

## RSVP Advisory Council

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### How To Contact RSVP

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## 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



*Your invitation to serve.*

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

*Your invitation to serve.*

The world around us is constantly evolving and Travis County RSVP strives to be in step with all of the complex changes taking place. That's why we've launched a new look and a new theme. We hope it better communicates what RSVP stands for and the incredible contribution to our community made by RSVP volunteers like you.

"Your Invitation To Serve" is the new theme that ties together our recently redesigned website (below), our new brochure and other communications with the community. It plays on the association of the letters "RSVP" with the idea of responding to an invitation. But more important, it tells people that RSVP and its members are dedicated to service and civic engagement.

Central Texas is widely recognized for the volunteer spirit its residents share. Indeed the Corporation for National and Community Service recently released a study placing Austin near the top of the list of US metro areas based on overall volunteer rates.

While the average volunteer rate across all US metro areas is 28%, slightly more than 38% of Austin area residents reported volunteer service in the past year. Thanks to the work of RSVP volunteers like you, this extraordinary spirit gives the Austin metro the third highest volunteer rate in the nation!

In terms of the number of hours served by volunteers (another key statistic we use to measure the health of a volunteer community), Austin ranks seventh in the nation. The national average is 36.5 volunteer hours per resident per year, but

the Austin area enjoys an average of 49 volunteer hours per resident.

Perhaps it is the high concentration of well-managed nonprofit and community-based organizations in our area. Perhaps it has to do with the sense of connection that many residents have to our community. Maybe it's just the spirit of Texas that calls its citizens to action.

Whatever the explanation might be, Travis County RSVP is proud to work with volunteers like you.

The volunteer rate of a community is an important indicator of its well-being and quality of life. With help from volunteers like you, it appears that Austin is in good health.

We believe that volunteering is not just a nice thing to do. We know it is a necessary part of solving the challenges our community faces. We hope that you will consider RSVP

"your invitation to serve." Thank you for all you do.



**Austin Public Libraries**

**Job Title:** Right on Readers – Reading Buddy Program

**Job Description:** The reading buddy program matches volunteers with young students in grades 1-4. The goal is to help develop positive attitudes about reading and to promote reading as a fun activity. Buddies will meet to share books, games, and to learn about the library.

**Time Commitment:** One hour one session per week through November on Tuesday, Thursday or Friday afternoons starting at 3:30PM.

**Location:** Cepeda Branch Library, East Austin.

**Agency's Mission:** Provide public information access to the community; offer the opportunity for education and exploration through library public resources.

**Website:** www.ci.austin.tx.us/library/

**Care Calls**

**Job Title:** Telephone Friend

**Job Description:** After an interview and matching the Telephone Friend with a home-bound client with the Meals on Wheels program, the volunteer can call that client once or twice a week and provide friendly conversation and congenial phone-friend talk.

**Time Commitment:** An hour or more weekly

**Location:** The privacy and relaxed atmosphere of your own home.

**Agency's Mission:** To enrich the life of a home-bound person with caring conversation, respecting the individuality and dignity of the client.

**Foundation Communities**

**Job Title:** Food Pantry Pick Up and Delivery

**Job Description:** The first three Thursdays of each month, Spring Terrace picks food up from the Capital Area Food Bank and unpacks it in the pantry on site at Spring Terrace.

Volunteers are needed not only to pick up the food, but also unpack it. Volunteers must have their own transportation. Other volunteer jobs are available as well and include adult computer class leaders, diet planners, green initiative coordinators, media group correspondents, weekend sports managers, youth activity leaders, and much more!!

**Time Commitment:** Two hours per week for a minimum of 3 months.

**Location:** From the Capital Area Food Bank in South Austin to Spring Terrace housing located in North Austin.

**Agency's Mission:** To create housing where families succeed. Their nationally recognized model of service-enriched, affordable housing ensures that the 2,000 low-income working families who call our residences home have the opportunity to promote their own educational and economic advancement.

**Website:** www.foundcom.org

**Salvation Army**

**Job Title:** Ringers for Veteran's Day

**Job Description:** 100 volunteers are needed to ring bells in the 2007 Veteran's Day parade. Volunteers will be provided a Salvation Army tee shirt to wear for the event (which is yours to keep), and a bell to ring in the parade for approximately 30 minutes (12 city blocks). Volunteer bell ringers will accompany a Salvation Army canteen vehicle as well as a musical effort. Other holiday volunteers opportunities are available as well (including bell ringers, Angel Tree assistance and the Annual Christmas Toy Distribution)!

**Time Commitment:** November 11, 2007 from 8AM to about 9:30AM.

**Location:** Assembly at the Ann Richards Bridge at 8AM to travel over Town Lake North to the Capitol Building Grounds.

**Agency's Mission:** To preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ and to meet human needs in His name without

discrimination.

**Website:** salvationarmyaustin.org

**Seton Medical Center**

**Job Title:** Hospital Volunteer

**Job Description:** Volunteers are needed to provide support to families in need, to assist hospital staff in the ER and Surgery Center, and to assist in the gift shop, café and information desks.

**Time Commitment:** Flexible.

**Location:** Downtown Austin

**Agency's Mission:** Our mission inspires us to care for and improve the health of those we serve with a special concern for the sick and the poor. We are called to be a sign of God's unconditional love for all and believe that all persons by their creation are endowed with dignity. Seton continues the catholic tradition of service established by our founders: Vincent de Paul, Louise de Marillac and Elizabeth Ann Seton.

**Website:** www.seton.net

**South Austin Hospital**

**Job Title:** Gift Shop Volunteer

**Job Description:** Run the cash register, price and restock items, work on new and creative displays, all in a fun and lively environment.

**Time Commitment:** One 4-hour shift each week.

**Location:** South Austin

**Agency's Mission:** To care for and improve the health of those served with special concern for the sick and the poor.

**Website:** southaustinhospital.com

**South Austin Hospital**

**Job Title:** Information Desk Volunteer

**Job Description:** Answer questions, direct visitors to appointments and patients' rooms, deliver flowers and enjoy interacting with the public.

**Time Commitment:** One 4-hour shift each week.

**Location:** South Austin

**Agency's Mission:** See above.

**Website:** southaustinhospital.com

**Texas Book Festival**

**Job Title:** Book Lovers

**Job Description:** Over 900 volunteers are needed to make the Texas Book Festival a big success. If you are an avid book lover, please consider joining them for this special event! Volunteer jobs vary greatly and include everything from escorting and transporting authors to selling book and manning information tables, along with everything in between. A complete list of volunteer opportunities and information can be found on their website.

**Time Commitment:** November 3 and 4<sup>th</sup>, shift times vary depending upon the opportunity.

**Location:** Varies and includes the State Capitol, the Austin Museum of Art, the Alamo Drafthouse and other Austin venues.

**Agency's Mission:** The Texas Book Festival bring is free to the public and brings prominent authors and interesting programs to the State Capitol each year.

**Website:** www.texasbookfestival.org

**Travis County Sheriff's Dept.**

**Job Title:** Tutors and Educators

**Job Description:** Are you a retired teacher or someone who would en-

joy working with inmates to teach them specific skills needed to complete their GED? If so, the Travis County Sheriff's Department needs you! Anyone (preferably retired teachers) able to provide educational classes to inmates that allow them to hone various skill sets they need to complete their GED are needed now. Potential volunteers must pass a criminal background check, a basic skills test and provide a current resume prior to assignment.

**Time Commitment:** Very flexible. Weekday hours preferred, but they will be happy to work with your schedule and availability.

**Location:** Travis County Corrections Facility in Del Valle (about 10 minutes from the airport).

**Agency's Mission:** As a law enforcement community with a proud tradition dating back to 1840, the Travis County Sheriff's Office has developed a vision for exceeding community expectations through exemplary service. We are reaching out to the entire community to become a part of preventing crime and keeping the community safe.

**Website:** www.tcsheriff.org

**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.**

**Free Smoke Alarms For Qualified Seniors**

Thanks to the Austin Fire Department, many elderly Austin residents are now eligible to receive a special smoke alarm absolutely free. These alarms can be silenced with a regular TV remote control and can reactivate themselves after 15 minutes. Their batteries can last up to eight years.

The fire department was able to purchase 2,500 of these alarms through a federal grant from the Department

of Homeland Security. Older adults who live in a house or duplex and have an annual household income of less than \$42,000 can qualify to receive a free home hazard checkup and a free smoke detector.

Smoke detectors are "the cheapest life insurance one can buy" says fire department spokesperson Michelle DeCrane. For more information, please call 512-974-0299.

*Are You A Veteran Of World War II?  
Did You Support Our Troops From The Homefront?*

If so, Austin Public Television station KLRU invites you to share your story. In conjunction with the airing of Ken Burns' 7-part series *THE WAR*, KLRU and the Austin History Center are collaborating to collect the personal stories of individuals and families from our community and how they were affected by World War II. Be a part of this amazing project.

For more details, please call the RSVP Office (512-854-7787).

*In Extraordinary Times, There Are No Ordinary Lives.*



*REPORT YOUR HOURS USING OUR ONLINE FORM!*

Call the Travis County RSVP office (512-854-7787) to register for online reporting. You'll receive an email from us providing complete and easy-to-follow instructions. If you're comfortable using the internet, you'll find that online reporting is easy, fast and convenient. But you must register. Call today!