

RSVP Advisory Council

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Gene Binder RSVP Volunteer	Adrian Fowler Community Volunteer	Dora Tanton Southwest Airlines
	Richard Kinsey Community Volunteer	John Thomas Community Volunteer
	Alice Latino Emeritus Corporation	
	John McKetta, Ph.D. University of Texas	

How To Contact RSVP

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Austin, TX 78701

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Website: www.RSVPaustin.org

WE WANT TO HEAR YOUR STORY!

Tell us about your motivations for answering the invitation to serve. Or share with us your philosophy and experiences regarding sharing your time and talents. We find volunteer stories are uplifting and inspiring and truly warm our hearts. We also enjoy hearing feedback about how our program is working for YOU.

Please take a moment to write us a letter, send an email, or give us a call today.

Our email address is RSVP@co.travis.tx.us and our mailing address is PO Box 1748, Austin TX 78767. Or you can phone us at (512) 854-5872.

We'd love to hear your story. We're always listening!



RSVP News



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

How Summer Impacts Volunteering for Local Nonprofits

When summer rolls around, one often thinks of lazy afternoons by the pool, barbecue, vacations, no school for the kids and just a slower pace of life in general. However for some area non-profits the summer doesn't slow down but it actually gets busier and that means the ever present need for more volunteers as their services see an increase during the summer months.

Meals On Wheels And More is always a bustle of activity and during the summer months it is no different.

According to Theresa Medlin-Bella, Assistant Vice President for Volunteer Services, during the summer the meal delivery program is busier and is in need of volunteers mainly because many of the regular route volunteers do take summer vacations or have to cancel for various reasons. Theresa says typically they can have up to 35/40 volunteer driver cancellations a day and during the summer she now has 55/65 cancellations a day. Each route needs to be covered by a volunteer or staff person.

One of the RSVP volunteers that Theresa counts on to be a substitute driver is Dutch Foster. Dutch is a "Meal Manager" and has been a volunteer for Meals On Wheels for four years. He is responsible for filling the orders and making sure each driver has the right meals for their route. When a route needs a driver to de-

liver the meals for the day, Dutch is often the volunteer who offers to fill that role. Dutch agrees with Theresa and says he sees a slight increase of cancelled routes during the summer but he is always willing to help out whenever he can.

The tagline used by the University of Texas Performing Arts Center (UTPAC) is



Dutch Foster

"Bringing the world to Austin" and they do that by playing host to a variety of concerts, Broadway shows, comedians, and top of the line entertainment. The UTPAC used to be slower in the summer months but now has moved to a year-to-year season says

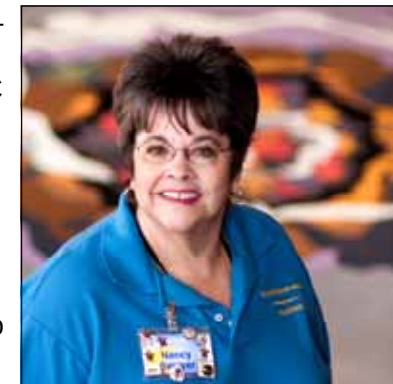
Johanna McGinnis, UTPAC Volunteer Coordinator. This is new for UTPAC and now they are calling on their dedicated volunteers to help with the new schedule. Johanna says that many of their volunteers are students who leave for the summer and some of the volunteers work and volunteer at the same time, leaving them little time to give extra hours. Johanna says during the times when

they need volunteers the most they rely on "Guest Ushers," usually friends of a current usher who fill in at the last minute. Some guest ushers end up becoming regular volunteers as well. Johanna relies on her regular loyal volunteers and guest usher to help with this new year-to-year season.



Ellen Becker

RSVP volunteer Ellen Becker says she has noticed that the need for volunteers at UTPAC has increased and she enjoys the new schedule. Ellen says, "I love every place where I volunteer, so that's why I make the effort to be available." Ellen has volunteered at the Austin Symphony, Austin Theatre Alliance, Texas State History Museum, The Long Center, The Zach Scott Theatre and more. She said she usually volunteers 5 to 7 days a week at different nonprofits and she



Nancy Sawyer

enjoys the good friends she has made through volunteering and all the opportunities volunteering has offered her. It is volunteers like Ellen that help UTPAC remain a great entertainment venue for the entire Austin community.

The Texas State History Museum is a proud example of Texas History and during the early summer months it is liter-

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RSVP News

P.O. Box 1748
Austin, Texas 78767

Current Volunteer Opportunities: Contact RSVP For Details

The **Arc of the Capital Area** is looking for volunteers who enjoy working with and teaching persons with disabilities various forms or art appreciation. Teachers needed for areas including painting, ceramics, photography, beadwork, musical performance, movement and musical appreciation. Shift times can be flexible, but volunteers who are able to work on a regular or semi-regular basis are preferred. In addition to art appreciation volunteers, the Arc is also seeking volunteers able to provide respite care on Saturdays from 9AM to 2PM. Contact us today to get more information or to sign up!

Austin Nature & Science Center needs a few volunteers to staff the Trade Counter, a learning center where young visitors (age 4 to 12) trade items they have found for items in the Trade Counter's collection. Duties include explaining to visitors how the Trade Counter works, conducting trades, talking to visitors about specimens, and answering questions about the center. You should have experience working with the public, enjoy conversations about the natural world, and be outgoing and friendly. Training is provided. Time commitment is one three-hour shift per week. Contact RSVP for more information.

Won't you use your personal, education, or family experience with Mental and Behavioral Health issues to help guide **Austin Travis County Mental Health & Mental Retardation Center** (ATCMHMR) service delivery? ATCMHMR is looking for two volunteers with a specific background or interest in Behavioral Health as related to the Hispanic or Asian population to serve on their Planning and Network Advisory Council Committee. This Committee makes recommendations to

ATCMHMR's Board on the local service delivery system in areas of budget and contract issues. They meet on the second Thursday of each month from Noon until 1:30PM and provide lunch. Volunteers are required to go through a simple acceptance process and are encouraged to serve a two-year period. Please call RSVP for more information or to register.

The Blood and Tissue Center of Central Texas is in search of volunteers to help in the office supporting the staff and various departments. The volunteer position would be located at the North Lamar office and would serve as interim receptionist from Noon until 1PM on Monday through Friday. Duties include filing, assistance with mail-outs, assistance and preparation with special events, transferring calls, and assisting walk-in clients, doctors and customers. Training is provided.

Caritas of Austin seeks volunteers interested in serving as Community Kitchen Service Volunteers. You will help prepare and serve lunch and clean up the kitchen and dining areas after lunch. Shifts are available Mondays through Fridays from 9:30AM until 1:30PM. Caritas asks that you choose one shift per week if possible. Volunteers should enjoy working as part of a team, serving quality meals to those in need in a respectful manner, be able to stand for extended periods of time, and follow direction and policies. Training is provided. Please contact RSVP for more details.

Here is an opportunity to assist the **Center for Child Protection** with a special event. Registration volunteers are needed on July 13, 16 and 17th from 6:45 to 9 AM. The confer-

ence is located in East Austin near Decker Lake. Please contact us ASAP if you are able to assist with this special event.

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.

HealthSouth Rehabilitation Hospital of Austin is in the process of developing a new volunteer program and they are looking for a few good hands to help them out. Possible opportunities can include meeting and greeting patients, delivering mail, talking to and/or reading to patients, helping in the garden and much more! All volunteers must be able to pass a criminal background check and drug test. They are also required to provide notification from a physician they have no communicable diseases. This is a rehab hospital and all of their patients have special needs that require a special person. Let us know if this is you!

Volunteers are crucial to the success of **Ten Thousand Villages of Austin**, a non-profit store dedicated to providing vital, fair income to artisans by providing them a marketplace to sell their handicrafts. The store features products from over

Volunteering In Summer
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ally teeming with school children from schools in Austin and some schools from across Texas who come to visit the museum. RSVP volunteer Nancy Sawyer says in May they had more than 2,000 children come to the museum each day. Nancy was the first person to sign up as a volunteer before the museum was built and is part of an elite group known as the "Hard Hatters", named because when they started their volunteer training they had to wear hard hats because the museum was still under construction.

Rocky Perez, Volunteer Coordinator at the museum says the traffic is steady in the summer and now that the IMAX theatre is offering screenings of recent releases and summer

Current Volunteer Opportunities, Continued

130 artisan groups in 38 countries. Various volunteer opportunities with flexible schedules exist and no previous experience is necessary – just a friendly attitude and a desire to help. Contact RSVP to find out more!

VistaCare Hospice can use your help. With eight hours of training – you can make calls to patients to get feedback about their care and service from the organization. These calls too can gather information about the patient's prescription needs. Call RSVP today to say that this is something that you can do.

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.

Thank you !

block buster movies the museum is getting new attention and new patrons. He said committed volunteers like Nancy who are always willing to help out with special events, exhibits and educational events are truly appreciated. Nancy, a retired Texas History teacher says she enjoys what she calls "Spot teaching" and she positions herself at a particular exhibit and takes the museum guest beyond what they read at the exhibit. She says she truly enjoys "giving them a story and piece of Texas history, one they can walk away with".

With summer in full swing we appreciate and recognize the hard work and dedication of these loyal RSVP volunteers who are helping local nonprofits shine through their busy summer months. We thank them and all volunteers who work so hard to make our world a better place.



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 further reimbursement requests are received and 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 for your cooperation.



Please Welcome Our Newest Travis County RSVP Volunteers

- Jay Arnold
- Sue Boesl
- Azucena Bravo
- Frederick Bravo
- Connie Carson
- Lloyd Cordes
- M. Leonor Dorrego
- Kim Dunkerley
- Claire Engelhardt
- Weldon Hailey
- Gerry Iglesias
- Bhadrayu Jani
- Beulah Jones
- Carolyn Kirkwood
- Kristine Levenhagen
- Raymond Leydecker
- Pat Liston
- Ken MacMorran
- Robert R. McBride
- Jeanne Martin
- Faye Miller
- Leonor Munoz
- Sue Pappas
- Oralia Rodriguez
- Bill Rosenberger
- Michael Wadino
- Dot Yarworth

Thank you for all you do to make our community a better place!