

Heroes of COMPASSION

Seniors Living, Loving, and Giving for a Better Community



Retired
Senior
Volunteer
Program

Let Us Celebrate You!

49TH ANNUAL

VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION SWING-ON-BY-DRIVE-THROUGH

In The Parking Lot of Our New Offices At
351 N. Air Depot Blvd, Suite O, Midwest City, OK

**FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 9
10 A.M. TO 2 P.M.**

We want to round up and celebrate our dedicated
volunteers and our spirit of connectedness
as we all move forward together!

It is guaranteed to be a day of **fun, celebration, and recognition**
of all that you do to support the mission of RSVP and our
partner organizations with your time, skills, and enthusiasm.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION,
CONTACT RSVP AT 405-605-3110**

In case of inclement weather
our alternate date is Sept. 12.

DOOR PRIZES!

CELEBRATION!

FRIENDS!

FUN!

APPLE CIDER!

MUSIC!



Richard Blackburn and Provide-A-Ride Client Lydia Scheuring

Richard Blackburn says volunteering is like watching your kids open their gifts on Christmas morning.

“Giving is much more pleasure than nearly anything else I can think of,” he said. “A great side benefit of volunteering is listening to so many interesting life stories and getting to know people,” he said about volunteering as a Provide-A-Ride driver.

Richard has been a volunteer driver for Provide-A-Ride since 2016. He typically drives one client a week and enjoys the time he spends with clients.

“There is a lovely German lady, Lydia Scheuring, who always gives drivers a gift of delicious chocolate with each ride,” he said. “My most memorable ride was with the lady who lost her hearing aid. After driving back to the office where she had her appointment and searching the car and the ground around my parking space, she finally found her hearing aid in the lining of her purse.”

Richard spent 20 years in the Air Force and 25 years as a truck driver. Since retirement, he enjoys time in worship and also volunteering at his church, St. John the Baptist Catholic Church. He is a dedicated golfer, enjoys reading, and spending time with his children and grandchildren who live in Tennessee and Oklahoma.

“One of the acts of mercy is visiting the sick. Provide-A-Ride goes a step beyond. As you visit, you are also making it possible for someone to receive the medical attention they require,” he said.

To learn more about becoming a volunteer driver with Provide-A-Ride, contact PAR Coordinator April Lucas, 405-605-3106.



Jim and Sandra Sharp love the helping aspect of volunteering and doing what they can to make someone's day a little better.

Connecting Volunteers with Community Opportunities



Partner Agency Highlight

We want to introduce you to our partner agency, ReadOKC, part of the Oklahoma City Public School System (OKCPS) that aims to help school children develop a love of reading. ReadOKC is looking for volunteer Reading Buddies and volunteers with the ReadOKC On the Go Mobile Book Bus.

Mary Mélon-Tully, President/CEO of the OKCPS Foundation, says: "Our ReadOKC Reading Buddies program, which provides caring adults to spend time reading and mentoring students, fosters relationships and trust-building in the lives of children who benefit greatly. Volunteer opportunities with the ReadOKC On the Go Mobile Book Bus allow children to learn the magical value of reading in their lives, opening up worlds

they never knew existed. None of this would be possible without the help of our community volunteers who generously offer their time and talent."

If you would be interested in any of these volunteer opportunities, contact Laura McRaniels at 405-605-3110 or email lmcraniels@rsvpokc.org.

Sunbeam Family Services

Sunbeam Family Services strives to build brighter futures with all children and families. They are looking for volunteers to help with Wacky Wednesdays. Volunteers will help to engage families in an activity that stimulates brain development while nurturing the parent/child relationship. Activities include science, technology, engineering, arts, mathematics, and crafts.



LEARN MORE

We have seen lives changed because of volunteering—older adults 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 Assistant Director Laura McRaniels at 405-605-3110 or email lmcpheeters@rsvpokc.org

The couple has volunteered with RSVP since 2011 and between the two have served 4,400 volunteer hours. Each week they help partner agency Upward Transition in its Travelers Aid program at Will Rogers World Airport. Travelers Aid volunteers like Jim and Sandra help travelers with tourism information, airport assistance, lost and found, as well as helping military personnel traveling through Oklahoma.

"On occasion, we do get strange requests like the day a man told me he was 20 minutes from the airport and his plane was scheduled to leave

in 10 minutes," Jim explained. "He wanted me to hold the flight. I told him I could not hold a flight."

Another arm of Travelers Aid is connecting travelers in distress with local social services.

The Sharps, who have been married since 1989, have hobbies outside of volunteering. Sandra makes blankets and quilts. Jim loves nature, hunting, and fishing, occasionally taking his camera to capture the beauty. They are active in their church, Northgate Baptist, and volunteer there as well. Sandra manages the nurseries and

Jim the church's music.

"If someone is retired or just wants to do a little more in their daily routine, volunteering is a great outlet," Jim said. "There is always that satisfaction in knowing that you helped someone."

To learn about volunteering contact Laura McRaniels at 405-605-3110. Or visit www.rsvpokc.org.



Beth, April, Laura and Karen at the new offices.



Appreciation Luncheon for Oklahoma County Social Services.

We Have Moved!

This has been a delightfully busy summer. By now you've heard that we've moved into our new office space at 351 N. Air Depot Blvd. We are settling in, despite some technology glitches, and have met some of our great neighbors. But moving is equal parts hard and exciting—bittersweet is a good word.

We left behind our very dear neighbors, Oklahoma County Social Services. In 2010 we were invited by the Oklahoma County Social Services Executive Director, Christy Jerringan-Marshall to share their large offices, for free. Yes, you read that right! You can imagine how honored and thrilled our staff and board of directors were to receive this offer. So, we moved from downtown Oklahoma City to the Oklahoma County Social Services building on NE 23rd, where we had the best

neighbors for 12 years. It was a great collaboration and for more than a decade, that free space helped RSVP save over \$100,000 in office, utilities, and cleaning expenses, which we were able to put into support for the Provide-A-Ride program.

How do you say thank you for such a gift? Well, it's impossible, but we know just how blessed we were. Before we left, we hosted an appreciation luncheon for the kind, dedicated, and loving neighbors who were so giving to us over the years. It was an opportunity to let them know how grateful we are. But honestly, we can't say thank you enough.

Beth Patterson

Beth Patterson
Executive Director

In Fond Remembrance

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

Carlene Pearce

A proud partner of:



Congratulations to **KATHYLEEN MOSLEY** winner of the hours drawing. Enjoy your gift card!

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How Your Gifts Affect Our Future

Endowment is like a savings account that only spends the interest. Our Endowment fund with the Oklahoma City Community Foundation grants us 5% of the fund each year. The remainder continues to grow in value. When you give to our endowment fund, you are giving a gift to our future!

You can give to our future by visiting www.donate.occf.org