



# Heroes of COMPASSION

*Seniors Living, Loving, and Giving for a Better Community*

## RSVP Honors Volunteers and Celebrates 50th Birthday **Beth Patterson Announces Retirement**

In September, we celebrated our volunteers and our 50th anniversary with a wonderful luncheon at the Oklahoma History Center. The event was well attended by volunteers, donors, and other guests. Debby Hampton, United Way of Central Oklahoma President and CEO was the guest speaker, recognizing the tremendous difference RSVP senior volunteers make.

“We appreciate you for freely sharing your skills, time and compassion with people in need,” Hampton said. “Over the past five decades RSVP volunteers have contributed \$133 million in service hours to help make our community stronger. We can’t thank RSVP enough for the way they collaborate with other United Way partner agencies, supporting valuable services and programs in our community.”

Beautiful entertainment was provided by harpist Jessica Tate and University of Central Oklahoma musical theater major Gabriella Beck.

RSVP’s story began in 1973, starting as a pilot program to see how a community could benefit from older American’s volunteering. It was a resounding success and 50 years later continues to be.

At the September event, Beth Patterson, who has led RSVP of Central Oklahoma for 41 of the 50 years, announced her retirement effective end of the year and said that she looks forward to time with family and more time to volunteer. She told the audience of volunteers what she gained over the years.



*Beth Patterson (right) and Debby Hampton, President and CEO of United Way of Central Oklahoma.*

**“I learned from all of you to be kind, have patience, be a good listener, be flexible and say, ‘yes’ to life’s adventures more often,” she said. “You taught me to be grateful for most everything; be myself and live life gratefully! I have felt blessed to be part of such a loving, encouraging, and supportive family. Keep on sharing your love, your talents, your compassion, and time.”**

September 21 was declared RSVP Day by a proclamation signed by Governor Kevin Stitt.

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## The 50th Anniversary and Volunteer Appreciation event was made possible by generous sponsors:

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## Champion of Senior Health 2023 Finalist

Beth and Laura attended the 20th annual Champions of Health Gala recently where RSVP was honored to have received a Champion of Senior Health finalist recognition. The Champions of Health event is presented by Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Oklahoma.



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**40**  
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LEGACY  
FUND

## In Honor of Beth Patterson's Retirement

As we reflect on Beth's 40+ years of service as she prepares to retire, we marvel at her dedication to improving and celebrating the lives of older Oklahomans throughout central Oklahoma.

During the four decades she has led the organization, Beth has had the privilege of matching skills and talents of 6,700 older Oklahomans with more than 500 local nonprofit organizations.

We want to honor her by creating the Beth Patterson 40 for 40 Legacy Fund, \$40 for 40 years of leadership. Your \$40 gift will help to continue her impact, compassion, and kindness, especially on the lives of low-income seniors and veterans.

You may make a gift by check, or you can visit our website at [rsvpokc.org](http://rsvpokc.org) and select DONATE.

We thank you for considering a 40 for 40 gift in Beth's honor.

## Jamie Williams Joins as New Volunteer Coordinator

**Jamie Williams joined the RSVP of Central Oklahoma family in August of this year.**

Her professional background in volunteer management starts in the world of higher education where she worked in both campus ministry and

service-learning. Her passion for volunteerism is fed by witnessing the impact that volunteers can have on the life of the community. She is also inspired by the commitment and care of partnering agencies who meet real needs in communities with compassion through innovative programs.



**“I'm so happy to join the team at RSVP of Central Oklahoma! I'm passionate about the work of serving communities and grateful for the opportunity to support RSVP Volunteers.”**

“I think there is no better use of time or anything more fun than joining in with a team of people to get something done for others. Volunteers are the best group to hang out with! I'm looking forward to learning about the incredible work of RSVP partnering agencies and from the commitment of caring volunteers. It will be my privilege to serve with you!” says Jamie.

You're Invited to:

**BETH'S  
RETIREMENT  
OPEN  
HOUSE**

Thursday, December 14

**Come-and-Go from 10am-3pm**

351 N. Air Depot Blvd. Suite O MWC, OK 73110

*Let's honor Beth's superior service with RSVP and shower her with love!*

# What's In Our Future

By **Laura McRaniels**,  
Assistant Director

It is with tremendous gratitude that we are bidding farewell to our esteemed and very dear Executive Director, Beth, who has spent the last 40+ years guiding our ship, steering us through challenges and victories, and ultimately leaving an indelible mark on the hearts of all who have had the privilege of working with her in that incredible amount of time! I, for one, know my life would not be the same without Beth, and she has all our most sincere wishes for a retirement full of abundant blessings, adventure, and new possibilities!

As RSVP embarks on this new chapter of our journey, we are thrilled to welcome a future filled with new and exciting ways to continue improving the lives of older adults by connecting them to meaningful, rewarding, and innovative opportunities to learn about and serve the community we live in, and we are confident that we will continue to reach new heights and make an even greater impact- together!

Thank you again, Beth, for your unparalleled dedication, vision, and leadership. Your impact will be felt for generations to come. As we bid you a fond farewell, we eagerly anticipate the bright future that lies ahead for RSVP, thanks in no small part to the foundation that you have laid, and we encourage all our volunteers and community partners alike to keep an eye on what we have in store as we move into this new phase!

With gratitude, friendship, and optimism,

Laura McRaniels



## *In Fond Remembrance*

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

*Delora Henderson*

*Dorothy Henson*

*Gary Rankin*

*Pat Russell*

*Richard Wells*

A proud partner of:



Congratulations to  
**Vinola Smith**

winner of the hours drawing.  
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