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How To Contact RSVP

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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!

Validated parking is available for volunteers at the Hyatt on a first come, first served basis. Carpooling is encouraged if possible. Volunteers can also ride our free shuttle bus. You must register in advance for the shuttle bus. The buses will fill up and limited space is available. Contact RSVP TODAY at 512-854-RSVP (7787) to sign up for the shuttle bus and receive additional information regarding pick up times and location.

RSVP News



RSVP PUTS EXPERIENCE TO WORK BY CONNECTING VOLUNTEERS WITH REWARDING OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE IN TRAVIS COUNTY • MAY 2010

Encore Careers: Reinventing Oneself in Retirement

Lately, we've been hearing more and more about folks exploring "encore" careers. Those seeking "encore" careers could be someone who is just transitioning into their second half of life, or someone who after fifteen or so years of retirement is deciding to live their dream and redefine retirement on their own terms. While "encore" careers are usually described as paid positions, they may also include volunteer positions. Rather than looking for disengagement and freedom from work after retirement, those exploring "encore" careers are looking for meaningful ways to be engaged in their community and to utilize their skills, interests, and freedom to serve in areas that are important to them. Regardless of age, they are reinventing themselves by exploring new "encore" careers.

ports any concerns or changes in her clients' situations.

Mary's service activity doesn't stop with just one encore career. She serves in multiple ways. Mary volunteers for Friendship International, an organization that serves spouses of international students and their children, picks up food from local food establishments to be distributed through Micah 6 to those who are impoverished and homeless, volunteers at Brackenridge Hospital, serves at the Old Bakery and Emporium, and is a relentless advocate of environmental causes.

aster Action Team in Travis County, a team of volunteers who respond to disasters, including fires, wind storms, tornadoes, and floods, in nine counties surrounding Travis County. He's on call 24/7, 365 days a year.

When Mike isn't responding to emergencies, he is in the American Red Cross office working on financial data entry as well as providing information about the Red Cross to service members of the Armed Forces.

"Mike is called upon to provide not only emergency assistance, but comfort and compassion. Client's feedback always reflects what a true humanitarian Mike Wadino represents. We're proud to have such an amazing human being on our team,"

says José Dominguez, Director of Emergency Services at the American Red Cross.

After retiring, **Ervin Butler**, 85, noticed a need at the Capital Area Food Bank while picking up groceries for a food pantry. Shortly thereafter, he

started volunteering at the Food



Mary Bouldin, left, with Sue Ellen Mills



Mike Wadino



Ervin Butler

"Mary's life is an inspiration to us all," says Sue Ellen Mills, Vice President for Volunteer Services at Meals on Wheels and More. "She compels the rest of us to do more."

Mike Wadino discovered his encore career with the American Red Cross of Central Texas. Mike is an active member of the Dis-

These three RSVP volunteers have discovered their "encore" careers and have redefined their retirement through volunteer service.

After having served her country as a nurse in the US Air Force Nurse Corps, **Mary Bouldin** chose to pursue another means of service – volunteer service. Mary has been a volunteer driver for Meals on Wheels and More for 32 years! She delivers meals to between eight and eleven frail homebound people on her assigned route once per week and re-



P.O. Box 1748
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Current Volunteer Opportunities: Contact RSVP For Details

Become a Classroom Coach with **Austin Partners in Education's** effort to strengthen our schools, support our teachers. Choose a program/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. Contact the RSVP office for more details.

Teach children about the Colorado River in Texas and water conservation! Join the **Colorado River Foundation** as a Science Educational Docent. Docents lead groups of 15 students through their beautiful outdoor Redbud park facilities. Through hands-on activities and educational games, children learn about water conservation, the water cycle, water sources and watersheds, and the history and geography of the Colorado River in Texas. Get ready to meet the amazing science enthusiasts who already volunteer with them! Docents must be able to tolerate heat and cold as programs are held outdoors. Also, docents must be able to stand for 30-45 minutes at a time. You will be provided with extensive and exciting training sessions which will enable you to be a Redbud Center ambassador.

Volunteers are needed to assist **Communities in Schools** with their Tech Tots program. This program provides volunteer mentors, home computers, internet access, lab training and educational software to selected low-income families with preschool-age children in an effort to bridge the "digital divide" -- the widening gap between those with access to new technologies and those without. Tech Tots provides mentors with family-friendly software that teaches basic math, science, lan-

guage and geography skills. Volunteers should have basic computer experience and the ability to communicate with diverse populations; they should be patient, friendly and eager to work with families; and they should be able to pass a criminal background check.

Help children, help your dog, and help yourself by participating in **divine canines** "Barking Book Buddies" (BBB) elementary school literacy program. The BBB program helps children improve their literacy skills by asking them to "read" to a trained dog while the dog's owner gives encouragement to the child. The owner/dog team meets in the school library with two children once a week for about 30 minutes per child (One hour per week). This establishes a bond of trust between the child, dog and owner. This process has proven to increase literacy test scores of the participating children. After the dogs have received basic good citizen training, *divine canines* provides specialized training at no cost to the owner/dog team. We need volunteers to commit to helping children, helping their dogs and helping themselves

Food Pantry volunteers are needed at the **El Buen Samaritano** food pantry. The food pantry volunteers provide an important service to the community by helping offer emergency food assistance to needy families. Volunteers assist with unloading food boxes, organizing food by shelves, and distributing food to clients. Consistent volunteers who are able to commit 2-3 hours a week, Monday through Thursday are needed. For those learning Spanish, it is a good opportunity to practice the language, although not required.

Serve Austin's Homeless through the **Green Doors Food Pantry** program. This program provides a weekly supply of groceries to approximately 400 limited-income indi-

viduals and families a month so they can prioritize their income to housing needs. Volunteers are needed each Thursday morning to pick up food at a local food bank, and in the afternoon from 2-5 to operate the pantry. Volunteer for morning shifts should have a vehicle suitable for loading food (SUV or pickup). Food Pantry Volunteers should also be comfortable doing moderate physical work (primarily lifting) and volunteers in the morning should be comfortable doing loading and unloading of sometimes heavy boxes.

Creative, dedicated and resourceful volunteers are what make the **Make-A-Wish Foundation of Central & South Texas** successful. Volunteers grant wishes, organize fund raisers, promote the organization, plan events and celebrations for wish families. Training will be scheduled soon for "wish granters" and other volunteers. Check out the Make-A-Wish Foundation in our area online.

Marbridge Foundation provides a unique spectrum of residential care, education, and training for adults with various cognitive challenges. The gift of your time will help their residents achieve their full potential. There are many ways you can volunteer! Volunteer shift times and days can be flexible and can even be incorporated into what you already do during your free time (for example, going to church or a movie with a resident). Marbridge can put your time, talents, services, and products to great use to benefit residents—and you will have fun at the same time! Contact us today to find out more about this wonderful opportunity!

It's playtime, folks! Volunteer with **Project ClayPlay** and assist art instructors as they teach children how to work with clay. The organization has renovated a 32 foot Airstream RV into a clay art studio that will travel to schools and neighborhood

Volunteer Opportunities, cont'd

centers. If you have had experience working with groups of children, can help with classes that meet for three hours morning or afternoon or have fantasized driving an Airstream – think how much fun you can have. As a volunteer, you too can request pottery classes. Think fun and call today for more information.

Thrift Store volunteers are needed at Top Drawer Thrift Store which benefits **Project Transitions**. The store raises 20% of the agency's budget. Volunteers are needed as store clerks for 2-4 hours, Monday through Friday. Volunteers would process donations, ring up customers, assist with merchandising, provide customer service, and help with store cleanliness. Monthly new volunteer orientation is available, check on-line for orientation dates.

Be part of **University Medical Center Brackenridge's** "A-team" Volunteer Ambassador Team. Volunteers are needed in key areas such as the Information Desk providing guidance and assistance and offering a welcoming face as they enter the hospital. Volunteers are also needed to help the nursing staff with basic but important support such as taking food trays, offering water or a blanket along with other tasks. Volunteers are offered free parking, free flu shots, and free drink per shift, discounted prices at the cafeteria, and discounts at the gift shop.

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.

Not Our "Usual RSVP Volunteer"

Patrick, a Bearded Collie, was nationally recognized as The Bearded Collie Club of America's Andrew Award recipient. This 2009 award was given for the most pet therapy hours in his breed in the preceding year.

RSVP celebrates the contributions of Patrick and his owner, Gretchen Blackburn, RSVP Advisory Council member and Treasurer.



ENCORE CAREERS,
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Bank sorting donations. He's now a STAR Administrative Volunteer and assists with administrative projects, including mailing the quarterly donor newsletter and donor thank you letters, gift-wrapping toys for clients, and updating volunteer files. "His specific activities ensure the Food Bank maintains a strong relationship with our constituents through vital stewardship activities," says Kirra Hamman, Volunteer Resources Coordinator.

After 17 years of service at the Food Bank, he gladly tells others why he volunteers in retirement. "I keep coming back because it's a wonderful, wonderful thing. I've made good friends, and I continue to enjoy meeting new volunteers and helping with administrative tasks."

Whether it's the freedom to follow their purpose and passion, answering their personal "calling," working with people whose company they enjoy, or exploring new interests, these three volunteers have redefined themselves in retirement. They've found their encore careers and continue to make a positive difference in important ways.

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! Call the RSVP office at 512-854-RSVP (7787) and bring us up to date! Thank you!

