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RSVP IS LOCALLY SPONSORED BY THE TRAVIS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT.

Thank You!

Travis County RSVP wishes to extend our most special thanks to the following individuals and groups who helped make the 2009 Volunteer Recognition Luncheon a success:

For help transporting guests, RSVP thanks Alice Latino at **Emeritus Assisted Living Properties**; Amy Brando & Les at **Loyalton of Austin**; Brandon Erickson & Scotty at **The Park at Beckett Meadows**; Lori Conner & Glenda Rogers at **Area Agency on Aging**; Cynthia Owens at **City of Austin**; Elida Urtado, Mary Williams & Stan Wilson at **Travis County**.

We also wish to sincerely thank the following partners: **Woode Wood** for donating his spirit and songs for the entertainment of all our guests; **Dale Cornibe at Travis County Media Services** for producing the beautiful films celebrating the award winners and recording the event for broadcast; **Christopher Caselli** at Caselli Photography for photographing the award recipients; **Robert Duke and staff at Travis County Print Shop** for printing the event's program; The **Travis County RSVP Advisory Council** for their tremendous contributions throughout the year; and the **Travis County Health and Human Services & Veteran Services** staff members who helped make the Luncheon run so smoothly.

And most important, thank you to the 1,150 incredible volunteers who make up Travis County RSVP. *Thank you all!*

RSVP

News



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

Extraordinary Volunteers Honored At 2009 RSVP Volunteer Recognition Luncheon

Volunteers like you are the core of the Travis County RSVP program. Without your dedication and generosity, our program would cease to exist. On May 22, 2009 more than 650 participants joined together to celebrate the collective efforts of 1,150 RSVP volunteers who donated their time and talents to nonprofit and public agencies throughout Travis County this year.

We formally recognized thirty-one volunteers who served over 1,000 hours, seven volunteers who served over 200 hours, nineteen volunteers who donated 15 years to our program, six volunteers with 20 years of service to RSVP and our first ever thirty-year volunteer, Charlotte Flynn!

Five volunteers were highlighted for their extraordinary contributions to the community.

Carol Germer has been volunteering with the North Austin Medical Center (NAMC) since 2001 where her primary role is with Guest Relations serving as a "patient advocate." In this role she uses her natural problem-solving skills to resolve a wide range of issues and more comfortably guide patients and their families through the hospital experience. She also helps with planning events, assisting with donations, and serving as President, coordinator and mem-

ber for multiple committees at NAMC. Carol brings to this and other volunteer assignments the enthusiasm, leadership, life experience, organizational skills and sensitivity gained from her many years of experience as a hospice volunteer and medical social worker. We appreciate you, Carol! Congratulations!



Carol Germer

Although **Martha Hoflich's** face may not be visible at the Capital Area Food Bank (CAFB), her volunteer efforts are critical to the success of the entire operation. Martha is responsible for training and managing the volunteer team that manually enters more than 64,500 volun-

teer hours each year. Tracking volunteer hours is critical to CAFB's continuing ability to get funding, and also informs management of the important role volunteers play on a daily basis. Martha also enjoys volunteering for various CAFB Community Events where her face is more visible. Martha's enthusiasm, determination and organization skills



Martha Hoflich

make her a priceless resource to the CAFB. We appreciate you, Martha! Congratulations!

Anyone who has attempted a home repair project knows how difficult it can be. But for **Kirby Watson**, it's just another day at the office. Kirby is a regular construction volunteer who serves as

a lead for the Austin Habitat for Humanity (AHFH) electrical team. For over 10 years, he has helped install entire electrical systems in Habitat homes, saving their affiliate about \$3,000 in labor for each home completed. Kirby is a representative of the Electrician's union and works with several other union members on AHFH's electrical team several times a week. In addition to training unskilled volunteers to perform various construction jobs, Kirby has served on the Construction Committee for many years and has acted as that committee's chair for the past two years. Kirby's dedication, commitment to excellence and his historical perspective make him a key player in the AHFH organization's success. We appreciate you, Kirby! Congratulations!



Kirby Watson

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The Capital Area Food Bank's East Austin Service Center is now open and volunteers are needed to help organize food, assist with food distribution, and for other general pantry operations. Volunteers are needed Tuesdays from 7:30AM to 10:30AM to receive food delivery and stock shelves. On the 2nd and 3rd Tuesday of the month from 10AM to 12:30PM volunteers are needed to assist with the Fresh Food For Families distribution. Volunteers are also needed Wednesdays from 7:30AM to 10AM to help run the food pantry.

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Texas is the oldest, largest and most effective youth mentoring organization in the United States. Not only do they need volunteers to mentor children, they also need volunteers to assist with administrative work to support the children and their mentors. Administrative assistance mainly consists of answering the telephone, assisting with large mailings and greeting visitors. Their most pressing need is for someone to answer the phone between 10:30AM and 1PM Monday through Friday at our office in East Austin. All volunteers must pass a background check. For more information please contact RSVP.

El Buen Samaritano is in need of ESL Volunteer Teachers. ESL volunteer instructors work with groups of about 5-25 participants who are mostly Spanish speakers, but participants can come from across the globe. El Buen supplies the instructors with materials, a curriculum and lesson-planning support, but they encourage creativity in individual lesson plans. Duties include assisting with class registration, following a set curriculum, working closely

with other team instructors, and administering and grading examinations. Morning classes meet on Mondays, Wednesday and Fridays from 9AM to noon. Evening classes meet on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays from 7PM to 8:30PM. Summer session runs from May 26 through August 1st.

The Foundation for the Homeless is looking for volunteers to assist at their Day Center one Sunday a month. Spend time with shelter families and plan activities for the children or bring a family-friendly movie to watch together. All participants will be subject to a background check and should have some experience and be comfortable working with homeless families. In addition, volunteers are asked to commit to one Sunday per month for at least 3 months with this program.

Help Central Texans find employment! The mission of Job Source Program at **Goodwill Industries of Central Texas** is to help individuals and families with barriers to employment become self-sufficient by providing services in the areas of pre-employment training, career development and job search assistance. Volunteers are needed to help clients complete job applications online and on paper, to review resumes and cover letters and to assist clients as needed in the computer labs. Shift times are flexible, and having some knowledge of computers and basic software is helpful.

Ever thought about grocery shopping as a volunteer? **Groceries to Go**, a program of Meals on Wheels and More, offers the opportunity to provide "assisted shopping" where

you would accompany a client in the market or "self shopping" in which you would shop with only the client's shopping list. When returning from the twice-a-month trip, you would help put the groceries away. As a volunteer you would be matched with an appropriate client. Please contact RSVP for more details.

The LifeWorks Literacy Program seeks tutors to work with their Adult Basic Education and English as a Second Language (ESL) students. Classes meet two days a week and tutors may teach both weekly sessions or opt to "co-tutor" and teach one day per week. Sessions meet either at their Center in East Austin or at various locations throughout the community. They offer morning, afternoon, and evening sessions. Tutors are asked to make a 6-month minimum commitment and 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. The only required skills are motivation, energy, and patience!

Southwest Austin Caregivers has joined the Faith In Action Partners in Caregiving network providing reliable transportation throughout Central Texas. Drivers are needed to assist individuals in need of help to live independently. Volunteers who can offer even two hours a month to drive a client to a doctor's appointment, therapy, or drug store, etc. are encouraged to choose a part of town to serve. Choose from North Central, Northeast, Far Northwest, Pflugerville, South Austin, West Austin and now Southwest Austin Caregivers. Call RSVP today to volunteer for a truly necessary and caring service.

Extraordinary Volunteers,
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It's not always easy to find angels on earth in human form. But you need look no further than the North Central Caregivers (NCC) office each Monday morning where you will find **Evelyn Mueller** hard at work. Serving with NCC since 1995, Evelyn spends her Mondays matching clients' ride requests with volunteer drivers. Her top priority is making sure that NCC clients can get to their appointments and to the places they need to go. In addition to scheduling other volunteer drivers, she also provides transportation herself for many NCC clients each week. Evelyn truly believes that she is on this earth to give back to others. She gets genuine satisfaction from knowing that she is helping people who need assistance. If a volunteer driver cancels at the last minute, Evelyn will make arrangements to drive the cli-



Evelyn Mueller

ent rather than disappoint them or make the client reschedule their appointment. Her kindness and sweet nature are legendary! We appreciate you Evelyn! Congratulations!

The purpose of the Dr. and Mrs. John J. McKetta Community Spirit Award is to recognize individuals for their significant contributions to RSVP and the community. Who better to recognize this year than **Sue McFarland**? For more than 21 years, Sue has been the unofficial RSVP poster child! She has been featured on RSVP promotional materials, represented us at community events, served on our Advisory Council, and has done so much



Sue McFarland

more! For more than a decade she helped tutor and mentor children in the Manor Independent School District. Since 1987, Sue has also served at the Austin Bergstrom International Airport's information table where she helped greet and direct visitors from all over the world. Sue's driven, dependable, positive, "can do" attitude has made her a highly sought after volunteer for organizations throughout Austin, including ours. Ever ready to help with fundraising, she contributes her time and her money to causes she supports. Sue, as a consummate volunteer, often so impressed organizational management that she was hired on as staff! There is not enough space available for us to convey how exceptional Sue is, nor how much she's done for the City of Austin and RSVP! We appreciate you! Congratulations Sue!

Please join us in thanking these outstanding organizations for their continued support of Travis County

AT&T
Brookdale Senior Living
Dr. & Mrs. Thomas Cedel
Ms. Camille Clay
Eye Physicians of Austin
Heart Hospital of Austin

The LCRA
Dr. & Mrs. John McKetta
North Austin Medical Center
Parmer Woods-A Merrill Gardens Community
Senior Activity Center

South Austin Hospital
Southwest Airlines
St. David's Medical Center
Healthcare Volunteers
Walgreens
Westminster Manor

Special Thanks To Our GOLD and SILVER Sponsors Whose Generous Support Sustains Our Program



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.