

Heroes of COMPASSION

Seniors Living, Loving, and Giving for a Better Community



Retired
Senior
Volunteer
Program



Volunteering has been an important part of Kevin's life. In addition to PAR, in the past he's been a Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA), and also volunteered with Integris SW Hospital and the American Red Cross. But his love for volunteering has even deeper roots.



VOLUNTEERING AS A WAY OF CONNECTION

When Kevin Young retired from full-time work, writing for the U.S. Army's newspaper and serving as a webmaster at Fort Sill, he and his wife moved to Oklahoma City.

Kevin grew up in El Reno and joined the National Guard right out of high school. After serving eight years in the U.S. Army and 12 years as an active National Guard Reserve, he wanted to continue giving back to his community and went online to explore volunteer opportunities in the area. It was there he found RSVP of Central Oklahoma.

He enjoys his few hours a week driving seniors to their medical appointments and has recognized how important the contact that he

has with them is, especially since COVID-19.

“Some of the clients I see don't have much opportunity to get out and connect with people because of the pandemic,” he said. “I feel like I can be an outlet for people. We get the opportunity to just share our day to and from the appointment.”

“And if they need extra help, I'm there. I had one client who couldn't see well enough to fill out her paperwork at the doctor's office and we worked together as a team. It's always satisfying.”

“The intense level of satisfaction I get from being a volunteer is in my heart,” Kevin said. “My grandmother in the 1970s was involved with the original mobile meals in El Reno. She visited seniors to check on them, to take them her homemade bread and fried mushrooms. Volunteering is part of what I was raised to do and I have a heart for service because of my grandmother's service.”

To learn more about becoming a volunteer driver or if you need a ride to a medical appointment, call April Lucas at 405-605-3106 for more information.



Jim Calder logs onto his computer each week and helps children with their reading skills. He became a Whiz Kids mentor/tutor in 2015. Whiz Kids is a faith-based volunteer mentoring and tutoring program which helps children first through fourth grade with their math and reading skills.

Before 2020, Jim met weekly at the sponsoring church, where the

children and their tutors gathered for snacks and fellowship before their session started. When COVID-19 made it difficult, if not impossible, for tutors and their students to meet in person, the organization adapted quickly to move the program to virtual tutoring on Google Meet. Each month, students receive packets of books that they will work together on with their mentor.

“Reading is really the most important need in this age group,” Jim said. “The children are referred to the program by public school teachers because the children are reading below their grade level.” The weekly tutoring helps to build new skills and to help the children to feel supported and encouraged, he said. “I also like that I get the opportunity to know the parents, too.”

He said the children and families have adapted well to the online tutoring format because most of the children have already been

participating in online school off and on for months.

“I like volunteering with Whiz Kids because the feedback I get from the kids is that they like the program. It’s different from ordinary school,” he said. “And I feel like I’ve had some impact on their lives.”

Jim, 76, retired in 2003 from a career of managing law firms in Nebraska, Kansas City, and Oklahoma City. He and his wife have one son and three grandchildren.

“Volunteering is a nice way to give your life variety; it’s refreshing. And I like to think that it keeps me young,” he said.

To learn more about volunteering, contact Laura McPheeters at laura.mcpheeters@rsvpokc.org or call 405-605-3110.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

SUNBEAM FAMILY SERVICES

Senior Engagement Volunteer: You will connect with a vulnerable senior, invest in their well-being, and support them through a variety of opportunities, such as:

Engagement activities - movies, puzzles, physical activities, companionship, etc.

Respite Care - allowing a Caregiver an opportunity to take time for self-care.

Tasks Assistance Activities - dog walking, meal preparation, gardening, etc.

Volunteer at least 1.5 hours per week for a minimum of 6 months and attend ongoing training.

OKLAHOMA SENIOR NUTRITION PROGRAM

Senior nutrition sites located at Pete White Health and Wellness Center, Candle Lake Senior Center, and Temple Garden Senior Apts. are in need of volunteers!

With updated health and safety protocols, Site Aides will help from approximately 9am-1pm with duties such as checking in food, packaging home bound meals, and making reservations

for the next day’s orders in order to help serve seniors with disabilities and make sure no one goes without hot, nutritious meals.

EDMOND HISTORICAL SOCIETY AND MUSEUM

Edmond Historical Society and Museum provides educational exhibits, events, and educational resources to the city of Edmond Oklahoma.

As they resume regular hours, they are looking for Front Desk Volunteers to help greet the public, with updated health and safety protocols, and answer phones. Morning shifts and afternoon shifts are available.

**QUESTIONS?
I’M HERE TO HELP!**



Laura McPheeters
Volunteer Coordinator
405-605-3110
or email
laura.mcpheeters@rsvpokc.org

PARTNER AGENCY HIGHLIGHT: OKLAHOMA LIBRARY FOR THE BLIND AND PHYSICALLY HANDICAPPED

The Oklahoma Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped provides free services to Oklahomans who are blind or visually impaired.

The Library provides books, magazines and other materials in audio formats as well as the audio equipment needed to read these materials. There is no cost

for library services and no charge to mail the materials back to the library.

Seven days a week, volunteers from all over Oklahoma record articles from “The Oklahoman,” “Tulsa World”, and other publications including news, editorials, sports, grocery advertisements, obituaries, and

a variety of other information not normally available on radio or television into the Oklahoma Telephone Reader system!

This volunteer position can be remote (from home or workplace) or you may record at the library! **If you would like to learn more, contact Laura McPheeters at laura.mcpheeters@rsvpokc.org.**



REMARKABLE women
of Oklahoma



WE HAVE SOME EXCITING NEWS TO SHARE!!

Our Executive Director Beth Patterson has been selected as one of the four Remarkable Women finalists in our state. The four finalists were selected for the influence that they have on public policy, social progress, and quality of life in their communities. KFOR Channel 4 recognized Beth and the other three finalists’ contributions in March during International Women’s Month. The winner will be announced in April. **Best of luck to Beth and the other finalists!**



2021: THE YEAR TO CONNECT

It's been one year since everything shut down because of Covid. We were all shocked. But then some interesting things began to happen. We began to feel the freedom from busy-ness. We began to enjoy family and friends, and to re-value the **connections** we have so much more.

The value of connection has continued to grow in a powerful way since then. We actively look for relationships with friends and family, whether from a 6-foot distance, or a zoom call, or a drive by birthday celebration. **One year later, we are more resilient than ever.** Businesses and organizations have innovated and adapted to create new ways of getting things done.

Here we are in 2021, and we are growing. We are thriving. We are building toward a stronger community, through amazing and committed volunteers, donors and supporters like you. We are connecting with our partner agencies in the community to provide safe places to volunteer.

We are always going to be stronger together. If you need connection, or would like to volunteer through RSVP, we'd love to hear from you. 2021 is going to be the year of connection!

Beth Patterson
Executive Director



In Fond Remembrance

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

- Marvin Beatty* *Don Peters*
- Garry Blosser* *Olivia Voyles*
- Harold Dozier* *JoAnn Williams*
- David Goodman*

A proud partner of:



Congratulations to
CHUCK BRIMER
winner of the hours drawing.
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COVID-19 VACCINE CLINIC

We are so excited and grateful to be able to partner with Areawide Aging Agency and Embark to help seniors get their COVID-19 vaccinations!

Thanks to this partnership, Ruby Evans is one of 15 Provide-A-Ride clients who recently received a vaccination. And a big thank you to Westminster Presbyterian Church for hosting the event!