



Retired
Senior
Volunteer
Program

Heroes of COMPASSION

Seniors Living, Loving, and Giving for a Better Community



RSVP of Central Oklahoma Volunteer Margo Thein helps the Salvation Army spread Christmas cheer while playing the piano for seniors at the Sequoyah Senior Center.

The Salvation Army, a valued partner agency since 1993, is busy year-round providing support to families and individuals, including seniors, who struggle day-to-day financially. The organization stands out most noticeably as a symbol of Christmas this time of the year when bright red kettles and Angel Trees begin to dot the city. Donations raised through the Salvation Army.

Volunteers are the key to making the Red Kettle fundraiser and Angel Tree program work, said Major Paula Powell.

“Our name is the Salvation Army, and an army is made up of many people,” she said. “There is no way we could ever accomplish this without the wonderful service and dedication of volunteers.”

Angel Tree volunteers are needed Dec. 1-22 to help with sorting, lists, and packaging. Volunteers can work from 9 a.m. to noon or 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

To learn more about either opportunity, contact Laura McPheeters at 405-605-3110.

It's Beginning to Look a Lot Like Christmas

Sharing the Spirit of the Season at the Salvation Army

Margo Thein, 90, has shared her musical talents with seniors for more than three decades (and more than two decades as an RSVP of Central Oklahoma volunteer). Throughout the year, Margo plays at local senior centers, assisted living centers, and nursing homes.

“Music has always been a part of my life. It makes me happy and it makes the people I’m playing for happy,” said Margo.

Margo, who said she began playing the piano as soon as she could stand up and reach the keys,

takes her song selection, called Mem’ry Lane, with her each week and shares with her audience sheet music, tells the history of the songs, and plays the piano while they sing along.

“It’s just a joy every time I go to play,” she said. “I am convinced that it keeps me young.”

Margo is bringing Christmas cheer each Tuesday to seniors at the Sequoyah Senior Center, one of four senior centers operated by the Salvation Army of Central Oklahoma.



Creating Connection through Volunteering

Doug Meise helps to keep the warehouse shelves of the Mid-Del Food Pantry ready and stocked for local residents who are served on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays. The pantry serves anywhere from 30 to 80 individuals a day, he said.

As a long-time volunteer, he has helped in a variety of ways, from picking up food donations to helping in the office and checking in clients. During the early days of the pandemic, Doug, like a lot of volunteers, paused for safety reasons, but once safety precautions were put into place, he stepped back in confidently, and it felt as if he didn't miss a beat.

"It's been rewarding to help people," said Doug, who has recently begun serving as a RSVP Advisory Council member.

Doug, who retired from the Air Force after 21 years of

service, and from the Oklahoma Corporation Commission after 16 years, has filled his time with volunteering. In addition to the Food Pantry, he is also a tax-preparer with the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program. He likes to help young people think through their financial picture and the possibilities of saving for their retirement, he said. Also, he was a part of the Oklahoma Honor Flight program and flew on seven of the 24 flights that took veterans to Washington, D.C., to visit memorials dedicated in honor of their service.

"It really just feels nice to help people," he said. "And I enjoy being around the other volunteers."

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

**OH WHAT FUN
CELEBRATING
YOU!**



RSVP honored its volunteers during a Drive-Thru Volunteer Recognition event in October.

The event was held in the parking lot where staff, board and advisory council members handed out gift bags, door prizes, and hot cider to more than 100 volunteers who came out to enjoy the festivities from their cars. The event recognized volunteers for serving through the ups and downs of the pandemic.

FROM A VOLUNTEER

Laura, it was so wonderful to see you if it was just for a few minutes. Wish we could have stayed a little longer. The gift was great and is being put to good use. Wonderful idea. Take good care of yourself and extend my very best and good health to all of your great co-workers...until we meet again.

*Hugs and love,
Linus*



Connecting Volunteers with Community Opportunities



MID-DEL FOOD PANTRY

The mission of the Mid-Del Food Pantry is to bring help and hope to hungry residents of eastern Oklahoma County by providing safe and nutritious food during difficult times, and right now they are looking for extra volunteer support!



Volunteer positions include:

- Sort and distribute food
- Screen clients
- Data entry
- Load or unload donations received and record donation
- Driving delivery truck (no special license required!)

UPWARD TRANSITION'S TRAVELER'S AID AIRPORT PROGRAM



Travelers Aid information booth volunteers serve at Will Rogers World Airport.

In addition to answering the telephone, assisting visitors with paging services, airport information, and directions, Travelers Aid Volunteers act as ambassadors of the airport and the city of Oklahoma City.



LEARN MORE

We have seen lives changed because of volunteering--seniors feel fulfilled, needed, and know that they are making a difference.

That's what we offer at RSVP of Central Oklahoma.

To learn more, contact Volunteer Coordinator Laura McPheeters 405-605-3110 or email laura.mcpheeters@rsvpokc.org

PROVIDE-A-RIDE IS RUBY'S LIFELINE



Ruby Evans, a cheerful 79-year-old Provide-A-Ride client, started using the medical transportation service around 2006.

"Provide-A-Ride is my lifeline," she said. Ruby was living alone in her home when she fractured her hip and needed to have follow up doctor's appointments but was unable to drive herself.

"I'd known about PAR for a lot of years," she said. "I called and started having them take me to the doctor. There is no company like Provide-A-Ride. They pull up to my home. Help me get in and out of the car. They are waiting for me in the waiting room when I finish my appointment. And if I need to go get my medicine, they take me. They see me into the house, too. The volunteer drivers are good, kind, and professional. Give me Provide-A-Ride any day!"





A Legacy of Generosity

As I look back on this year, I am amazed to see the thousands of hours our volunteers have once again generously donated. You have reconnected to each other and to our community. Our partner agencies tell me how refreshed and rejuvenated their programs are because of your service in 2021.

Audrey Hepburn said, "As you grow older, you will discover that you have two hands- one for helping yourself, the other for helping others." I hear so often from volunteers that you not only experience the joy of volunteering and serving others, but that you are connecting with those you serve with as well.

And isn't connection what it's all about? After the world experienced a collective shutdown in 2020, we re-focused our attention on relationships and valued each other in a greater way than ever before. You have brought out the best in each other, and our community this year through pouring yourselves in to serving and caring for so many. Thank you for each priceless hour you have served in 2021.

I am truly honored to be a part of the legacy of generosity and connection you are building through RSVP of Central Oklahoma.

Beth Patterson

Beth Patterson
Executive Director



In Fond Remembrance

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

Frank Traylor

Netta Harrington

A proud partner of:



Congratulations to **WILLIE CORNELIUS** winner of the hours drawing. Enjoy your gift card!

FOLLOW US AND LIKE US!



Give the Gift of ...

- Friendship
- Safety
- Connection
- Independence
- Compassion
- Support

\$25 Sponsors a Ride to a medical appointment for an older adult. This Christmas, consider sponsoring through RSVP's Provide-A-Ride Program. Give online at www.rsvpokc.org/donate.

