

RSVP

Lead. Inspire. Change the World. *Again.*
"We Connect Volunteers to Community Needs"

1971 - 2011

40

YEARS OF
VOLUNTEER
EXCELLENCE

RSVP

News & Information from the Retired Senior Volunteer Program of Tulsa, Inc.

Winter 2011

RETIRED SENIOR VOLUNTEER PROGRAM OF TULSA TURNS 40

2011 is RSVP Tulsa's fortieth year. Each issue has highlighted RSVP's direct service programs. In this issue we feature seniors working with children through the Grandfriends program in Tulsa and Wagoner counties.

Grandfriends bring positive impact to early childhood education

Community Action Project (CAP), a non-profit dedicated to helping low-income families through early childhood education and financial service programs, has partnered with RSVP Grandfriends for several years to assist in the organization's early childhood education classrooms.



The children CAP serves are among the youngest and poorest in Tulsa County. All too often children enter school without the experiences both basic to the learning process and necessary for obtaining academic skills and success. These children lack the support needed to give them the confidence and self-esteem important in achieving excellence. Many of them come from unstable family environments and lack a responsible adult to look up to.

Using approved curriculum, mentoring best practices, and their life experiences, Grandfriends serve as mentors and friends, thus providing – through meaningful interactions of senior and student - the confidence required for achieving success.

Activities include;

Reading stories

Sharing experiences about hobbies or vacations

Singing and teaching songs

Playing an instrument

Creating or sharing a scrapbook

Playing games

Grandfriends has been a very successful and rewarding experience for CAP's families. Not only do the children benefit from the sharing of these skills and from the relationships they develop with the Grandfriend, but the community benefits through students who are better prepared for life's work and to make positive contributions to society.

Teachers continually praise the addition of Grandfriends. With their multiple and valuable skills, Grandfriends play an integral part in preparing today's children for tomorrow's world.

Jeanne is that extra smile that welcomes children and adults alike; that extra voice to soothe and get excited about those successes; those extra eyes to capture and share the moment; those extra ears to hear the joy of discovery and the hurt of disappointment; and those extra hands to hug, help and protect. In short, Jeanne is one more special person who loves our children."

— from Paula Dilts-Fregara, site director at Reed Early Learning Center

Wagoner county has ten volunteers helping in kindergarten and pre-school classes.

They spend an hour in the classroom and then eat lunch with their class. Many have expanded their time to 3 or 4 hours, helping with PTA projects, school programs and fundraising. Ellington principal Grace McMahan said "just listening to the students is a great help to the teachers because each little person has something to say"

In This Issue -

Director's Message	Page 2
Denim to Diamonds	Page 3
Volunteers Recognized	Page 5
Re-stock the Shelves	Page 5

Lead. Inspire. Change the World. *Again.*

2011 BOARD
OF DIRECTORS
President

Barbara Mishler

1st Vice-President

Suanne Wymer

2nd Vice-President

Alexis Higgins

Secretary

Shanann Passley

Treasurer

Patti Denton

Past President

Sue Neil

MEMBERS

Bruce Burns

Pamela Chronister

Connie Doverspike

Scott Draughon

Mark Fulton

Tracy Harper

Shondel Herald

Deanna Holman

Larry Oats

Victoria Perry

Chris Polecaro- Rainey

Edward Rogers

Sarfraz Shaikh

ADVISORY COUNCIL

JeanE Bailie

Eileen Bradshaw

Melissa Colegrove

Dick Davito

Sharonda Dennard

Anamarie Hurt

Kieran Major

Kate Pelizzoni

STAFF

Executive Director

Claudia Meiling

Community Relations and

Special Events Manager

Betty Groth

Director of Volunteers

Sherry Clark

Coordinator of Volunteer

Services

Gary Ann Tomkalski

Office & Projects Manager

Diana Askins

Records Clerk

Jerry Casey

Creek County

Coordinator— LaFaune Krampf

Wagoner County

Coordinator—Diana Cooper

Washington County

Coordinator—Ann Dougherty

Mission —

RSVP matches the talents and interests of volunteers 55 and over with meaningful efforts that enhance the quality of our community

FROM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR CLAUDIA MEILING

As we bring 2011 to a close, we look back on our 40th year of operations in Tulsa and surrounding counties. We hosted a reception in April at Tulsa Historical Society and welcomed 250+ volunteers, agency partners and other RSVP friends and supporters. Viewing the slideshow of many past and present volunteers, board members and staff was a visual history of dedicated people who worked together to bring meaningful service to senior volunteers and our partner non-profits. During these 40 years, special programs were developed that focused volunteer power in certain areas of community need: medical transportation, court services, early childhood education, computer literacy for re-integrating prisoners, outreach to families in crises, travel assistance and airport security, tutoring and management assistance for non profits. All along we continued to match individuals with requests from area social service agencies, enhancing their volunteer pool.

A 1971 pilot project of Seniors Corps, a program of the Corporation for National and Community Service, we grew and gained support from Tulsa Area United Way, State Department of Aging Services, private foundations, corporations and many individuals who believe in our mission and value our services. Building relationships has been a primary focus throughout this time and as I look to RSVP's future, I am committed to this focus. I love working with our volunteers and agency partners...they are just great people!

We have funding challenges ahead, like many of our non-profit colleagues. Volunteer management and programming demands skillful staff to develop and monitor quality services, and RSVP has been recognized for excellence in this area by being a finalists for a 2010 ONE Award from OK Center for Non Profits. As we come to end of the 2011 year, I ask that you consider a year end gift to RSVP. Your support is a testimony to success of our volunteers and their dedication to 250+ agencies in the Northeast Oklahoma area. Please consider a donation to honor their work or you can go online to www.rsvptulsa.org and click on the DONATE button. Your donation will support volunteer placement and referral services, recognition, program training, supplemental insurance for volunteers and recruitment.

Enjoy this blessed season...and we look forward to 2012!

Claudia Meiling, Executive Director

Take a look at the top ten reasons to become an RSVP supporter!

10. "Seniors" are important members of your community
9. We are never too old to learn something new or give back
8. RSVP volunteers get things done!
7. Experience counts!
6. 96% of our agency partners surveyed rate RSVP volunteers as Excellent or Above Average
5. Volunteerism contributes to improved physical and mental health!
4. In 2010 RSVP volunteers logged 275,105 hours, valued at \$5,876,243!
3. RSVP 2010 active volunteers assisted an estimated 1,229,832 children, youth, families and seniors.
2. Your one gift can impact 250+ area nonprofits in 5 counties
1. It feels good!



2011 Denim to Diamonds - A Night to Remember!

Denim to Diamonds 2011 gala benefiting the Retired Senior Volunteer Program of Tulsa, Inc., took place on July 30th at the Hard Rock Hotel and Casino. The 40th Anniversary celebration raised over \$67,000 in funds to benefit RSVP. 230 attendees filled the ballroom, bidding on over 180 live and silent auction items and packages. With event chair Edward Rogers, celebrity emcee Karen Keith, honorary chair Sharon King Davis and auctioneer Rick Miller the evening was destined to be a success. Attendees also enjoyed a Wine & Restaurant Pull and Diamond Dig, making the excitement last throughout the evening



Event Chair Edward Rogers, Executive Director Claudia Meiling, Honorary Chair

Event sponsors and patrons included; **George Kaiser Family**

Foundation, Hard Rock Hotel & Casino and American Airlines - the official airline of Denim to Diamonds, Bank of Oklahoma, Eller & Detrich, Inc., The Gelvin Foundation, Lou & Connie Miller Charitable Foundation, Omni Air International, Rosenstein, Fist & Ringold, Inc., Williams Companies, Arvest, Cancer Treatment Centers of America, Helmerich & Payne, Inc., Indian Health Care Resource Center, Larry & Sandy Gill, Ruth K. Nelson Family Foundation, Sharon King Davis and Meredith Siegfried.



Wine Pull Chair, Gail Monnot

RSVP expresses their gratitude to all of their event donors. And would also like to thank; Action Audio, Greenleaf Wholesale, Hardesty Press, and Indian Health Care Resource Center.

Special thanks to Denim to Diamonds live auction patrons; American Airlines, Hard Rock Hotel & Casino, James E. McNellie's Public House, N.E. Oklahoma Woodturners Association, Mr. Paul Woodul, Mr. Edward Rogers, Neill Bear & Company Salon, The Flight School at Riverside Jet Center, Hotel Ambassador, Cedar Ridge Country Club, MeadowBrook Country Club, Indian Springs Country Club and

The Golf Club of Oklahoma. Thank you to our silent auction donors; 2011 D2D Committee, 742-DINE, Abuelo's, Academy Sport & Outdoors, AEP/Public Service Company of Oklahoma, Akins Natural Foods, Amazing Hoops, Andy B's Entertainment Center of Tulsa, Ann's Bakery, Apollo's Karate, Applebee's Neighborhood Grill and Bar, B A Liquor Mart, Bailey Ranch Golf, Barbara Mishler, Battle Creek Golf Club, Baxter's Interurban Grill, Bed Bath & Beyond - Midtown Plaza, Bicycles of Tulsa, Biga Restaurant, Bill Hoornstr, Bill Knight Lincoln Mercury Volvo, Blue Rose Café, Broken Arrow Community Playhouse, Broken Arrow Golf & Athletic Club, Broken Arrow Performing Arts Center, Brothers Houligan – Southside, Buffalo Wild Wings, Cafe Savannah's at Forest Ridge, The Campbell Hotel, Celebrity Attractions, Charleston's – BA, Cheddar's Casual Café, Chili's, Christine Polecaro- Rainey, Cinemark Theatre, Clary Sage College, Colcord Hotel, Cosmo Cafe', Creative Cuts at The Farm, Daily Grill, Dawn Hansen, Deanna Holman, The Diamond Brokers, Discoveryland, Dragonmoon Tea Company, Echo Shop / Echo Man, Eddie Sutton, Edible Arrangements, Educational Development Corp., Edward Rogers, Elote' Café & Catering, Fine Airport Parking, Fox and Hound, Fuddruckers - World's Greatest Hamburgers, Furniture Factory Outlet, Garden's by Heidi, Don & GaryAnn Tomkalski, Generation Flowers, Gilcrease Museum, Glazer's of Oklahoma, Golf Club of Oklahoma, Grigsby's Carpet, Tile and Rug Gallery, Hard Rock Hotel and Casino, Hardscape Materials, Heart and Home Construction, Heller & Clark Theatre, Hilti, IHOP, Incredible Pizza Company, Inn at Price Tower, Inn at Woodward Park B & B, Inn at Woodyard Farms, Israel Diamond Supply, J. Spencer Jewelry & Gifts, Jack Wills Companies, Jackie Cooper Imports & Jackie Cooper Nissan, JeanE Bailie, Jeanne Kolar, JoAnn Huff, Joyce Boltz, Kay's Gifts, L & M Office Furniture, La Villa Restaurant, Laser Quest Tulsa, Lawn America, Light Opera Oklahoma - LOOK, Los Cabos Mexican Grill and Cantina, Lou's Antiques & Fine Furnishings, M.E. Interiors, Mahogany's Prime Steakhouse, McBirney Mansion, MeadowBrook Country Club, The Melting Pot, Merritt's Bakery, Mod's Coffee & Crepes, Montag Photography, Moody's Jewelry, Mr. Klean Full Service Car Wash, Ms. Betty Foster, National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum, Neill Bear & Company Salon, LLC, Nielsen's Exclusive Gifts at The Plaza, Northeastern Oklahoma Woodturners Association, Oklahoma Aquarium, Oklahoma Thunder, Oklahoma Tourism & Recreation Dept, Olive Garden Italian Restaurant, Panera Bread, Parkhill Liquor & Wine, Patricia Island Golf Club, Petty's Fine Foods, Philbrook Museum of Art, Phill's Diner, Phoenix Cleaners, The Pioneer Woman – Ree Drummond , Preferred Optical, Purse-a-Nality, Queenie's Cafe' and Bakery, Quilt Sampler, Robertson Tire Company, Roy Clark, RSVP Board of Directors, Safari's Sanctuary, Shanann Passley, Shangri-La Golf Club, Sherwin Miller Museum of Jewish Art, Shondel Herald, Skelly Lodge, Skin Care Institute, Snap Fitness 24/7, Southern Hills Country Club, Southfork Smokeshack, LLC, Spartan College of Aeronautics & Technology, SpringHill Suites by Marriott, St John Medical Center - Siegfried Health Club, Stone Bluff Cellars, Stonewood Coffee and Tea Company, Suanne Wymer, Sue Neil, Tatanka Ranch, Tee Town Golf Ranch, The Local Table, The MET, The Wild Fork, Toby Keith's, I Love This Bar & Grill, Tulsa Ballet, Tulsa Community College, Tulsa Country Club, Tulsa Garden Center, Tulsa Historical Society, Tulsa Opera, Tulsa Tree & Landscape, Tulsa Zoo & Living Museum, University of Tulsa, Vicki Cotton, Walter Kruse, Whispering Meadows Vineyard & Winery, White Hawk Golf Club, Woodturning with Tim Yoder, Yale Cleaners and Zio's Italian Kitchen

July 12, 2012 is the date set for the next Denim to Diamonds event.

RSVP 2011 Event Sponsors

GEORGE KAISER FAMILY FOUNDATION

A supporting organization of Tulsa Community Foundation



TULSA



Senior Star Living®



WORLDTRAVEL

Advantage Audiology and Hearing Aids
AEP/PSO

American Parking

Arvest

AVB Bank

Bank of Oklahoma

Sara & Joe Bohannon

The Broadmoor

Todd & Blair Brockman

The Virginia King Brooks Estate Gift Fund

Bruce Burns

Cancer Treatment Centers of America

Lenora & Rick Carson

CBEW Professional Group, LLP

Community Care

Corporation for National & Community Service

Patti Denton

Eller & Detrich

Sharon King Davis

Joe & Pat Efir

Carrie France

Marge & John Gaberino

The Gelvin Foundation

Larry & Sandy Gill

Grace Hospice

Jerry & Julie Gustafson

Ken & Jean Hager

Wayne Hardy

Helmerich & Payne, Inc.

Nancy Hermann

Alexis Higgins

Indian Health Care Resource Center

Kay's Gifts

Kimberly Clark Corporation

KJRH - Donna Wilson

Debi Massegee -

In Memory of Jerry D. Massegee

Barend & Claudia Meiling

Mesa

The Metropolitan Environment Trust

Lou & Connie Miller Charitable Foundation

Mr. & Mrs. Raymond Miller

Denny & Barbara Mishler

Montereau

Robert Morris & Friends

Jim & Jewell Naufel

N.E. Oklahoma Wood Turners Association

Sue Neil & James McGowan

Ruth K. Nelson & Tom Murphy

Omni Air International

Parkside Hospital

Shanann Passley

Plastic Engineering Co. of Tulsa

Quota International of Tulsa

Chris & Craig Rainey

Pat & Pablo Ramirez

Jerry & Almeta Robertson

Edward Rogers

Floyd Rogers

Rosenstein, Fist & Ringold

William B. Selman, Attorney

Meredith Siegfried

Frank Slane

Guy & Kay Timmons

Stanley & Louise Townsend

Earl & Joanna Tuers

University Village

Walgreens

Susan Weisz

Paul Wheeler - Accent Realtors

Williams Companies

Woodland Terrace & Burgundy Place

Suanne Wymer

PIZZA, PINBALL AND SING-A-LONGs HIGHLIGHTED VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION

.**RSVP Tulsa** celebrated the many volunteers who give so much to the community by 'taking them to lunch' at Incredible Pizza on October 27th. Food choices ranged from pizza to peas to pudding. Volunteers drove race cars, played golf and tried their hands at various pinball style games.



Fourteen Tulsa volunteers received the *Presidential Lifetime Service Award* for having donated over 4000 hours through RSVP. Pictured at left are Kickey Morris, Doris Wicks, Carolyn Parmeter, Carol and Robert Greaves, Pauline Neville, Jerry Neas and Sharon Maust. Awardees not shown were Eunice Huffman, Roy Swearingen, Captola Dunn, Joe Efird, Mary Lee Kirwin and Neil Thruston.



RSVP volunteers enjoying activities at Incredible Pizza

Over 100 **RSVP Creek County** volunteers enjoyed meals from Freddie's Steak House while being entertained by the Sapulpa High School choir. They used their luncheon to help raise money for the United Way by raffling off a \$50.00 gas card.



Wagoner County RSVP held their volunteer appreciation luncheon on September 26 at the Wagoner Civic Center. The theme was "A Note of Thanks". RSVP Executive Director Claudia Meiling actually sang the songs as they played "Name That Tune". RSVP also celebrated its 40th anniversary with 1940's trivia and music from the 40's. LeeAnn LeFave Byers, a senior comedienne, made everyone laugh at her "senior moments". Ricky Baker received the "rookie" award (under 55) for his many hours at Ellington Elementary, Teague Elementary and Central Intermediate schools volunteering as a Grandfriend (and wherever else they need him).

Right: Wagoner County's Diana Cooper and RSVP Director Claudia Meiling



Washington & Osage Counties RSVP honored *Presidential Lifetime Service Award* winner Kathy Jones (see picture at right) at their volunteer appreciation luncheon on November 3rd.



RSVP FOOD DRIVE TO "RE-STOCK THE SHELVES"

During the holiday season, generosity shown for the needs of others is overwhelming. But what happens after the holidays? The need is still there. The shelves need to be filled. RSVP needs your help to...

"Re-stock The Shelves!"

As our National Day of Service project, RSVP is holding a Food Drive benefiting the Community Food Bank of Eastern Oklahoma. The drive will begin December 16 and end on Martin Luther KingDay - January 16, 2012.

Bring cans of food or non-perishable items to the RSVP Office any Monday - Friday from 9-4 beginning Friday, December 16. On January 16th, 2012, CFBEO will pick up all of the donated items as the friends of RSVP, "Re-stock The Shelves." (RSVP Office will be closed Dec 23 through Jan 1, 2012)

This is a Win Win Win participation program. You help RSVP, which means you are helping the Food Bank, who helps those in need of nutritious food. We are excited to see the amount we can bring in to aid a fellow agency in need. For more information call the RSVP office at 918-280-8656.



"The Community Food Bank of Eastern Oklahoma is experiencing a sad convergence of events." According to CFBEO Incoming Executive Director, Eileen Bradshaw - "Oklahoma has just been ranked as the "hungriest state" for the first time, tying with Arkansas. This means that the need is up, but food donations are down. Both USDA commodities and corporate food donations have significantly dropped off, so we are more reliant than ever on our own community to help feed our neighbors. This drive will help replenish our stock after the holiday rush, and insure that the winter months are not even more harsh on those in need. I love the fact that RSVP's Food Drive culminates on Dr. King's birthday- together, hopefully "we shall overcome" the hunger in our midst!"



SENIOR CORPS

Cooperation for
NATIONAL &
COMMUNITY
SERVICE



Aging Services Division
Oklahoma Department of Human Services



Tulsa Area United Way

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
TULSA, OK
PERMIT #1830

Retired Senior Volunteer Program of Tulsa, Inc
5756 East 31st St
Tulsa, OK 74135

www.rsvptulsa.org

facebook

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Save the Date!

Teams of eight will battle for the
title!

TROPICAL TRIVIA

Call 918-280-8656
www.rsvptulsa.or

Thursday, March 1,
2012

5:00pm - Restaurant Tasting &
Cash Bar

Lead. Inspire. Change the World. Again