

Evelyn Reed of Benton



Evelyn Reed has a long, rich, and very diverse volunteer background. Reed is not only a caring and compassionate person, but she is also organized, intelligent, and has accomplished a tremendous amount for her community.

A native of Benton, Reed is “one of the most well-known and most respected civic-minded people I know,” says Saline County Habitat for Humanity co-board member Selena Ellis. Truly committed to her community, Reed is now raising her own family there.

Reed, a full-time Program Manager for the Central Arkansas Development Council (CADC), expertly manages to put her full effort into this job overseeing two commodity programs and coordinating a large volunteer program as well as all of her volunteer and community activities.

She currently serves as a volunteer in many diverse community activities. She serves on the board of Habitat for Humanity of Saline County and is on its executive committee serving as its secretary. She is excellent at keeping the meetings running with proper procedures and has also served as one of the policy writers. She regularly provides meals for Habitat builders and has contributed financially through the Carpenter Club. “Evelyn has been an asset not only to Habitat, but to the entire community,” said Karma Herzfeld, Executive Director of Habitat for Humanity of Saline County. Herzfeld continued, “Evelyn not only commits herself to serving her community, she understands the value of engaging others. She has gotten her church, family, friends, and co-workers involved in our mission. There is nothing more important to the growth of a non-profit than this action from our volunteers.”

Reed is also on the board of Safe Haven, a domestic abuse shelter. She volunteers for their special events, provides supplies, and contributes financially. Reed also is on the board and serves as President of the Wilma Stewart Garden Club. This organization does an annual city-wide spaghetti luncheon and cake auction in April to raise scholarship money for high school seniors. Reed, a noted cook, feeds the club’s volunteers at her church, Mt. Zion Baptist Church every year. Reed is President of the Ralph Bunch Community Development Corporation, as well, which sponsors Martin Luther King Celebration Weekend. Reed is on the state planning committee for this event along with the Mayor of Benton and the Benton Chamber of Commerce. Reed is also the Treasurer of the Ralph Bunch Neighborhood Association that sponsors National Night Out and provides free movie nights and plays with refreshments at the community center. This Association is organizing a youth council and partnering with the

Saline County Library to start a Ralph Bunch Community Center Library. She is a Benton Chamber of Commerce member and serves on the Civic and Government Committee.

Active in her local church, Mt. Zion Baptist Church, Reed is currently the Secretary/Treasurer, and has previously served as a preschool Sunday School teacher, chair of the kitchen committee, youth director, church clerk, and a choir member.

As a testament to her value and expertise in her community, Reed was asked to apply to fill the vacancy for a Benton City Council member position. Six others applied for the position, and after interviews by the current Council members, Reed was chosen to fill the unexpired term. Reed now serves on the Parks Committee, Community Service/Animal Control, Street and Drainage Committee, and Personnel/Health and Safety.

Reed is clearly and outstanding role model for youth and adults alike, and her commitment and diverse areas of community service are an example of ways that she is making a huge difference in Arkansas. She volunteers and manages volunteers, but still has time to treat each person she encounters with her full attention. Reed feels that she "helps out," and she said she would like to "make things better for the generations to come." Compelled by her compassion and dedication to others and her community, Reed says she wants to make "this community great - and great communities make a great state. All it takes is one step at a time, one day at a time."