

RSVP Advisory Council

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Graham Duncan <i>Secretary</i> RSVP Volunteer	Alice Latino Emeritus Corporation	Mary Pat Smith Accountable Aging Care Management
Jane Basey, Ph.D. RSVP Volunteer	John McKetta, Ph.D. University of Texas	John Thomas Community Volunteer

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RSVP

News

P.O. Box 1748
Austin, Texas 78767



Martin Luther King Jr.
Day Of Service
**Make It A Day On.
Not A Day Off.**

Travis County RSVP and the
Capital Area Food Bank of Texas
join forces to celebrate the MLK Day of Service!

Join us on **Monday, January 18, 2010** from 9AM until Noon in the Food Bank's product recovery area sorting, weighing and boxing food items for distribution to Food Bank partners.

Space is limited to 30 volunteers and registration is required. Call 854-7787 today to register for this fun opportunity to give back to the community and to honor the MLK Day of Service!



RSVP

News



RSVP PUTS EXPERIENCE TO WORK BY CONNECTING VOLUNTEERS WITH REWARDING OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE IN TRAVIS COUNTY • DECEMBER 2009

Reflections of a Remarkable Year

As 2009 comes to a close, we feel it is good to reflect on the past year and to anticipate the future. This time of year, many families mail holiday cards that include a letter highlighting activities of the year gone by. Often these letters include pictures and stories of trips, big celebrations, illness, moving, births and deaths and anything else they choose to share. With that thought in mind, our family here at RSVP would like to share with you some highlights from 2009.

more than \$1,008,137.

The **SVCI** program provided immunization literature and follow-up to 1,048 mothers who were enrolled by RSVP volunteers. The 23 volunteers in the program helped educate mothers of newborns on the importance of timely immunizations. During this year, 96% of the mothers enrolled in the program have completed the full set of shots.

ing program for 18 local agencies, raising collectively \$1,068,260. The 135 volunteers worked on charity golf tournaments, fan drives, selling raffle tickets and table sponsorships, worked in thrift stores, book fests, lock-ups, bike rides, read-a-thons, and other special events. The monies raised helped agencies maintain their existing services and programs. Volunteers also helped build the capacity of agencies by recruiting new volunteers. A group of 30 volunteers

recruited 45 new volunteers for 31 local agencies, which helped the agencies maintain and expand critical community services.

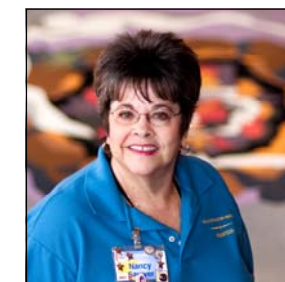
The **Volunteers in Schools** program shines a light on the 63 volunteers who volunteered in local schools and education-related agencies. The volunteers assisted in classrooms, volunteered in school libraries, coordinated special events, promoted literacy, participated in after-school programs, volunteered in local universities and taught and coordinated computer classes. The volunteers contributed 9,632 hours and served 477 students.

The **Independent Living** program helps clients to continue to live independently in their homes though the help of

This year 1,083 Travis County RSVP volunteers reported 251,189 hours of volunteer service at 149 nonprofit organizations and public agencies in the Austin area. This represents an added value to Travis County taxpayers of \$3,860,775. This, along with the tremendous work of RSVP volunteers, has a huge impact in our community.

Volunteers in Hospitals is an RSVP program which boasts 250 volunteers serving at 9 different local hospitals by providing non-medical support services so that hospital staff can focus on medical care. The volunteers help in the ER, information desk, intensive care unit, gift shop, customer service, waiting rooms, transporting patients, delivery flowers and literature, and rehabilitation. The value of the services performed by these hospital volunteers over the past year is estimated to be

Volunteers were active in fundraising efforts through the **Capacity Build-**



Current Volunteer Opportunities: Contact RSVP For Details

The **AARP Tax-Aide** program is looking for volunteers to prepare taxes in the 2010 season. Tax-Aide is the nation's largest free, volunteer-run tax assistance and preparation service available to taxpayers with low- and moderate-income, with special attention to those age 60 and older. Training includes basic tax law, computer preparation of returns, and everything you need to know to be certified by the IRS. A commitment of 4 hours per week during tax season is requested. Training begins in January, but volunteers are asked to register now. Please contact RSVP for more information.

Volunteers are needed to assist with the **Austin Travis County MHMR's** annual Fiesta Gardens Holiday event on Monday, December 21st. Over 400 guests are expected to attend, so many volunteers will be needed to help set up tables, decorate, serve food, assist with seating, etc. You should have a friendly attitude, be willing to work hard from 10AM to 3PM, and feel comfortable assisting large groups of individuals living with mental illness. Call RSVP today if you are able to assist!

Austin Independent School District's 21st Century Program invites you to be a tutor and help young students with their homework. Work one-on-one with students at Hart Elementary School Mondays thru Thursdays from 3PM to 4:30PM. Please be able to commit to at least one afternoon per week. Watch these students gain confidence and have a little fun yourself!

Become a Classroom Coach with **Austin Partners in Education's** effort to strengthen our schools, support our teachers. Choose a pro-

gram/location/schedule that works best for you. You will volunteer for 45 minutes once a week for about 25 weeks, working with the same group of 2-3 students each week to build important mentoring relationships. Classroom Coaching programs help students at key points in their education, such as 2nd grade Reading, 8th grade Math, and College Readiness programs. Visit ClassroomCoaching.org or contact the RSVP office for more details.

Are you friendly, outgoing and possess good communication skills? **The Blood and Tissue Center of Central Texas** needs Ambassador Volunteers to provide important assistance in the canteen area serving refreshments, talking with donors, and watching for donor reactions at our 4300 N. Lamar location. Volunteers will provide a comfortable atmosphere in which donors can recuperate; ability to respond quickly upon recognizing a donor reaction and begin administering proper care (proper training will be provided). Bilingual a plus but not required.

The **Capital Area Food Bank** seeks volunteers to assist at the Reaching Out Center food pantry in Pflugerville. Volunteer responsibilities include greeting clients and ensuring proper intake paperwork is completed, assisting with food selection, delivering food to clients' vehicles, restocking shelves, and cleaning up after distribution. Volunteers should be able to lift 30 lbs. and work with clients from every background. Let us know if this is something you would be interested in helping with.

The Christmas Bureau of Austin & Travis County was founded in 1964 to serve as an umbrella organization

encompassing community groups and citizens of Travis County to work together in giving to the needy during the Christmas season. The Bureau matches needy families with agencies/sponsors who provide a suitable uncooked holiday meal and gifts for the children. They are seeking volunteers to help us two or more hours a week at our office located near Burnet Road and Anderson Lane to answer incoming telephone calls as well as help a possible sponsor select a family to help during the holidays. Volunteers are needed now through Wednesday, December 23rd between the hours of 9AM and 5PM.

ESL Volunteer Teachers are needed to volunteer at **El Buen Samaritano**. ESL volunteer instructors work with groups of about 5-25 participants from around the globe. El Buen supplies the instructors with materials, a curriculum and lesson-planning support while encouraging creativity in individual lesson plans. Upon training and orientation, duties include assisting with class registration, following a set curriculum, working closely with other team instructors, and administering and grading examinations. Morning classes run Monday through Friday from 9AM to noon. Time commitment is 3 hours per week. Spring Session runs from January 18 through May 7.

Foundation Communities is preparing for the 2010 tax season and is looking for volunteers to assist with the preparation of taxes for the next calendar year. Community Tax Centers offers free tax preparation and much more to Central Texans with low to moderate incomes, helping them avoid hundreds of dollars in tax preparation fees. Volunteers should have experience in class-

Volunteer Opportunities, cont'd

room instruction (professional teaching not required), the ability to clearly explain tax law issues, and have basic computer skills and familiarity with tax software packages. You must be able to commit to at least one 3-hour shift per week from January to April or a total of 36 hours over a 12-week season. Contact RSVP to find out how to get started with this wonderful program!

Calling all NUTTY volunteers! You are needed to crack pecans and/or sell nuts from now through the end of February at the **Senior Activity Center** on Shoal Crest Ave. Shifts are available Monday through Friday in four hour shifts from 8AM to Noon and Noon to 4PM. Volunteer jobs include: nut crackers who will move sacks of pecans weighing up to 30 lbs, operate and clean the pecan cracking machine, prepare receipts for customers, and collect money for nut cracking; "nut house" volunteers will accept pecans brought in for cracking and will lift and weigh pecans brought in, prepare receipts for customers, and collect money for nut cracking; substitute volunteers are also needed in both areas to fill in for shifts lacking support. Go nuts and offer your help today! Proceeds from the sale of pecans go to support Senior Activity Center programs.

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.

Connect with RSVP

If you are on facebook, send us an email and we'll gladly add you as a fan of RSVP.

facebook

Reflections, cont'd from Page 1

RSVP volunteers. The 101 volunteers who make up the Independent Living program visit with, offer transportation to and provide minor home repairs to 2,253 home-bound clients.

Volunteers also participated in special events throughout the year such as the **MLK Day of Service** on January 19th. RSVP staff and 28 volunteers served at the Capital Area Food to clean and sort food items for distribution to CAFB's partner agencies. On February 10th, RSVP Advisory Council members joined 3,500 seniors from across Texas for **Senior Day at the Capitol**. They educated legislators about the impact that RSVP volunteers are having in communities across Texas.

Another highlight of the year was the annual **RSVP Volunteer Recognition Luncheon** held on May 22 at the Hyatt Regency Austin. RSVP hosted 687 volunteers and recognized volunteers for years of service and hours of service. Awards were also given for the President's Lifetime Achievement Award, the Humana Caregiver's Award, the Dr. & Mrs. John McKetta Community Spirit Award, and the Spirit of Service Awards.

As we reflect back on 2009 we are thankful for the generosity and dedication of volunteers like you. The highlights mentioned are proof that your service to the community is making a difference. Many thanks to all of our partner agencies and supporters of our program. We couldn't do our work alone and appreciate your commitment to volunteerism in Travis County.

Please Welcome Our Newest Travis County RSVP Volunteers

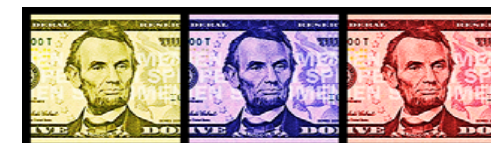
Mable Blaylark
Barbara Carter
Johnnie Carter
Alva Clark
Zulema Esquivel
Leon Lobel
Lourdes "Luchi" McLaughlin
Ruby Montgomery
Elda Morales
Maria Olvera
Juanita Rodriguez
Violet Smith
Maery Street
Betty West
William Wood
Laura Wright



Small Change Makes A Big Difference

Due to a recent policy change, the Travis County Auditor's office has asked RSVP to hold a volunteer's mileage reimbursement until the total exceeds \$5.00.

For example, if you request reimbursement totaling \$3.40, your reimbursement will be held until the total is greater than \$5.00. As soon as the five dollar minimum is exceeded, the Auditor's office will process and mail your check. Thank you.



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