



Do something for yourself while doing something for others! The **Austin Steam Train Association** is looking for docents to meet and greet passengers on our train excursions Saturdays and Sundays into the Hill Country. They welcome volunteers from every background to spend one day a month visiting with their out of town guests on the train. You'll help passengers find their seats and settle in for an enjoyable escape to the countryside. You'll have many opportunities to point out historic landmarks along the line and talk about the history of central Texas railroads. Training is easy, the work is vital, and the experience is energizing. Call today to find out how you can get started!

Created from the merger of Reading Is Fundamental of Austin and Capital Area Reach Out and Read, **BookSpring** instills in children a love of reading and promotes books as a means to success. By offering a range of programs that support early childhood literacy, BookSpring champions the value of reading and encourages parents to read to their children from birth forward, resulting in stronger families and increased lifelong opportunities for every child. Volunteers are needed to help with administrative duties and special projects, such as filing, sorting, and labeling; developing forms, processes, and procedures; developing a BookSpring photo archive; stuffing envelopes for special event invitations and fundraising campaigns. Learn about next generation techniques to build reading skills in groups that include our youngest and most disadvantaged families. Help open the world to children through reading! Volunteers should be able to communicate well in oral and written format, be able to work well with others or to work independ-

ently, and have excellent organizational and analytical skills.

**Dell Children's Medical Center** needs more "At Your Request" Service Volunteers. Occupying one of the Center's most important positions, these volunteers are the Center's first contact with family and visitors. Volunteers need to be kind, smiling, patient, and willing to give directions. Working along with a paid staff person, volunteers escort patients and families to areas within the hospital, assist families with errand running, and provide companionship for lonely or scared patients. This position is best for those who are good listeners and communicate well with others. The time commitment is flexible.

**Goodwill Industries of Central Texas** is proud to launch a new program designed to assist youth in overcoming disadvantages and avoiding delinquency. The overall goal of the program is to help youth age 12-17 build career plans and skills and prepare for school completion and productive work by providing structured and supportive relationships with trusted adult mentors. Volunteers will offer assistance with resume critiquing, computer training, mock-interviewing, offering pre-employment tips and more. You can become a volunteer mentor or find out more information about this program by contacting RSVP.

If you are a "people person" and enjoy welcoming others to what may be a new setting, **Healthsouth Rehabilitation Hospital of Austin** needs you! Centrally located in downtown Austin, but without the parking problems, Healthsouth is looking for volunteers who can meet and greet guests and family members. If interested, all RSVP today at 854-5874.

Think of all the things you couldn't do if you could not read: understand the warning labels on medicine bottles; interpret traffic signs; fill out a job application; follow a recipe; read to a child. **The LifeWorks Literacy Program** seeks tutors to work with their Adult Basic Education and English as a Second Language (ESL) students. Morning, afternoon and sessions meet on Mondays and Wednesdays or Tuesdays and Thursdays, and tutors may teach both weekly sessions or opt to "co-tutor" and teach one day per week. Tutors are provided with an orientation and 12 hours of pre-service training. No prior experience is required, and knowledge of a language other than English is not necessary. Tutors are asked to make a 6 month minimum commitment. The only required skills are motivation, energy, and patience! Please contact RSVP for more information.

**Safeplace** is in need of warehouse volunteers who will organize clothing and basic needs items for clients and help greet donors and receive donation items. Volunteer duties may also include providing assistance to clients and staff during "shopping hours" at the Warehouse. No training required great for groups. a friendly, outgoing personality and strong customer service and people skills are helpful.

**Texas Home Health Hospice** volunteers provide home visits to patients who have a life limiting illness. Talking, listening, writing letters and an array of other opportunities may be provided. Volunteers may assist daily, weekly, monthly, or whatever time able to give. Volunteers need to maintain confidentiality and appropriate boundaries with the patients and honor time commitments. A friendly smile is always welcome.

## Please Welcome Our Newest Travis County RSVP Volunteers

Vandana Agarawal  
Frances B. Allen  
Stella Beard  
Patsy Brown  
Ann Bupp  
Billie Burnett  
Joseph Burnett  
Janet Chapman  
Martin Elzy  
Mary Elzy  
Horace Fairlamb  
David Ging  
Lena Ging  
Shirley Gresham  
Katy Kappel  
Loretta Leonhardt  
Doris McKinley  
Dick Peterson  
Kathryn Pierce  
Carolee Ramsey  
Maria Teresa Reyna  
Chris Sisson  
Bunnie Stark  
Walter Swan  
William White  
Lois Wilhelm

PLEASE  
STAY IN  
TOUCH



Has your address, phone number or email address changed? Do you know an RSVP volunteer who has moved? Are you looking for a new volunteer assignment. Have you started volunteering at a new agency? Do you know someone who wishes to join RSVP? Let us know!

enhancing the quality of life for all institutionalized people. TPPT's pet therapy program gives happiness and companionship to those "most often forgotten" in today's society: the elderly, the mentally and physically challenged, and the terminally ill. The animal assisted therapy visits make a difference in the lives of people who are confined to institutionalized living. They visit Health-care Facilities/Institutions to share love heart-to-heart and one-on-one. Through regular visits, TPPT's pets BOND with the patients/residents who desperately need the unconditional love offered by our gentle, loving pet volunteers. Detailed instructions about becoming a volunteer are on the TPPT website.

**Town Lake Animal Shelter** is the largest animal shelter in Central Texas, providing shelter to more than 23,000 animals each year and animal control services to all of Austin and Travis County. A division of the Austin/Travis County Health and Human Services Department, the shelter is an open-intake facility - no animal will be turned away. They provide a number of animal-related services including Animal Protection & Control, a Pet Lost & Found, Pet Adoptions, and Rabies Quarantine. The shelter relies on teams of trained, responsible volunteers to provide extra care and services to their customers. Some volunteer work involves direct, hands-on work with animals at the shelter, and some is support work, like stuffing envelopes, working "behind the scenes" in the offices, or helping keep the grounds and gardens looking great. They also have opportunities for one-time projects, or for doing work for the shelter at home by collecting donations in your neighborhood, school, or church community. Regular volunteers are expected to provide a minimum number of hours of service each month. All volunteers are required to attend an orientation at the shelter

and training sessions to prepare them to do their specific job.

In a recent msnbc.com on-line article, Austin was rated as one of the "Top 10 pet-friendly cities", acknowledging the cities off-leash parks, pet friendly restaurants and stores. With the recent plan to make Austin a "no kill" city it is obvious that area non profits and their hard working volunteers are making a difference on behalf of animals in Austin.



Friday, May 28, 2010

**2010 RSVP Volunteer  
Recognition Luncheon  
At the Hyatt Regency Austin**

**Are you eligible to attend the luncheon?** It's FREE to all invited RSVP Volunteers. To be eligible, your monthly reports must be up to date. All eligible volunteers will receive invitations in the mail. Now's a good time to make sure your reports have been submitted.

If you're not sure whether your reports are current, just call us. We want every volunteer to be eligible to attend this wonderful annual event!



**RSVP can help your agency recruit volunteers. Please contact RSVP to learn how. For more details on these and other volunteer jobs, please call Travis County RSVP at 512-854-7787.**