

RSVP Advisory Council

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Jesse Colunga City of Austin Senior Support Services	Sue McFarland RSVP Volunteer	Dora Tanton Southwest Airlines
	John McKetta, Ph.D. University of Texas	John Thomas KXAN-TV 36

How To Contact RSVP

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RSVP

News

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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 SEPTEMBER 2007

Agency Coordinators Rely On RSVP To Find Volunteers With Specific Skills

For thirty five years, Travis County RSVP has partnered with nonprofit organizations and public agencies throughout the area to help them improve their volunteer recruitment and management efforts. RSVP has current agreements with more than 300 area agencies. In fact, you'd be hard pressed to name a local nonprofit organization with whom RSVP does not have a partnership.

We are known for bringing not just any volunteers to the party, but experienced volunteers. The RSVP volunteer has accumulated a lifetime of knowledge and skills, often very specific and valuable skills. **Carol Winnick** (below), whose job involves coordinating volunteers at the Heart Hospital of Austin, realizes the

she notes. They know what the patient is going through, they've been there themselves. "There is a huge value in being able to match such specific personal experience with our patients'



April Sullivan: VSA Arts of Texas

needs." Those RSVP volunteers are able to allay some fears that nervous family members struggle with when their loved one is admitted to the hospital. Very few people can offer this, but RSVP volunteers come through.

As the Manager of Public Programs for VSA Arts of Texas, **April Sullivan** (above) knows how valuable it is to work with volunteers who have professional experience creating and displaying fine art. That kind of specific background isn't easy to find. But among the RSVP volunteers who serve at VSA Arts, one volunteer is actually a working artist. That background makes April's job a lot easier. "Not only do our RSVP volunteers have valuable experience," says April. "But RSVP supports our volunteers in valuable ways like mileage reim-

bursement, supplemental insurance, and other less tangible benefits."

After coordinating volunteers for six years at Junior Achievement and the past year at Foundation Communities, **Jackie Blair** (below) knows how hard it can be to recruit and retain committed volunteers with specific professional skills. Which explains her appreciation for RSVP. She manages about 350 volunteers who provide free tax preparation services for low-income clients. Some of her RSVP volunteers are licensed CPA's with decades of experience preparing tax documents for individuals, families and corporations. "The partnership with RSVP was already in place when I joined Foundation Communities.



Jackie Blair: Foundation Communities

I'm very glad it was, and I look forward to many more years of partnership."

If you are a volunteer coordinator seeking volunteers with specific skills, call RSVP. We're your invitation to succeed.

Austin Children's Museum

Job Title: Administrative Support
Job Description: A volunteer is needed to assist the Development Director at the Austin Children's Museum by helping to file a large number of rolodex cards into a larger contact management system.
Time Commitment: Very flexible, based on your availability and museum hours.
Location: Downtown Austin
Agency's Mission: Austin Children's Museum creates innovative learning experiences for children and families that equip and inspire the next generation of creative problem solvers.
Website: www.austinkids.org

Camp Fire USA Balcones Council

Job Title: Handy Person
Job Description: A handy person is needed to make minor repairs and improvements on an "as needed" basis to the older Camp Fire USA office. This volunteer will be asked to do a range of minor repairs including replacing old locks, repairing screen doors, and maintaining the garden and small lawn.
Time Commitment: Flexible, a few hours every month.
Location: Central Austin
Agency's Mission: We build caring, confident youth and future leaders.
Website: campfireusabalcones.org

Catholic Charities of Austin

Job Title: Yard Sale Assistants
Job Description: If you like to shop or are able to donate either your time or gently used goods to a great cause, the Catholic Charities 2nd Annual Yard Sale will be held in the rear parking lot of their offices.
Time Commitment: Saturday, September 29 from 8AM until Noon.
Location: Downtown Austin
Agency's Mission: The Diocese of Austin and the Catholic Church of Central Texas embrace diverse cul-

tures throughout the diocese so that together, as the Catholic Church, we may continue the mission of Christ in the world today.
Website: www.austindiocese.org

Young Parents Succeed Program

Job Title: Mentor
Job Description: The Catholic Charities of Austin is in need of young adult mentors for it's new Young Parents Succeed Program. Volunteers will work with young single parents as they go through the Young Parents Succeed Program which offers clients life skills workshops and wrap around services. You will provide emotional support, help clients establish and realize goals for the future, and assist program participants in working towards their future plans while helping them incorporate what they are learning in their parenting classes.
Time Commitment: Flexible; days, nights and weekends based on client's schedule.
Location: Varies.
Agency's Mission: To help young parents find the help, hope and guidance they need to ensure their children have every opportunity to reach their full potential.
Website: www.austindiocese.org

Emancipet

Job Title: Animal Assistants
Job Description: Volunteers are needed to assist Emancipet in several capacities. Job duties include greeting pets and owners as they drop off and pick up their pets from surgery, answering basic questions about services, making reminder calls, and other "odd jobs" as they arise. Volunteers must be "people friendly and animal lovers".
Time Commitment: Very flexible; office hours are from 7AM To 7PM Monday through Saturday.
Location: East Austin,
Agency's Mission: Emancipet is a

low cost and free spay/neuter clinic that works to reduce the number of animals being euthanized in the Austin area due to a lack of homes able to adopt pets.
Website: www.emancipet.org

Golden Touch Academy

Job Title: Child Development Assistant
Job Description: Be a friendly and responsive grandparent-type figure to children as you read aloud to them or work with hand puppets to entertain them. Spend time one-on-one with the little ones if needed. By relaxing and enjoying yourself with the children, you can model your generation and what a grandparent or great grandparent can be.
Time Commitment: Flexible, but preferably four hours a week, either during the day or evening.
Location: East Austin
Agency's Mission: To provide stimulating and quality day care, as well as non-traditional hours care for young children.
Website: www.sweetdreamsaustin.com

Imagine Art

Job Title: Studio Artist or Photographer
Job Description: The Studio Artist works alongside an artist with disabilities in the studio. Provide knowledge and guidance in using specific mediums to help the artist create a body of work. The Photographer photographs an artist's works, crops and adjusts the photos digitally and prepares CD ROM disks for the artist.
Time Commitment: Minimum of 4 to 6 hours a week for at least 3 months.
Location: Central Austin.
Agency's Mission: To support and encourage the creativity of disabled artists in a faith-based and community environment.
Website: www.imagineart.net

Services for the Elderly

Job Title: Sponsors
Job Description: Enjoy a wonderful, entertaining show while helping out a great cause. Sponsors are needed to support the "Tales Worth Telling" fundraising event benefiting Services for the Elderly. This is an old time storytelling showcase featuring Jim Swift, storytellers throughout Austin, music by the Boxcar Preachers and Donna Ingham, the "Biggest Liar in Texas". Table sponsorships, silent auction sponsors and day of event supporters are needed to make this event a success.
Time Commitment: Friday, September 21.
Location: Bob Bullock Texas History Museum
Agency's Mission: Our mission is enhancing dignity and independence for the elderly and disabled by providing compassionate, quality care.
Website: www.sfteaustin.org

Us TOO S. Austin Prostate Cancer Education & Support Program

Job Title: Prostate Cancer Survivor Mentors
Job Description: Volunteers will provide fellowship, peer counseling, education, and open discussions about treatment options and alternatives. Work with those diagnosed with prostate cancer and sometimes with their family members. No medical knowledge is required, but being a prostate cancer survivor is.
Time Commitment: Very flexible.
Location: Throughout Austin.
Agency's Mission: The Us TOO program is a grassroots organization started in 1990 by prostate cancer survivors to serve prostate cancer survivors, their spouses/partners and their families. They are dedicated to communicating timely and reliable information enabling informed choices regarding detection and treatment of prostate cancer.
Website: www.ustoo.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. Thank you.

Workshop Series On Volunteer Management Focuses on Excellence, Integrity and Vision

Travis County RSVP and Hands On Central Texas are pleased to announce an exciting series of training sessions geared specifically for managers and coordinators of volunteers.



The Agency Workshop Series kickoff was held on Friday August 3rd, 2007 at the United Way Capital Area offices. Approximately 100 professionals in volunteer management attended the kickoff. Amy Smith, Regional Vice President of the Hands On Network, provided the keynote address outlin-

ing the trends and challenges volunteer managers face in the coming decade.

Five workshops are planned in the next year on such topics as recruiting Baby Boomers, Issue Driven Projects, Volunteer Life Cycles, New Technologies in Volunteer Management and Rethinking Volunteer Management.

If you're a manager of volunteers, you are invited! Please contact RSVP for more details or to register for the workshops. Thank you!

Please Welcome Our Newest RSVP Volunteers

- Judy Behr
- Wolfgang Behr
- Maya Botello
- Novella Cabin
- Mary Colunga
- Eleanor Connell
- Jean Cunning
- Ken Cunning
- Robert Leidlein
- Jeanne Marietta
- Dina Oviedo
- Susie Scott
- Anita Villalobos
- Carolina Zuniga

*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.