



Retired
Senior
Volunteer
Program

Heroes of COMPASSION

Seniors Living, Loving, and Giving for a Better Community



Kay Ross is a retired elementary school teacher who has served weekly for the last 20 years as a volunteer driver for RSVP's Provide-A-Ride program.

She also is a 42-year member of St. Matthews United Methodist Church in Midwest City, where she attends but also volunteers weekly delivering mobile meals to people who cannot get out of their homes.

If you know Kay, you know that she is an overcomer, a woman who has demonstrated resilience and recovery following a violent attack she experienced in 2016. Kay, now 82 years old, is a mother and grandmother who was beaten and left for dead in her home after a robbery by teens. Kay did recover from the traumatic event, which

would have understandably made most people hesitant in life moving forward. Instead, she is even more determined to continue living the independent life that she lived before the attack.

“Serving others actually helps you,” she said. “Giving back is important. What the event taught me is that you can plan your life, but you never know what the next day is going to bring, so we need to make the most of the days we have. What happened was an incident, but I’m not letting it change my life.” And she hasn’t. We celebrate with Kay this year, 20 years of volunteering with us!

To learn more about volunteering as a Provide-A-Ride Driver, contact Faye Beam at 405-605-3110 or visit us online www.rsvpokc.org.

WE ARE BETTER TOGETHER! WAYS YOU CAN HELP



GIVE

\$25 sponsors free medical transportation for seniors who cannot drive.

Give online www.rsvpokc.org or call 405-605-3110



VOLUNTEER

Join our compassionate volunteer team for exciting opportunities.

**Call Laura McPheeters
405-605-3110**



SHARE

Love RSVP of Central Oklahoma? Email us about your experience. We'd love to hear your story!

**Email April Lucas
april.lucas@rsvpokc.org**



DICK AND PATSY: A HEART FOR THE ARTS

For couples, volunteering together helps to build companionship while focusing together on giving back. Dick Stolpe and Patsy Shepherd know this well.

Dick moved from California to Oklahoma City in 2016 to marry Patsy, who had been an RSVP volunteer since she retired 20 years ago. Together they regularly volunteer in the arts—the **Civic Center, the Potect Theater,** and the **Visual and Performing Arts Center** at Oklahoma City Community College.

“When I started volunteering 20 years ago, I didn’t have the funds to go to plays and so volunteering in the arts has given me the opportunity to see a lot of great plays,” Patsy said. “When Dick would come to visit me in Oklahoma City before we got married, I’d take him along with me to different volunteer events and say, ‘This is my life.’ So, I pulled him

into it, but he also loves the arts.”

Dick shares Patsy’s love of volunteering, which he started doing as a teen, helping at school with the basketball and track teams. When his kids, now grown, were little he also helped with their sports teams. Back in California, along with his late wife, Dick also helped to organize runs for fundraisers benefitting various nonprofits.

“It’s our chance to give back. Life is a miracle—where we live and all that we have sometimes take for granted. It gives me a sense of helping and working toward betterment of community,” Dick said.

Patsy grew up with the same mindset of giving back. “I got that from my dad. Volunteering helps communities have the manpower that is needed,” Patsy said.

To learn about volunteering with these organizations, contact Laura McPheeters at 405-605-3110. Or visit www.rsvpokc.org.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Once volunteer opportunities resume in our community, these organizations have the following positions available.

REBUILDING TOGETHER OKC “Program Completion Specialist”

Improve the homes of low-income, elderly homeowners in the Oklahoma City metro area through housing repairs and upgrades. Basic home repair, assembling and installing safety equipment. Come help put the finishing touches on the houses Rebuilding Together is working on. A couple of hours of your time a week can help reduce illness and injury and improve the overall wellness of senior homeowners in OK County.

YWCA OKC “Our Sisters’ Closet”

In need of volunteers to assist with bringing in and sorting donations, assisting customers with shopping, and keep the store clean and organized. Our Sisters’ Closet provides a sustainable source of revenue for victims of domestic violence, sexual assault and stalking in Oklahoma County.

CITY CARE’S WHIZ KIDS “Tutor/Mentor”

Work with a team of caring volunteers and professionals to focus on reading skills and mentorship with children who are at-risk for school failure.

To volunteer please call Volunteer Coordinator Laura McPheeters at 405-605-3110.



PARTNER AGENCY: CENTENARIANS OF OKLAHOMA

RSVP recently began a new partnership with the Centenarians of Oklahoma, an organization that since 1991 has honored more than 2,250 Oklahomans who celebrated their 100th birthday.

HONORING CENTENARIANS SINCE 1991

“Our goal is to honor everyone in the state who is 100 years old or older,” said Gloria Helmuth, who has volunteered with the organization for seven years. “It’s so important for Oklahomans to know that we are doing this, honoring our state’s centenarians and letting them know that someone cares that they’ve made it to this age through the way they’ve taken care of themselves and the Lord’s provision.”

When the organization learns of a centenarian in our state through families, senior nutrition sites or senior living centers, they recognize the person, in person when possible, with a framed certificate and Golden-Okie pin.

IN 2019, 144 CENTENARIANS WERE RECOGNIZED IN OUR STATE.

If you know of centenarians and would like to have them honored, visit <http://centenariansok.com>.

To learn about volunteering with the organization, contact Laura McPheeters at 405-605-3110.



“BACK TO VOLUNTEERING” EVENT!

“Volunteers are the only human beings on the face of the earth who reflect this nation’s compassion, unselfish caring, patience, and just plain loving one another.”
- Erma Bombeck

For now we are staying at home, but we are looking ahead when we can celebrate you with a “Back to Volunteering” event where we can kick-off together getting back to doing what we all enjoy—helping our community.

DATE: TO BE ANNOUNCED (Stay tuned!)



SIGNS OF HOPE

We've weathered many storms together as Oklahomans but none like the Covid-19 virus which has impacted how each of us live our daily lives. I want to say to all of our volunteers and partner agencies just how much I appreciate the support and encouragement you have given us as we've had to adjust our volunteer and

Provide-A-Ride programs.

Our priority, first and foremost, is your safety and well-being. As volunteers, I know your heart is in helping others and sitting out during this time has been a challenge. In upcoming days, hopefully in the very near future, we will be able to resume our regular activities and re-open our volunteer and Provide-A-Ride programs and get back to helping in our community again. When the time comes, we want to kick this off with a "Back to Volunteering" event that will replace our annual recognition luncheon this year. More information to come.

We'd love to hear from you ways you are staying positive during this time.

Our volunteer Tish encouraged us with something she writes on her driveway with sidewalk chalk for her neighbors who are out walking. She writes, "smile." We have since started to see more chalk signs with messages of joy and hope.

We want to know how you are encouraging others, or have been encouraged while at home. I want to end with something Tish said because it brought a smile to our staff, "We are strong Okies and we will get through this too."

Beth Patterson
Executive Director

P.S. Email me your stories at beth.patterson@rsvpokc.org.

Let's stay in touch!



Chalk signs of hope are popping up in many neighborhoods to spread joy to passers-by



In Fond Remembrance

In loving memory of our volunteers whose generosity in service touched all our lives.

Heidi Hartman

A proud partner of:



Congratulations to **RUSSELL BUTLER** winner of the hours drawing. Enjoy your gift card!

FOLLOW US AND LIKE US!

