Five years ago, Karen Robison went to bed one night and woke up unable to see.

Karen has a condition called wet macular degeneration, which is caused when abnormal blood vessels develop in the eye. Karen went from being independent to legally blind. This all happened at the time she had just lost her mother, she said.

“I felt totally lost. I had to sell my car because it was no longer safe for me to drive, and I decided to move from the town where I had lived with my mom to Oklahoma City into an assisted living center.”

At the living center, Karen was matched with a case worker. It was through the case worker that she heard about RSVP’s Provide-A-Ride Program, which she has now been a part of since 2015.

Karen explained that she has to have injections in her eye every two months to help preserve what little sight she does have left.

“As soon as my appointment is made, I call RSVP and get a ride scheduled. And the volunteers who pick me up are wonderful. Absolutely wonderful.”

Karen moved out of the assisted living center and into an apartment, where she says she has more independence. She has a chihuahua that is a certified service dog and has found a church and has made friends that she considers like family.

“I am able to get to my doctor’s appointments because of Provide-A-Ride. It is my lifeline.”

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

From Independent to Legally Blind, Overnight

I felt totally lost. Now Provide-A-Ride is my lifeline.

we need you!

$25 provides a senior like Karen a ride to their medical appointment.

Please give today!
Wendy Wierzbic became interested in learning more about RSVP after learning that her sister in New York was an RSVP volunteer.

Wendy reached out to RSVP of Central Oklahoma, a United Way of Central Oklahoma partner, and found Mid-Del Food Pantry, where she has been a volunteer for about a year.

“I come from a family of 11 children and we learned about the importance of volunteering from our father while we were growing up. He also volunteered at a food pantry."

Wendy has also stayed busy during the pandemic sewing masks for family and friends, the retired elementary school teacher said. She’s made about 135 masks over the last several months and is now making masks for children who will be returning to school soon. She also quilts and knits items to donate to Infant Crisis Services.

Volunteering has helped Wendy maintain a positive outlook through the pandemic, she says. “By doing something for others, you know that you are helping in some way.”

To learn more about volunteering, contact Laura McPheeters at 405-605-3110 or visit www.rsvpokc.org.
A WARM SEND-OFF
FROM BETH PATTERSON
AND THE STAFF AT RSVP OF CENTRAL OKLAHOMA

This spring brought about big changes at RSVP. Faye Beam, who has been a treasured employee for 20 years, retired as the Provide-A-Ride program coordinator. We know our clients and volunteers have felt valued by Faye because she put so much of herself into the work.

Little did I know when I hired Faye 20 years ago the tremendous impact she would have on me and the RSVP Provide-A-Ride program. Faye’s commitment and dedication in showing compassion and genuine love as she served RSVP, our elderly neighbors and the community are just a few of the outstanding attributes that made it a joy to work day in and day out with this special woman.

During Faye’s tenure as RSVP Provide-A-Ride coordinator, she organized more than 100,000 rides for 4,000 elderly persons on a fixed-income who are no longer able to drive to their medical appointments.

Faye will stay connected to RSVP as a volunteer. Thank you, Faye from all of us!

APRIL LUCAS: PROVIDE-A-RIDE COORDINATOR

We are so happy to announce that a familiar face will be the new Provide-A-Ride coordinator. April Lucas, another treasured RSVP employee that formerly served as our administrative assistant, will now serve as PAR coordinator. April has been with RSVP for two years.

When April joined the RSVP team two years ago, I quickly learned this young lady holds a special place in her heart for older folks. Her passion, joy and enthusiasm will play a strong role in the continued success and growth of our Provide-A-Ride program.

WELCOME KAREN BAIN

We also welcome new part-time administrative assistant Karen Bain to our team. Glad to have her on board and know that you will love to get to know her when you call our office.

VOLUNTEERS: STAY TUNED

Thank you to all of our volunteers who’ve been patient as we’ve navigated together through the pandemic. We will continue to keep you updated on when programs will resume.

SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR DONORS

We want to thank the United Way of Central Oklahoma for a generous donation of masks, sanitizer, and gloves for our volunteers, Provide-A-Ride clients, and staff. This will help so much when we are up and running our programs again.

Thank you to Jasco Giving Hope Foundation Fund, a Donor Advised Fund of The Signatory (Kansas), for an unsolicited gift of $5,000. Their support will fund volunteer mileage reimbursement for 300 rides through Provide-A-Ride.

This has been an unusual time in our country and program, but we know we continue to be blessed by the support we are surrounded by.

Congratulations to LACHELLE HUNT winner of the hours drawing. Enjoy your gift card!

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