

SWVA MRC VOLUNTEER SUCCESSES IN 2021!



January 2022 | Southwest VA MRC

WHAT A YEAR IT WAS!

While each person acknowledges 2020 was a trying year, 2021 brought about a whole new set of challenges and opportunities for the Medical Reserve Corps. MRC volunteers spent the entirety of 2021 stepping up to help support public health in every way possible: serving at COVID-19 vaccination clinics, contact tracing, helping at Drug Take Back, school flu clinics, couriers to COVID patients in quarantine, packaging more than 4,800 infection prevention supplies for school children, COVID screening at health departments, taking REVIVE! and CPR courses, and more!



Volunteers getting ready at Higher Ed Center Mass Vaccination event

Infection Prevention Handled Here

Throughout 2021, volunteers came together to package infection prevention supplies for schools. Volunteers bottled hand sanitizer, then bagged it with a mask and information about COVID-19 and immunizations. Volunteers made a total of 3,600 for Carroll County students, 680 for Galax and 600 for Grayson.



Left to right, Karen Wood, Lynn Freeland, Kate Ingram, Susan Knickerbocker and Kari Tudor.

DRUG TAKE BACK

In 2021, Drug Take Back events were once again held in the Spring and Fall. SWVA MRC volunteers have helped collect unwanted or expired prescription drugs for the past 10 years. At the two events this year, they collected a total of 3,369 pounds.



Left to right, Laci McConnell, Teresa Mullins, Rebecca Newman



In front, Jackie Smith. In back second from right Teresa Henderson, and Ed Smith.

THE UNITED WAY AND VDEM HELP THE MRC

During the winter of 2021, The United Way of Southwest Virginia and VDEM/Olson Group stepped up to assist with staffing for the SWVA MRC. Robert Blankenship, Peggy Gutierrez, and Katie Gamble came on board during the height of the community vaccination campaign. Robert worked as a volunteer liaison, meeting a lot of volunteers at clinics. Peggy handled scheduling and Katie worked with new volunteers and training. The successful completion of the mission would not have been possible without this support.



Left to right, Pat Meinen, Katie Gamble, Kristina Morris and Robert Blankenship

EVERY KIND OF COVID-19 VACCINATION CLINIC

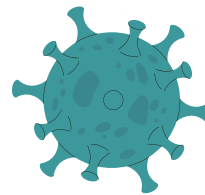
SWVA MRC volunteers have helped at community clinics, pediatric clinics and mobile clinics. Beginning Dec. 23, 2020, volunteers worked at 324 community clinics, 93 mobile clinics, and 17 pediatric.

Total shots given:

Cumberland Plateau: 111,099

Lenowisco: 90,125

Mount Rogers: 207,601



More than 300 volunteers and 61 vaccinators assisted at vaccination clinics in 2021.



Tammie Yates and Tiffany Kennedy administer COVID-19 vaccines in Buchanan County.



Left to right, Kay Justice, Joyce Samples, Naomi King, Peggy Turner and Valerie Mesedahl at Spiller Elementary in Wytheville

THANK YOU!

Thank You to Our Partners

Food City
Highlands Community Services Board
Chick-fil-A
Twin County Community Foundation
Ballad Health Foundation

Our partners provided supplies and gifts to our volunteers who were active during the COVID response.



Sue Diamond, Linda Davis and Ron Davis at a community vaccination clinic in Galax.

In 2021, volunteers served more than 13,025 hours which equates to a monetary value of more than **\$377,725.**



Left to right, Lilly Thacker, Willie Bryant, Tiffany Kennedy, Tammie Yates

**In 2021,
SWVA MRC
welcomed
130 new
volunteers!**



MRC AWARDS

Each year the national Medical Reserve Corps office gives awards to volunteers and MRC Units throughout the country. In 2021, Virginia received 9 awards. Southwest Virginia was fortunate to receive two awards. Ann Jernigan, who became a MRC volunteer in April of 2020, received the Outstanding MRC Preparedness and Resilience Volunteer Award. The Resiliency Team, which was created in March of 2020 to help volunteers maintain their equilibrium, received an Honorable Mention.



Ann Jernigan



Friends of the SWVA MRC

Two years ago Friends of the SWVA MRC 501(c)3 non-profit was established. The mission of the group is to support the Southwest Virginia Medical Reserve Corps in recruiting, training and rewarding volunteers.

The Friends Board is comprised of the following volunteers: Emalene Cook, Chair; Debbie Loveland, Vice Chair; Frank White, Treasurer; Becky Barker, Secretary; Charlene Truhlik, Bob Roth and Tauna Gulley.

A tax-deductible donation can be made via PayPal @swva.mrc@gmail.com or mailed to Friends of SWVA MRC, 15068 Lee Hwy, Suite 1000, Bristol, VA 24202.

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