



Thank you for joining us for today's webinar:

Exploring Social Poverty: A Webinar Discussion  
of the Impact of Family and Community Ties  
for Low-Income Populations

The webinar will begin promptly at 12pm CT  
(1pm ET, 11am MT, 10am PT)

## Exploring Social Poverty: A Webinar Discussion of the Impact of Family and Community Ties for Low-Income Populations

December 3, 2019

12pm-1pm CST

Brought to you by:

Center for Financial Security  
at the University of Wisconsin- Madison



**Hallie Lienhardt**  
Assistant Director  
Center for Financial Security  
University of Wisconsin-Madison

## Exploring Social Poverty: A Webinar Discussion of the Impact of Family and Community Ties for Low-Income Populations

- Welcome
- Presentations
  - Study Overview & Findings
  - Presenter: UW-Madison Division of Extension
  - Presenter: Big Brothers Big Sisters of Dane County
  - Presenter: The Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) of Dane County
- Q & A
- Sign off

## Our Presenters



**Sarah Halpern-Meekin**  
Associate Professor  
Human Development and Family Studies  
University of Wisconsin-Madison



**Amanda Kostman**  
Outreach Specialist  
Human Development and  
Relationships Extension Educator  
UW-Madison Division of Extension



**Johnna Georgia**  
Program Director  
Big Brothers Big Sisters  
of Dane County



**Margie Zutter**  
Executive Director  
RSVP of Dane County, Inc.



**Diana Jost**  
Assistant Director  
RSVP of Dane County, Inc.

The background of the slide features a close-up, low-key photograph of two hands. One hand is positioned higher and further back, while the other is lower and closer to the viewer. Their fingers are extended towards each other, creating a sense of tension and reaching. The lighting is soft and directional, highlighting the contours of the hands against a neutral, light-colored background.

# Social Poverty

Low-Income Parents and the Struggle for Family and Community Ties





A REPORTER AT LARGE AUGUST 18, 2003 ISSUE

# THE MARRIAGE CURE

*Is wedlock really a way out of poverty?*


By Katherine Boo

The government can't  
"sprinkle magic dust on  
poor unmarried parents,  
hook them up and expect  
poverty to disappear."  
— Julieanne Malveaux, USA  
Today

"Marriage will not fix  
poverty."  
- Rebecca Rosen,  
The Atlantic

"a little noticed twist on  
social engineering by  
government."  
- Alexandra Starr, Business  
Week



The background of the entire image is a repeating pattern of smiley faces. The top half features a yellow background with gold-colored smiley faces. The bottom half features a gold background with yellow-colored smiley faces. The smiley faces are simple, with two dots for eyes and a curved line for a mouth.

“It was like Family Expectations put a phrase or a word above the problem we had. It was like ‘This is your problem here’ so now we knew how to take . . . what steps we needed to . . . take care of it, so that was definitely building us up stronger each week.”

- Robert, 21, first-time father

“With Family Expectations you get peace of mind. You’re around good, positive people. Nothing negative. Nothing.”

- Denelle, 30, mother of two







# Why does social poverty matter?

- Social isolation and lacking emotional supports are tied to poorer health behaviors and mental and physical health outcomes, including mortality (Cacioppo & Patrick 2008; Holt-Lundstad et al. 2015)
- Emotional supports during pregnancy are associated with a lower risk of postpartum depression and better birth outcomes (Collins et al. 1993; Luecken et al. 2013; Nylen, O'Hara, & Engeldinger 2013; Stapleton et al. 2012)
- Social support facilitates better parenting and promotes children's development (Angleley et al. 2015; Bono, Sy, & Kopp 2016; Byrnes & Mill 2012)



# Vulnerability to Social Poverty

- Age
- Multiple transitions
  - Transition to adulthood
  - Transition to partnership
  - Transition to parenthood
- Instability undermines trust in self and partner



# How do parents see Family Expectations building their relational resources?



Assistance navigating transitions



Establish shared expectations/norms



Sense of shared commitment to building relationship



Social supports within program environment

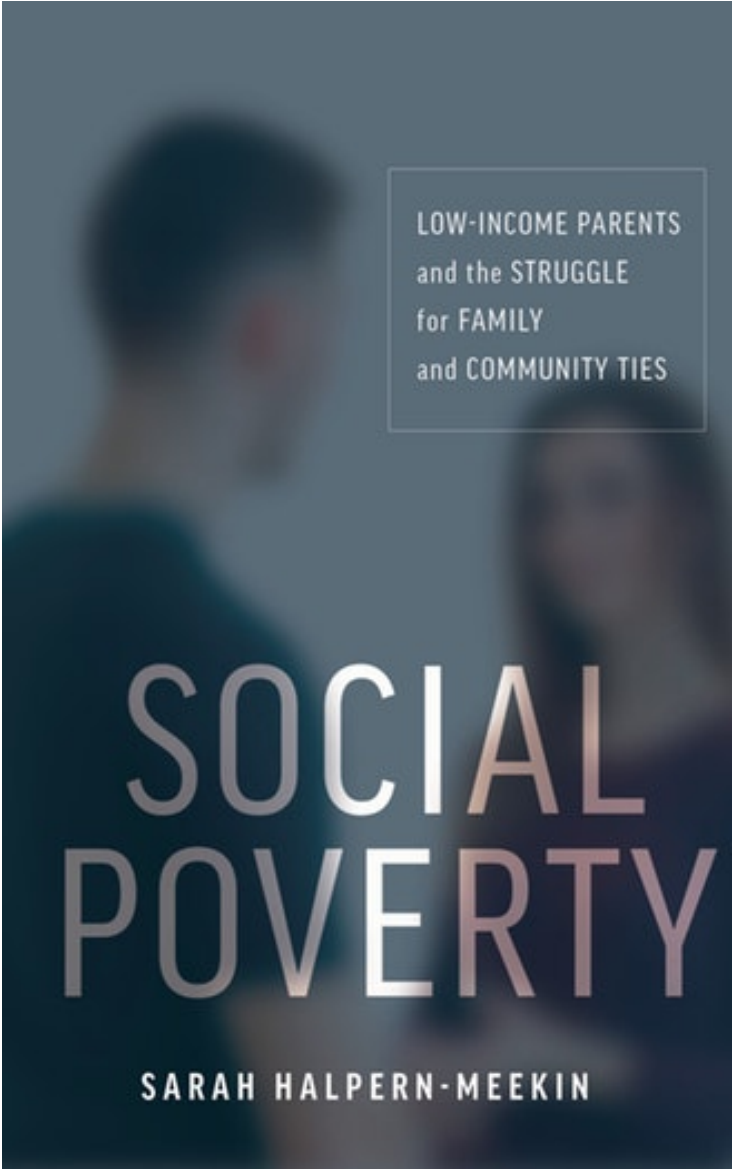


Stronger sense of partnership as a relational resource

# Addressing Social Poverty in Public Policy

Design programs to promote dignity and human connection

Deliver social services in a way that builds relationships



LOW-INCOME PARENTS  
and the STRUGGLE  
for FAMILY  
and COMMUNITY TIES

# SOCIAL POVERTY

SARAH HALPERN-MEEKIN





# Building social supports for those living in a homeless shelter

Amanda Kostman

Human Development and Relationships  
Extension Educator

UW-Madison Extension – Walworth County

[amanda.kostman@wisc.edu](mailto:amanda.kostman@wisc.edu)



# Rent Smart

In addition to the **Rent Smart** curriculum, a successful tenant education program requires a local partnership. Involvement of local rental housing providers, local housing authorities and other tenant service providers in design and delivery of the local program is essential. The 2017 revised curriculum consists of six modules, designed to be taught separately or in combination.

The curriculum incorporates case studies that reflect these types of circumstances allowing participants to apply their own knowledge and build on it. Instructors can draw on a variety of active learning elements across the modules to modify the course to fit their specific audience.



<https://fyi.extension.wisc.edu/rentsmart/>

# Rent Smart Basics

- Basic Money Management principles.
- Knowing what home would fit needs before starting a search.
- Looking objectively at what a landlord does in the application process.
- Interviewing and choosing landlords.
- Positive communication.
- Clear maintenance and repair expectations.
- Moving in and out protocol.



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WALWORTH COUNTY

# How it can be used to builds social supports

- Positive landlord relationship
- Rent Smart Certificate to help with application acceptance.
- Awareness of positive and negative consequences of using social support network.
- Being creative in using their social supports.
- Building relationship that are social supports.
- Bridge into financial coaching.



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WALWORTH COUNTY



# Financial Coaching Strategies

Division of Extension



[Welcome](#) [Financial Capability Scale \(FCS\)](#) [Training Opportunities](#) [What is Financial Coaching? »](#) [Coaching Research »](#)

Welcome to the Financial Coaching Strategies website. Financial Coaching is a unique tool for increasing individuals' financial literacy, distinct from counseling, advising, or teaching. This website is meant to be a resource for those interested in learning more about coaching, and a forum for those who are already practicing coaching in their communities. We will post tools and information on models with which we've had or heard about success. We look forward to hearing your feedback and ideas as well.

Thank you for visiting, and please let us know if you have thoughts on how to make this site more helpful or user-friendly!

[J. Michael Collins](#)

Associate Professor and Cooperative Extension Specialist; Faculty Director, **Center for Financial Security**

We thank the [Annie E. Casey Foundation](#) and [University of Wisconsin-Extension](#) for their support of financial coaching.



THE ANNIE E. CASEY FOUNDATION

## RECENT PUBLICATIONS

[Spring 2018 Financial Coaching Newsletter](#)

[Financial Coaching: Training Rubric](#)

[Summer-Fall 2017 Financial Coaching Newsletter](#)

[Financial Coaching and Medication Adherence: Introducing the "FINMed" Coaching Model](#)

[Financial Coaching Census 2016: Results Brief](#)

## SIGN UP TO RECEIVE FINANCIAL COACHING UPDATES AND NEWSLETTER

Sign up here [here](#). Select "Coaching Newsletter and Updates" as one of your interests.

<https://fyi.extension.wisc.edu/financialcoaching/>

# Financial Coaching Basics

- ***Based on a review of more than two dozen programs nationally, financial coaching:***
  - Focuses on improving long-term financial behavior;
  - Facilitates clients to set and achieve financial goals largely on their own;
  - Helps clients practice new behaviors and monitors those behaviors over time; and
  - Targets clients with a minimum level of financial skills and experience.
- ***Goals of Coaching:***
  - Achieve client-defined goals
  - Address immediate issues
  - Support specific actions to meet goals
  - Improve financial situations
  - Change financial behaviors
  - Facilitate decision-making
  - Provide tools, resources and referrals
- ***Typical Coaching Activities:***
  - Alliance with client
  - Set goals
  - Develop action plan
  - Identify resources, tools and services
  - Monitor client progress
  - Make referrals as needed



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WALWORTH COUNTY



# Thank you!

Amanda Kostman

Human Development and Relationships Extension Educator

UW-Madison Extension – Walworth County

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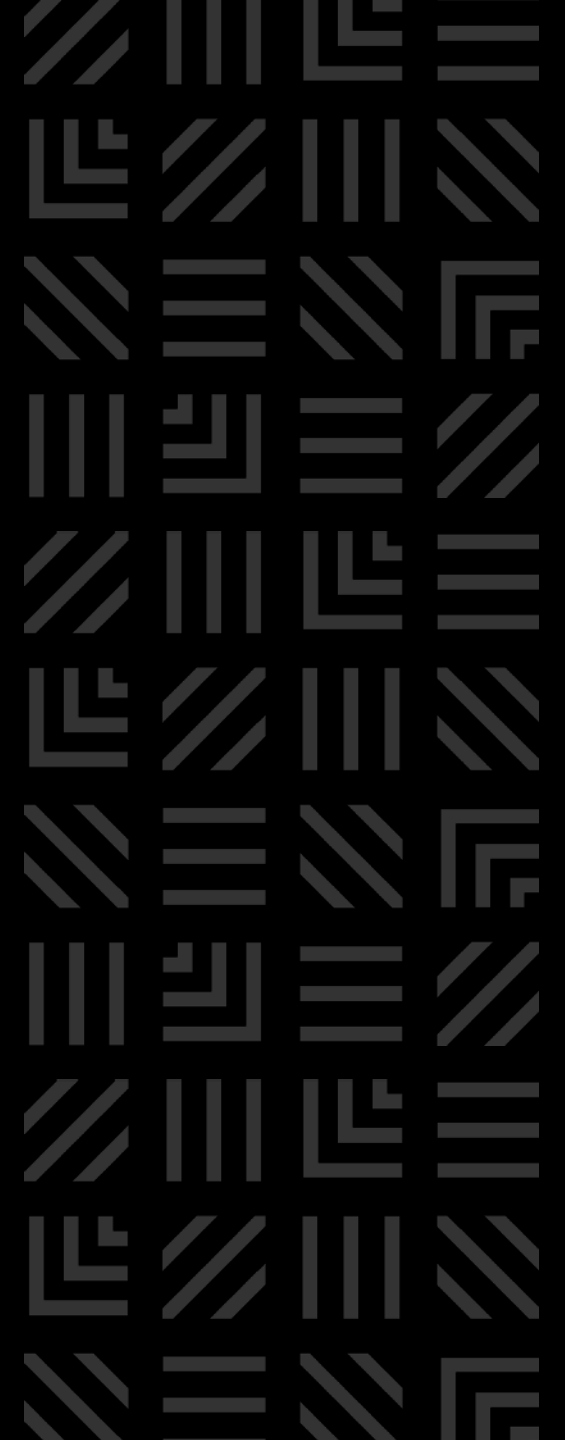
Big Brothers  
Big Sisters®

OF DANE COUNTY

# Johnna Georgia

Program Director

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Dane County



# Together, We are Defenders of Potential

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## Mission

- Create and support one-to-one mentoring relationships that ignite the power and promise of youth

## Vision

- All youth achieve their full potential



# Who We Serve - 2018



KIDS  
SERVED: **642**

AVERAGE MATCH  
LENGTH: **39 MONTHS**

SCHOOL BASED:  
**24 MONTHS**

AGE OF KIDS  
SERVED: **6-18**

## DEMOGRAPHICS:

GENDER:

**53% GIRLS,  
47% BOYS**

LOW INCOME:

**91%**  
*(determined by  
using free and  
reduced lunch)*

ETHNICITY:

**87% NON-WHITE,  
13% WHITE**

HOUSEHOLD PROFILE:

**71% SINGLE OR  
NO PARENT FAMILIES**

**89%**

of Littles  
maintained or  
improved their  
attitude toward  
school

**80%**

of Littles  
maintained or  
improved their  
grades

**82%**

of Littles  
had higher  
educational  
expectations for  
their future

**90%**

of Littles get  
along better with  
their parents

**90%**

of Littles felt more  
self-confident

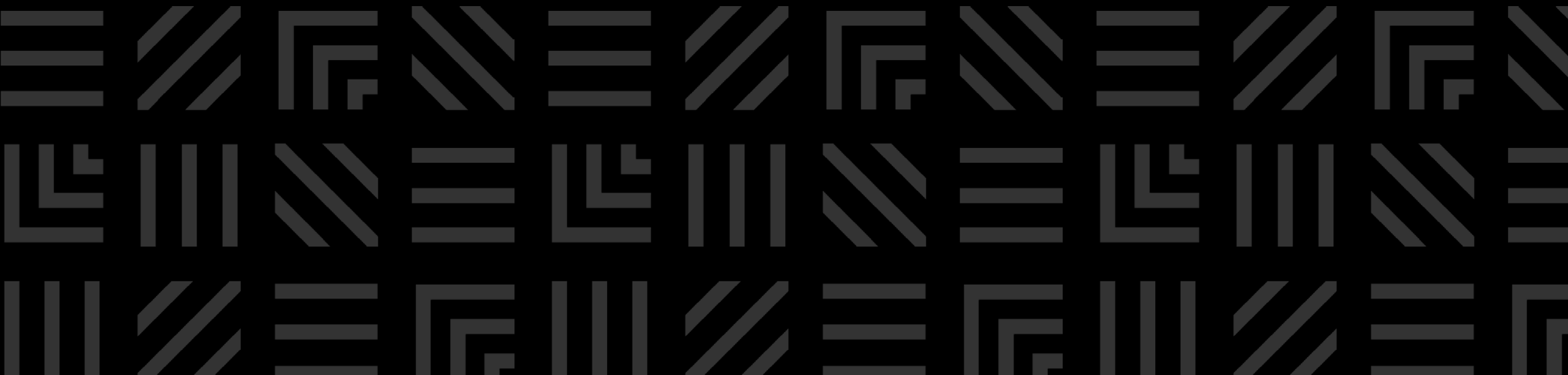
**93%**

of Littles had  
positive peer  
relationships

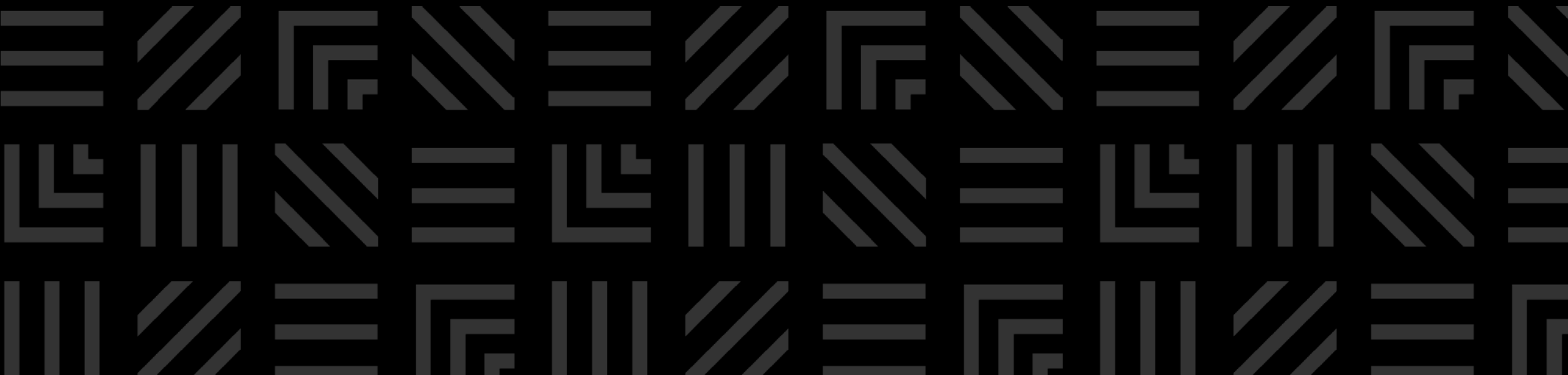
**89%**

of Littles  
thought smoking,  
drinking, and  
using drugs would  
negatively impact  
their future

# Building Social Resources



# 3 Concrete Examples



# Challenges

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## **You Need a Foundation**

- Closures due to moves
- Teenage Angst – matches that fizzle in the high school years
- Reframing the conversation



Consider Being a BIG!

Johnna Georgia  
Program Director

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608.661.5437 ext. 119

[bbbsmadison.org](http://bbbsmadison.org)

THANK  
YOU





# RSVP of Dane County

501 (c) (3) Nonprofit Organization

## MISSION:

To make a positive impact in the community by recruiting volunteers 55 and older to help deliver priority services to people of all ages, providing Dane County with a valuable resource.

# VOLUNTEER

*...where volunteers make a difference*





# Networks

Corporation for  
**NATIONAL &  
COMMUNITY  
SERVICE**



## SENIOR CORPS IN **WISCONSIN**



**6,900**

Senior Corps volunteers



**1,400**

young people tutored  
by Foster Grandparents



**300**

homebound seniors helped  
by Senior Companions



**500**

local organizations benefit  
from RSVP volunteers

[NationalService.gov/Wisconsin](http://NationalService.gov/Wisconsin)



# Benefits of Volunteering

Decreased Isolation



Healthier



Happier



Sense of Purpose



Per 2018 Senior Corp  
volunteer survey:  
78% of volunteers  
reported feeling  
less depressed!

AND  
84% of volunteers  
reported  
improved health!

“As you grow older, you  
will discover that you  
have 2 hands – 1 for  
helping yourself, and the  
other for helping others.”  
-Audrey Hepburn

After *retirement* or a  
*significant life change*,  
a volunteer can find new  
meaning & direction in  
their lives by helping  
others!



# WIN / WIN !!!!!

Volunteering benefits both  
VOLUNTEERS  
&  
COMMUNITY RECIPIENTS  
(community members who are  
receiving RSVP services)

make  
a  
difference

*...where volunteers make a difference*





# RSVP of Dane County Programs



Community  
Connections  
Bus Buddy



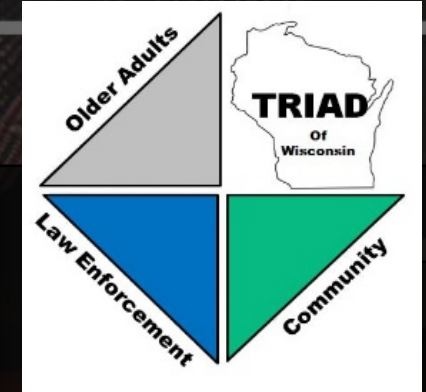
Driver Services  
Vets Helping Vets  
Food Bridge



Group Projects



Intergenerational/  
Foster  
Grandparents



TRIAD

## Also Help Low-Income Older Adults by:

- Community Connection volunteers help at nutrition sites, which provide nutritious meals
- A bus buddy volunteer teaches the Madison Bus route, which allows for affordable transportation
- Driver Services/ Vets Helping Vets volunteers provide over 9,300 rides to over 2,000 older adults & veterans at no charge
- Home delivered meals volunteers deliver over 86,000 meals at no charge
- Food Bridge volunteers deliver food pantry groceries to homebound seniors at no charge
- Group Project volunteers donate comfort and warm items, which are critical needs in life
- Foster Grandparent volunteer's tax-free stipend meets basic living expenses



# Community Connections

Jan Karst, Program Coordinator

## 70 Nonprofits Served

\*First line of communication for interested volunteers!

\*Personalized placement based on interests!

\*In the Community Connections program alone, a volunteer can choose from 70 different nonprofits to devote their time to!



### Community nonprofits include:

ReStore

VA Hospital

ARC

Hospicecare

Second Harvest

Libraries & Senior Centers

We make a living  
by what we get  
*we make a life  
by what we give.*



~Winston Churchill

[www.SpirituallyThinking.blogspot.com](http://www.SpirituallyThinking.blogspot.com)



# Bus Buddy

Jan Karst & Laura Mikkelsen Program Coordinator

Many seniors do not use the Madison metro buses because they haven't had the opportunity to learn the bus system. RSVP's Bus Buddy Program pairs seasoned bus riders with learners. Once seniors have the confidence to travel around the city via bus, their world expands. They have the freedom to go to senior centers, shopping, and entertainment. They can plan a fun outing with friends rather than stay confined to their home. During the summer, there are six monthly group tours scheduled that include instructions on how to use the bus, a visit to a local attraction and a complimentary lunch.





Mary Schmelzer  
Co-Manager

Joe Miller  
Vets Helping Vets Coordinator

Luanne Fax  
Marketing/Recruiting Assistant

Robin Heilprin  
Madison/Monona Ride Coordinator

# Driver Services

## Vets Helping Vets

### Medical Rides

Provide rides to medical appointments for older adults and veterans (VHV), without personal transportation.

\*The volunteer driver receives mileage reimbursement and a flexible schedule.



### Food Bridge



RSVP Volunteers pick up food at least once a month from the River Food Pantry and deliver these groceries to low-income seniors in Madison and Monona who are unable to go to the food pantry themselves.

### Home Delivered Meals

RSVP drivers work with Dane County senior centers to deliver hot, nutritious meals to seniors at their homes.



**"While riding with a fellow veteran we talk about different conflicts, but then realize we have the same story"**

**- RSVP Vets Helping Vets Driver**



# Intergenerational/Foster Grandparent

Laura Mikkelson, Program Coordinator

## Intergenerational

Intergenerational volunteers donate their time by **tutoring** in Dane county schools to help students succeed academically.

The **computer buddy** program is a correspondence once a week with an assigned student by blogging as a pal from your home computer.

As a volunteer you could help stock shelves or help families shop in **school food pantries**.

Through a partnership with the **Girl Scouts of WI**, a volunteer can lead a group of diverse girls by teaching them STEM activities.

**WWII History Project** is where volunteers go to Memorial high school once a year, and share their life experience during WWII with History students.



Computer Buddies

You're never too old,  
too wacky, too wild,  
to pick up a book  
and read to a child.

-Dr. Seuss

## Foster Grandparent

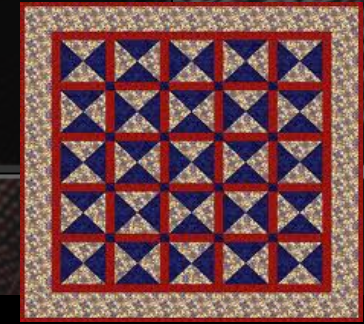
The Foster Grandparent program is for low-income seniors who receive a tax-free stipend, meal and travel reimbursement to tutor students 1:1 with exceptional or special needs in Dane County elementary schools, preschools and HeadStarts. The Foster Grandparent has to commit to a minimum of 5 hours a week to the school, attend monthly in-services, love children and attend recognition events for their dedication to the program.





# Group Projects & Homeworkers

Kate Seal, Program Coordinator



## MISSION

- \*Addresses critical needs (***warmth, safety and comfort***) of some of the less fortunate members of our Dane County community,
- \*...while meeting the social, quality of life, and mental health needs of its older volunteers.

## Handcrafted Items

Quilts  
Hats / Mittens / Scarves  
Afghans / Prayer Shawls  
Nap Pillows  
Baby Items (hats, blankets, booties, sweaters)  
Fidget Quilts / Activity Muffs  
Tote Bags

We gladly  
accept  
donations of  
fabric and  
yarn!!!



- \*\*\*Over 250 volunteers in Group Projects
- \*\*\*20 groups across Dane Co
- \*\*Dozens of homeworkers
- \*\*\*Over 3000 lbs of recycled/donated material used to create comfort items
- \*\*\*Over 48,000 volunteer hours
- \*\*\*Over 100 Dane County non-profits receive donations
- \*\*\*Over 12,000 items donated - adults & children



# Group Projects & Homeworkers

Kate Seal, Program Coordinator

## Community Nonprofit

### Recipients include:

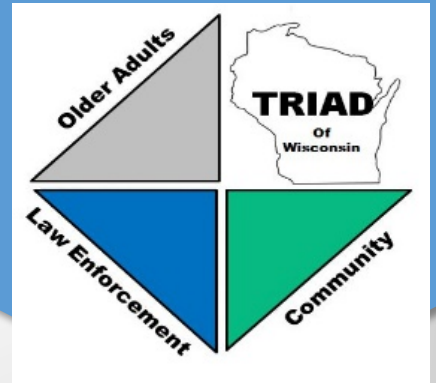
Access Community Healthcare;  
After School Clubs, Inc. &  
Madison South Rotary;  
Heartland & Agrace  
Hospicecare, MMSD Schools,  
Today Not Tomorrow  
(Project Babies);  
Pregnancy Helpline;  
Reach Dane/Head Start sites;  
Unity Point -Meriter  
Spiritual Care;  
Neighborhood House  
Community Center;  
Good Shepherd Clothes  
Closet; CWA – The Triangle  
Housing; Rainbow Project;  
WI Youth Program;  
The Open Seat @UW





# TRIAD

Mary Stamstad, Program Coordinator



Triad's mission is to enhance the quality of life of older adults through education and active participation in statewide programs and projects.

Triad is a national program that promotes safety & crime prevention for seniors.

Monthly presentations on topics related to crime prevention & safety are held throughout Dane county, free of charge.

(identity theft, bullying, hoarding, scams/frauds, emergency preparedness & more)

TRIAD advocates for:  
Crime Prevention, Elder Abuse Prevention, Reassurance Strategies, & other (timely) safety programs, like each fall's *Winterization Car Checks*, free of charge to those over 50.

# Volunteers Wanted!

RSVP of Dane County is always recruiting to find new volunteers who want to make a difference!

Please contact RSVP of Dane County at 608-238- 7787 or  
[www.rsvpdane.org](http://www.rsvpdane.org)

Please spread the word about RSVP of Dane County's Programs.

**Thank You!!**



Like us on

**Facebook**





## Q & A



**Sarah Halpern-Meekin**  
Associate Professor  
Human Development and Family Studies  
University of Wisconsin-Madison



**Amanda Kostman**  
Outreach Specialist  
Human Development and  
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**Diana Jost**  
Assistant Director  
RSVP of Dane County, Inc.

Thank you for joining the Center for Financial Security for today's webinar. Please remember that today's webinar was recorded and will be posted on our websites,

Please join us for our January 8th webinar:

## *Housing Assistance and SSI Caseload Shifting*

Please contact Hallie Lienhardt with questions:

[Hallie.lienhardt@wisc.edu](mailto:Hallie.lienhardt@wisc.edu)

608-890-0229