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How To Contact RSVP

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RSVP

News

P.O. Box 1748
Austin, Texas 78767



You Say You Want A Revolution?

Well, you know...we all want to change the world.



But change doesn't just happen on its own. Back in the day, we took to the streets and shouted for change. And in fact we did make some real advancements.

Today, there are new and pressing needs just about everywhere you look. So...want to do something about it? We've got a real solution.

Take some action.
Get involved. Call RSVP.
Your invitation to serve.



RSVP

News



MEETING COMMUNITY NEEDS BY RECRUITING AND PLACING VOLUNTEERS THROUGHOUT TRAVIS COUNTY JANUARY 2007

Volunteers Are Essential To Faith Based Organizations

According to a recent national study, 28% of all volunteers serve at some type of faith based organization. While this may be a surprising figure to some, those who serve in faith communities have long been aware of the large numbers of individuals and families who regularly serve within the faith community or through the public projects they undertake.

The numbers of volunteers who serve through faith-based organizations are even larger than reported, as many people don't see the work they do for their church, synagogue, mosque or other religious institution as "volunteer" activity and hence the work goes unreported.

But of course, not unnoticed.

Gloria Rocha (*right, top*) has served at the Society of St. Vincent De Paul's Food Pantry for more than 25 years. A joint project between St. Ignatius Martyr and the San Jose Parish, the Pantry raises about \$10,000 each month and distributes the same amount in food directly to needy people in the community.

Gloria goes in every week to put together the bags of groceries and household sundries for clients who need a little extra help. She's been an active parishioner at Saint Ignatius Martyr ever since she moved to Austin about 30 years ago, and sees her work for the pantry as part of her connection to the church and indeed as part of her spiritual life.



Martha Loer (*left, middle*) puts her bookkeeping and administrative skills to good use at Faith Food Pantry, a project of Faith Presbyterian Church. She also serves at several other agencies including South Austin Caregivers and the Austin Area Interreligious Ministries. Unlike the St. Vincent De Paul Food Pantry, Faith Food Pantry distributes food to agencies and organizations which then distribute it directly to clients. Much of the food comes from individual donations and other churches in addition to the Capital Area Food Bank. For many years Martha worked in the pantry itself, shelving food items and answering phones and packing boxes.



For the past few years, however, she has focused on administrative tasks in the Church office. She balances the books each month, reconciling all of the pantry's expenses and donations. She completes monthly reports for the Capital Area Food Bank. And she helps out with other tasks as the needs arise. But she doesn't really consider all this activity to be volunteering. She feels that volunteering is when you help other people, people outside your family. "I'm not getting paid, so I guess its volunteering," she says, "but volunteering is when you're helping someone else. This is my family."



Hymie Samuelson (*left, bottom*) has a similar philosophy on volunteering. He serves with the Child De-

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Austin Travis County Mental Health Mental Retardation

Job Title: Texas African American Family Support Conference Volunteer
Job Description: Your help is needed with volunteer check-in, assisting presenters as needed, by ushering and collecting evaluation forms, collecting lunch tickets and providing general overall help as needed. All volunteers are welcome to attend any of the educational sessions and lunch for free. The keynote speaker on February 15 is Jennifer Holliday, one of the original Dream Girls.
Time Commitment: February 15-16
Location: Omni Hotel at Southpark, South Austin
Agency's Mission: Improving the lives of people who experience mental, emotional or substance use disorders and intellectual and developmental disabilities and delays.
Website: www.atcmhmr.com

Center for Child Protection

Job Title: Child & Family Specialist
Job Description: Child & Family Greeters are the smiling faces the children see upon entering the Center for Child Protection. Our Specialists interact and engage the children in play and art activities before and after the forensic interview is conducted. Our Child and Family Specialists are essential at the Center, as they are the ones who help our children feel safe and comfortable, ready to tell their story of abuse. Training for this position will be provided in February 2008.
Time Commitment: Four hours per week.
Location: Central Austin
Agency's Mission: To reduce the trauma for children during the investigation and prosecution of child abuse cases.
Website: centerforchildprotection.org

Story Circle Network

Job Title: Heart IV Conference Volunteer
Job Description: Volunteers are needed to help with registration; relief volunteers are needed to give vendors who are selling at the conference a break; and a volunteer photographer is needed to take pictures of the keynote speaker and various workshops. Photographer needs to bring a camera but organization will supply the film or disk depending on the camera. All shifts last 2 to 4 hours.
Time Commitment: February 1st-3rd
Location: South Austin
Agencies Mission: Story Circle Network is an international nonprofit organization that encourages women to write their stories.
Website: www.storycircle.org

SafePlace

Job Title: Meal Prep Volunteer
Job Description: Prepare an evening meal for SafePlace's Life Skills clients. These formerly homeless clients attend a weekly class (Tuesday or Wednesday) with their children to learn skills that prepare them for independent living. Meals for approximately 25 people need to be dropped off at SafePlace at 5:30PM. This is an excellent volunteer opportunity for groups.
Time Commitment: One time commitment or you may sign up for more nights.
Location: Central Austin
Agency's Mission: SafePlace exists to end sexual and domestic violence through safety, healing, prevention and social change.
Website: austin-safeplace.org

AMBIS – The Austin Memorial and Burial Information Society

Job Title: Office Representative
Job Description: Provide office sup-

port in both clerical capacity and answer calls from the public regarding burial information. For those volunteers interested in giving AMBIS informative presentations – training will be provided.
Time Commitment: Four hours per month.
Location: North Central Austin
Agency Mission: To help consumers find dignified and affordable funerals and assist individuals with Advance Planning documents.
Website: not available

Partners in Caregiving – Faith in Action

Job Title: Transportation Provider
Job Description: Provide reliable transportation for individuals who need help living independently. Take a client to a doctor's appointment, therapy, drug store or shopping on an as-needed basis.
Time Commitment: As little as two hours monthly or as much as you are willing and able to give. Scheduling is flexible according to your availability.
Location: Your choice; there are Faith in Action agencies throughout the Austin area: North Central, Northeast, Northwest, Pflugerville, South Austin and West Austin.
Agencies' Missions: To enhance the independence and well-being of older adults.
Website: not available

Seniors & Volunteers for Childhood Immunization

Job Title: Hospital Program Representative
Job Description: Meet and greet mothers of newborns as they enroll in a free reminder postcard program to let them know when their babies' shots are due. Provide critical information about the importance of fully immunizing babies before two.
Time Commitment: Two hours a

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES
Continued

week – scheduling determined by your availability day or night, during the week or weekends.
Location: St. David's Medical Center.
Agency Mission: To increase the number of children born in Travis County who are fully protected from serious childhood diseases.
Website: not available

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

Volunteers At Faith Based Organizations, continued

velopment Center at Congregation Beth Israel, reading stories that delight and amaze the pre-school kids. He also serves with Circle of Friends, an Alzheimer Caregivers' Respite Group. Each week, volunteers take care of Alzheimer's patients ("we call them friends," says Hymie) while their caregivers take a four-hour break. They may go take care of errands, see a movie, get a manicure; the idea is they get some relief from the demands of caregiving.

"I love being alive, and I love volunteering," he says. "I don't call it volunteering. I just love people and being with them." The feeling is mutual.

Clearly, the works performed by volunteers within communities of faith are critical to the community's health and vitality. If you're volunteering with a religious organization, please be sure to tell us about it. RSVP thanks you for all you do to make our community a better place for all.

Please Welcome Our Newest RSVP Volunteers

- | | |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| Nancy Blesh | Judith Kenessey |
| Anna Lee Cook | Tommie Smith |
| Rosalita Dill | Nancy Tolbert |
| Donald Fletcher | Virginia Walter |
| Cherilyn Hack | |

REGISTER TODAY Issue Driven Volunteer Projects

Important Training Opportunity For Volunteer Coordinators And Nonprofit Managers



Volunteer retention and commitment are crucial to successful volunteer programs. So don't forget to register for the next class in our Agency Workshop Series scheduled for Friday, February 1, 2008. Presented by Hands On Central Texas and Travis County RSVP, this session focuses on "Issue Driven Volunteer Projects". Learn to build deeper relationships with your volunteers by connecting them to your mission. Register online at <http://handsoncentraltexas.org>.

Please remember to contact the RSVP office if any of the following apply to you:

- You have changed your address, phone number or email address.
- You know an RSVP volunteer who has moved or is sick.
- You want a new or additional volunteer assignment.
- You start volunteering at a new agency or resume volunteering after an absence.
- You know of someone who wishes to join RSVP.

There are many ways to reach us, choose any of the following:
 Telephone: 512-854-RSVP (7787)
 Fax: 512-854-4131
 Email: RSVP@co.travis.tx.us
 Postal mail: RSVP, P.O. Box 1748, Austin, TX 78767

We love to hear from you. Thanks!

**THANK YOU FOR ALL YOU DO.
 YOUR EFFORTS ARE APPRECIATED BY MANY!**