dolley Madison Library in McLean and another Friday, May 18, at 10:30 a.m. at Reston Regional Library. To register please visit www.rsvpnova.org or call 703-403-5360.

Kozloff volunteers for several of RSVP's and Volunteer Fairfax's partners including Junior Achievement, The Fairfax County Park Authority and the Northern Virginia Senior Olympics.

Kozloff was nominated for the RSVP award by Gayle Robinson, director of program innovation at Junior Achievement of Greater Washington, a program that strives to inspire the next generation to be financially capable and tenacious problem solvers

who creatively manage risk and welcome opportunity.

"Ken is a go-to volunteer that is always happy to help. His flexibility and passion make him an ideal volunteer to have on board," Robinson wrote in her nomination. "He deserves to be recognized for his intentional dedication to supporting our communities through his volunteer activism."

Ken is a familiar face at Junior Achievement Finance Park in Central Fairfax, a state-of-the-art facility where eighth graders from across the county get hands-on experience and guidance so they can meet the fiscal challenges of everyday life. Ken is also a regular in local schools teaching financial literacy, work readiness and entrepreneurship as a JA volunteer. Robinson says "Kozloff's energy and enthusiasm are contagious." Ken has taught more than a dozen classes at local schools impacting close to 300 students, according to Robinson. "Ken is our go-to volunteer who is always happy to help," she says. "We are so thankful for his support!"

Kozloff also works with Junior Achievement's Company Program and Entrepreneurship Summit, which teaches students skills to manage a business or how to start and grow a business.

Kozloff is a fixture at some of Fairfax County Park Authority's recreation centers. More than five years ago he began volunteering at Providence RECenter in Falls Church, teaching children on the autism spectrum to swim through the park authority's Adapted Aquatics program

He later added an afternoon of classes at the Spring Hill RECenter pool in McLean, teaching special needs adults including those with neurological issues or physical impairments. The park authority honored him in 2015 as the Adaptive Aquatics Outstanding Volunteer of the Year.

Kozloff parlayed his experience with Adapted Aquatics into expanding JA's high school program to include special needs students. He suggested to JA "What about working with special needs children in the schools?" Nothing like that had been done, he was told. He replied "Why not," so Kozloff developed a financial literacy curriculum for special needs students.

After a successful pilot project at Oakton High School, thanks to Kozloff's vision, the program now called JA Life Skills Learning, is offered at several county high schools.

When he is not volunteering for other causes he is a volunteer engagement leader for RSVP, acting as a nonprofit evangelist of sorts, spreading the word on why RSVP is such a great program. "What's unique about RSVP is the approach it takes to new

volunteers, helping them to find what they're looking to do, not where we are looking to place them," Kozloff says. Kozloff truly enjoys giving back.

What separates RSVP from other volunteer organizations is its leadership and the approach it takes, treating each volunteer as an individual, according to Kozloff. As an engagement leader, Kozloff tells prospective volunteers "We are going to show you things and talk to you about specific opportunities that you can relate to."

RSVP volunteers enjoy flexible schedules, free accident and liability insurance while serving, optional mileage and meal reimbursement and are invited to volunteer group projects and social gatherings.

"The big thing that I get out of volunteering is the satisfaction of helping others," he says. "I love to help others, find out what their goals are and help them achieve them, whether it is teaching an autistic child to swim from one side of the pool to the other, or teaching a stroke patient who would like to learn to swim again."

He says he also enjoys working with other volunteers and letting them know how important it is to make other people feel good. RSVP asks each prospective volunteer, "How can we help you find that volunteer opportunity that is going to mean something to you?" Kozloff says.

Kozloff told a recent group of new RSVP recruits "What you get back (from volunteering) is like 20 times more than what you are giving." In March RSVP Northern Virginia honored Kozloff with a Point of Light President's Volunteer Service Award.

"Ken is the prime example of an RSVP volunteer and of how much impact one individual can have on their community" says RSVP Northern Virginia interim program manager and RSVP volunteer specialist Carly Hubicki. "I know that I can always count on Ken whenever I need his help." Hubicki says.

"Ken has a way of truly engaging and energizing our volunteers to take action. He is able to captivate the audience and get them excited about signing up for the program and volunteering! He has done all of this amazing work in just the three years he has been retired, and I know he isn't slowing down anytime soon," Hubicki says. Kozloff, a former INOVA Alexandria Hospital CEO, turned 70 years old last August.

Those interested in learning more about RSVP or in signing up for an RSVP event should contact RSVP Northern Virginia Volunteer Specialist Carly Hubicki at 703-403-5360, email Hubicki@volunteerfairfax.org or visit the RSVP website at www.rsvpnova.org.